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TRAFIGURA SUES BBC FOR LIBEL

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Trafigura Limited, a member of Trafigura Group, the leading commodities trader, has today issued proceedings for libel against the BBC in the High Court in London.

The action relates to a broadcast on the Newsnight programme on 13 May 2009 and three related stories on the BBC website, concerning the *Probo Koala*, a Trafigura-chartered vessel which discharged slops in Côte d'Ivoire in August 2006.

Speaking today, a Trafigura spokesman said:

"Trafigura has today brought libel proceedings against the BBC over its Newsnight broadcast. This decision was not taken lightly.

Trafigura has always accepted that the Probo Koala 'incident' is a matter of public interest and has never objected to the media reporting on it responsibly. However, the BBC's one-sided reports on 13 May were wildly inaccurate and libellous, leaving us with no choice but to take legal action. There was no justification or public interest in the BBC misleading its viewers in this way.

Trafigura has always denied that the slops caused the deaths and serious health consequences presented by the BBC – a position fully supported by independent expert evidence which will be presented to the Court in due course. As the BBC is well aware, these matters are already the subject of a personal injury action currently taking place in London. It is deeply regrettable that the BBC felt it appropriate to prejudge those proceedings in this sensationalist and inaccurate way."

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