

2 October 2009

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Private & Confidential
Personal - Addressee Only

Bob Pitt
PA to Murad Qureshi AM
London Assembly Labour Group
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

By Post & Email

Our ref: RED8080/AG8202/100696.8/1930884-0

By Email to: editorial@islamophobia-watch.com & bob.pitt@london.gov.uk

Dear Sir

Re: The Quilliam Foundation and Islamophobia Watch

We act on behalf of The Quilliam Foundation. Quilliam is the world's first counter-extremism think tank. It seeks to challenge extremism, promote pluralism and inspire change and has its website at www.quilliamfoundation.org/.

We refer to your website www.islamophobia-watch.com. The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to our client's grave concerns about articles posted on it.

The headlines given to your articles about The Quilliam Foundation and edited by you are grossly defamatory and are made worse when read as a list, which can be obtained by searching your website for articles relating to The Quilliam Foundation. Headlines such as "Quilliam Foundation Links Up With Harry's Place [a blog critical of Islamism]", "How Quilliam Smears anti-fascists", "Quilliam accuses anti-BNP protestors of 'thuggery and hooliganism'" and "Quilliam Foundation witch-hunts Osama Saeed" bear the natural and ordinary meaning that The Quilliam Foundation are hypocrites trying to undermine Muslims and support anti-Muslim elements in our society as opposed to attacking them. They are scurrilous and mischievous allegations which are totally untrue. We require that you remove all such headlines and offending articles forthwith. Such articles are clearly intended to demonise and discredit The Quilliam Foundation and in particular Ed Husain, one of its directors when you know our client's objective is to encourage cohesion, challenge extremism and help integrate Muslims into British society. It is in fact not dissimilar to the object of Islamophobia Watch in that it strives to eradicate fear and hatred of the Muslim people.

We also ask that you provide an assurance that you will refrain from publishing any unfounded, libellous allegations about our client or Mr Husain or other members of the Foundation and cease what can only be described as a malicious campaign against our client. As well as being defamatory, your actions can only undermine The Quilliam Foundation's positive contribution to the problem of religious hatred against Islam of

Lewis Silkin LLP
5 Chancery Lane
Clifford's Inn
London EC4A 1BL

DX 182 Chancery Lane

Office details
T +44 (0)20 7074 8000
F +44 (0)20 7864 1200
E info@lewissilkin.com
W www.lewissilkin.com

Roderick Dadak
T +44 (0)20 7074 8080
F +44 (0)20 7864 1780
E rod.dadak@lewissilkin.com

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which they are justifiably proud. It is with some sadness and regret, therefore, that The Quilliam Foundation have instructed us to write to you in the terms we now do.

We expect a response from you within 14 days and pending hearing from you all our client's rights are reserved.

Yours faithfully

Lewis Silkin LLP

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