

## **PRESS RELEASE – For immediate publication**

### **MET ADMIT SADISTIC BRUTALITY ON BABAR AHMAD**

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Stephenson has today admitted that his officers subjected Mr Babar Ahmad to grave abuse tantamount to torture during his arrest on 2 December 2003. This dramatic development arose during the course of Mr Ahmad's civil trial for battery against the Commissioner before Mr Justice Holroyde at the High Court in London.

In the face of overwhelming evidence the Commissioner has made an unprecedented admission that:

- Metropolitan officers subjected Mr Ahmad to a sustained and brutal beating occasioning him multiple injuries and despite Mr Ahmad offering no resistance whatsoever;
- An officer twice placed Mr Ahmad in a life threatening neck hold causing Mr Ahmad to feel that he was about to die;
- Officers openly mocked Mr Ahmad's Islamic faith;
- Officers deliberately wrenched Mr Ahmad about by his handcuffs causing him excruciating pain;
- An officer grabbed Mr Ahmad's testicles inflicting pain; and
- Officers assaulted and abused Mr Ahmad in his home, then in a police van and then in the yard at Charing Cross Police Station – long after his arrest.

Despite the gravity of these acts the Commissioner has refused to apologise and he does not propose to take any action against those responsible. He has offered to pay Mr Ahmad £60,000 in damages, in addition to his legal expenses, from police funds. The agreed compensation includes aggravated and exemplary damages to reflect the shocking conduct of the Metropolitan Police as an institution as well as of the individual officers.

The Commissioner decided to take the extraordinary step of admitting liability when a pattern of similar allegations was uncovered against the same officers. However when the Commissioner was compelled to disclose evidence in this regard his lawyers informed the Court that "a number of large mail sacks" had been "misplaced in the internal dispatch of the MPS", containing what is believed to be yet further similar allegations. Mr Justice Holroyde demanded further investigations to locate the missing mail sacks and the Commissioner responded by admitting liability. The Commissioner has yet to confirm the current whereabouts of the mail sacks. Earlier in the proceedings several

officers including the supervising officer, refused to give evidence at trial on behalf of the Commissioner.

Fiona Murphy, solicitor for Mr Ahmad of Bhatt Murphy said:

*"It is deeply concerning that the Commissioner is prepared to allow officers on his watch to violently abuse a member of the public with impunity. The papers will be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for urgent consideration of criminal charges against the officers concerned and for an investigation as to whether events surrounding the mislaid mail sacks constitute evidence of a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.*

*The horrifying nature and volume of complaints against these officers should have provoked an effective response from the Metropolitan Police and the IPCC long ago. Instead, it has fallen to Babar Ahmad to bring these proceedings to achieve public recognition of the wrong that was done to him. "*

Attached to this press release are:

- A Court Order confirming the Commissioner's admission of Mr Ahmad's detailed allegations of assault and abuse;
- A copy of the Particulars of Claim referred to in the Order;
- Mr Ahmad's counsel, Phillippa Kaufmann of Doughty Street's chambers opening note read to the Court on 16 March 2009;
- Bhatt Murphy's note of proceedings in open court on the afternoon of 16 March 2009 with passages pertaining to the similar allegations, missing evidence, unwilling witnesses and lost mail sacks in bold.

#### Note to Editor

- A statement on behalf of Babar Ahmad will be read outside the front entrance of the High Court after a brief hearing on Tuesday morning, 18 March 2008.
- Photographs of Mr Ahmad's injuries can be downloaded from [www.freebabarahmad.com](http://www.freebabarahmad.com).
- Mr Ahmad's father and his solicitor, Fiona Murphy will be available for press interviews by emailing Sharine Kowlessar on [s.kowlessar@bhattmurphy.co.uk](mailto:s.kowlessar@bhattmurphy.co.uk)
- The matters summarised in this press release have been rehearsed in open court.
- Due to concerns that reporters were not in attendance during the afternoon of 16 March 2009 a note of the proceedings has been prepared by solicitors and is attached.
- At an early stage, the Met also mislaid all the relevant officers Incident Report Books (the documents in which the officers' recorded their first account of the events). They also mislaid eight tapes of interviews with a significant witness.
- The Met did not disclose several of the documents that proved Mr Ahmad's case until they were compelled by three separate Court Orders to do so.
- A Part 18 request is a formal process of questioning between parties in legal proceedings.
- Mr Ahmad instructed his current solicitors, Bhatt Murphy, in April 2006 in connection with the events of 2 December 2003.

