

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No HQ04X03998

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

B E T W E E N

MOHAMMED HUSSEIN AL AMOUDI

Claimant

and

1. JEAN-CHARLES BRISARD
2. JCB CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL SARL

Defendants

STATEMENT IN COURT

For the claimant: May it please your Lordship, I appear for the claimant in this action. My friend Mr Darrall appears for the defendants.

The claimant is Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi, a prominent and respected international businessman. During 2003 and the early part of 2004 the defendants, Mr J-C Brisard and JCB Consulting International SARL, posted two documents on their Internet website, <http://www.jcbconsulting.com>, which were defamatory of Mr Al Amoudi. Mr Brisard removed these documents from the website in Spring 2004.

Mr Al Amoudi was very concerned that the first document, entitled "OSAMA BIN LADEN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT JULY 2001", accused him of being a knowing participant in the economic, financial and/or terrorist networks of Osama bin Laden, knowingly to have facilitated ties with such networks and, as part of the vast financing system that was said to be a trademark of Osama bin Laden's operations, knowingly to have financed and/or facilitated the financing of Osama bin Laden's terrorism.

He was equally concerned that the second document, entitled "TERRORISM FINANCING", accused him of being one of the main sponsors and financiers of the terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda, its terrorist activities and its associated organizations.

Mr Al Amoudi is implacably opposed to terrorism in all its forms. He has never had any connection whatsoever with Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda or any other terrorist organisation or group. Having instructed his lawyers to complain to Mr Brisard in the strongest terms, but without result, Mr Al Amoudi was left with no alternative but to sue for libel.

Mr Brisard says that he published the allegations when he did on the basis of information he had available to him at the time. He has, however, confirmed that the information that led him to make those allegations has turned out to be false. He is now pleased to record, on behalf of himself and the second defendant, that based on this information, he has wrongly accused Mr Al Amoudi of having connections with Osama bin Laden, Al-Qaeda or any terrorist activities.

In the circumstances, Mr Brisard and JCB Consulting International SARL have offered Mr Al Amoudi their apologies for their website postings. Mr Al Amoudi has accepted those apologies. The defendants recognise the great embarrassment caused to Mr Al Amoudi both in England and elsewhere as a result of such serious and ill-founded allegations. They deeply regret having been the cause of it. They will undertake that they will not repeat their Internet postings or their accusations against Mr Al Amoudi in any other form. The parties have come to terms, which remain confidential, as to damages payable to Mr Al Amoudi and the costs of these proceedings.

For the defendants: On behalf of the defendants, I accept all that has been said by Miss Campbell for the claimant, and reiterate the defendants' regret that the allegations against Mr Al Amoudi contained in the Reports were ever made and their sincere apologies for having done so. Both defendants undertake to the Court that they will not repeat howsoever the allegations against Mr Al Amoudi that he has complained of by this action or make any similar allegations.

For the claimant: All that remains is to invite the court to make an order in the terms before it.