

Press Release

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Journalist Jane Cahane obtains misrepresentation judgment and damages in the High Court against The Investigative Journal and Mohamed Fahmy

The High Court in London has awarded damages of just over £80,000 for fraudulent and/or negligent misrepresentation against Mohamed Fahmy and The Investigative Journal Limited (TIJ) following a claim brought by journalist and editor Jane Cahane.

Copies of Ms Cahane's Particulars of Claim and of the sealed Judgment are attached to this release.

From December 2018 to July 2019, Jane Cahane worked as the Editor-in-Chief of TIJ under the leadership of Mohamed Fahmy. As set out in her Particulars of Claim, it became clear to her during her time there that TIJ was not the independent investigative publication that had been represented to her by Mr Fahmy.

Jane Cahane has had a long and successful career as a senior managerial editor and freelance journalist/production journalist for publications including broadsheet and trade newspapers, magazines and reports. She responded to an advertisement for a role at TIJ and was, as set out in the Particulars of Claim, specifically given to understand that:

1. TIJ was a reliable, accurate, well-researched, trustworthy, independent, balanced and nuanced investigative journal;
2. TIJ covered a wide range of topics and a diversity of viewpoints from an independent and objective standpoint;
3. TIJ's contributors were some of the most respected journalists in the world;
4. TIJ's aim and purpose was to become one of the world's leading independent public-interest investigative journals advancing the cause of truth; and
5. TIJ was funded by a philanthropist who was committed to supporting independent journalism.

In reliance upon these representations, Ms Cahane accepted the role of TIJ's Editor-in-Chief. She has made it clear that, had she known the truth about TIJ, she would never have applied for the position or accepted it when offered.

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Within a relatively short period of time, Ms Cahane came to experience intense professional and moral discomfort about TIJ and her role there. As set out in her Particulars of Claim, it became apparent to her that, far from being the high quality, independent journal that had been promised, it was a covert propaganda vehicle intended to support the UAE and Egypt and operated by Mr Fahmy so as to attack those perceived at the time as being the opponents of those countries, including Turkey, Qatar, Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. In particular (and as again set out in detail in Ms Cahane's Particulars):

1. The reports that were produced by TIJ focused primarily upon advancing criticisms of those perceived as being against the UAE or Egypt. Indeed, while Ms Cahane was at TIJ, Mr Fahmy informed her that he actually met with the Egyptian Presidency (his former jailer) in order to discuss TIJ's editorial line and content.
2. Mr Fahmy required that reports be commissioned from parties known to adopt a hostile line to the perceived enemies of the UAE and Egypt.
3. Staff at TIJ and IOHR were required to attend politically biased events, including a staged protest outside the Iranian Embassy in April 2019, in which Ms Cahane subsequently learned many "protestors" were actually paid actors.

Ms Cahane also came to have grave suspicions that the funding of TIJ was not as had been represented to her, particularly given the publicly reported fact that Mr Fahmy had previously admitted receiving very substantial funds from a prominent UAE diplomat.

The Defendants did not seek to defend themselves against Ms Cahane's claim and, as per the attached Judgment, the Court has now assessed the damages due to her to be in the sum of £80,735.92.

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