

## Press Release

Carter-Ruck

15 April 2010

**Carter-Ruck Solicitors**

6 St Andrew Street  
London EC4A 3AE

T 020 7353 5005  
F 020 7353 5553  
DX 333 Chancery Lane  
[www.carter-ruck.com](http://www.carter-ruck.com)

### **Express Newspapers apologise to the Trustees of the Ummah Welfare Trust over terrorism allegations**

Express Newspapers apologised in the High Court today to the Trustees of the Ummah Welfare Trust - Idris Atcha, Mohammed Idris, Zaker Patel and Muhammad Ahmad Seedat. The Ummah Welfare Trust is a UK-based charity that provides relief to developing countries.

The trustees' solicitor, Luke Staiano of Carter-Ruck, told the Court that an article published on the Express website from 27 December 2009 wrongly alleged a link between the charity and Anwar al Awlaki, the Al Qaeda commander who is said to have been the spiritual leader of the 9/11 attacks and behind the Christmas Day Detroit aeroplane plot last year. The article also falsely alleged that the charity accepted donations in order to advance terrorism and had connections to Hamas.

The High Court heard that the charity does not have any connections with Anwar al Awlaki and does not support or condone his extremist views. All donations received by the charity are applied entirely to charitable relief work and the charity has never funded nor had any links with Hamas or any other terrorist organisation.

The Express accepted that the allegations were completely false and apologised to the Trustees.

**For further information please contact Luke Staiano on 020 7353 5005 and at [luke.staiano@carter-ruck.com](mailto:luke.staiano@carter-ruck.com).**

#### Notes:

The Ummah Welfare Trust is the working name of the Amanat Charity Trust, a charity registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1000851). The Charity has its head office in Bolton and operates throughout the world. It has an annual charitable expenditure of around £4.5m, employing around 20 people and with a further 70 volunteers. Its major area of charitable expenditure is on emergency relief in developing countries.

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Alasdair Pepper  
Guy Martin  
Nigel Tait  
Ruth Collard  
Cameron Doley  
Claire Gill  
Adam Tudor  
Hanna Basha  
Magnus Boyd  
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