

Press Release

Carter-Ruck

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Express Newspapers apologises and pays £60,000 to the Trustees of Interpal over untrue allegations of support for Hamas and terrorism

Express Newspapers apologised in the High Court today to the Trustees of Interpal - Ibrahim Hewitt, Essam Mustafa, Shahan Husain, Ghassan Faour, Ismail Ginwalla and Mohammed Rafiq Vindhani. Interpal is a UK-based charity that provides relief and development aid to Palestinians in need.

The Trustees' solicitor, Luke Staiano of Carter-Ruck, told Mr Justice Eady that the Express published an article on its website from 27 December 2009 concerning the terrorist attempt to blow up an aeroplane over the United States on Christmas Day 2009. In this context, the article falsely alleged that Interpal supported Hamas, notwithstanding that Hamas is deemed a terrorist organisation under UK anti-terrorism legislation, and thereby wrongly suggested that Interpal and its Trustees aid terrorism.

The High Court heard that Interpal does not support Hamas and would not enjoy its charitable status in this country if it did support Hamas. Interpal is not affiliated to any political (let alone terrorist) organisation, whether officially or unofficially, nor does it support any such organisations.

The Express accepted that the allegations were completely false and apologised to the Trustees. It has agreed to pay £60,000 to the Trustees - which they will apply to Interpal's charitable funds - together with Interpal's legal costs.

For further information please contact Luke Staiano on 020 7353 5005 and at luke.staiano@carter-ruck.com.

Notes:

SRA No. 44769

Interpal (formal name Palestinians Relief and Development Fund) is registered in the United Kingdom with the Charity Commission (number 1040094). It is a non-political, non-profit organisation that works with international funding partners and partners on the ground to provide relief and development aid to Palestinians in need; it assists in the provision of essential humanitarian relief, education, health and medical services and community development.