

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

DR BRIAN JONES

-v-

TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LIMITED

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant:

My Lord, I appear in this libel action on behalf of the Claimant, Dr Brian Jones.

Dr Jones was a Branch Head on the Defence Intelligence Staff of the Ministry of Defence and was the country's most senior intelligence expert on weapons of mass destruction in the period leading up to the Iraq war. He retired from the civil service in January 2003. He has had a distinguished career and now has academic associations and is a consultant and freelance writer with a high international reputation in the fields of intelligence, arms control and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

This libel action arises from the publication of an article in the Daily Telegraph on 20 March 2009 entitled "MPs 'ducked Iraq war challenge'" and by an article published on the Daily Telegraph's website the same day entitled "MPs 'deliberately' misled over causes of Iraq war, say former Government officials".

The articles falsely alleged that Dr Jones "leaked information to the media" before the Iraq war. In fact, when he recently gave evidence to a House of Commons Select Committee investigating "Leaks and Whistleblowing in Whitehall", the Chairman specifically singled Dr Jones out as someone who did not, and would not, leak information. My Lord, I am pleased to say that the Daily

Telegraph has accepted that the allegation is untrue and has published an apology to Dr Jones and agreed to pay damages and his legal costs.

Dr Jones was highly concerned about the allegation both from a professional and personal perspective, alleging as it did that he leaked information to the media. As such, Dr Jones is grateful for the opportunity to correct the allegation in open court.

Dr Jones is satisfied that he has been vindicated and accordingly is content to let the matter rest.

Luke Staiano
Carter-Ruck
Solicitors for the Claimant

Dated this 23rd day of June 2009

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BEFORE MASTER WHITAKER

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