

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST

B E T W E E N

GIDEON FALTER

Claimant

and

GILAD ATZMON

Defendant

---

---

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

---

---

Claimant's Counsel, William Bennett

My Lord/Lady, in this libel action I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Mr Gideon Falter.

Mr Falter is the Chairman of the Campaign Against Anti-Semitism, the CAA. The position is voluntary and unpaid. The CAA relies on voluntary donations in order to meet its costs. It does not receive money from the UK government.

Mr Falter is Jewish.

Mr Gilad Atzmon, the Defendant, is a jazz musician who also publishes a popular website.

From July to December 2017 the Defendant published an article on his website called *Anti-Semitism is merely a business plan*. In that article Mr Atzmon published the following allegations against Mr Falter. The article accused Mr Falter of:

- (a) dishonestly fabricating anti-Semitic incidents;
- (b) deliberately exaggerating the prevalence of anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic activity (including being too ready to characterise as anti-Semitism legitimate criticism of Israel);
- (c) by doing these things Mr Falter therefore risked increasing anti-Semitism;
- (d) Mr Falter's motive was to obtain funds (including funds from the British taxpayer) to support the activities of the CAA and to provide his own income;
- (e) the funds obtained by this fabrication and misrepresentation were consequently obtained by Mr Falter's fraud; and
- (f) Mr Falter is guilty of hypocrisy – he campaigns against anti-Semitism but he is content with its continued prevalence (even resorting to the manufacture of incidents) because his income and that of the CAA depend upon it.

These allegations were false.

They were hugely insulting to Mr Falter and caused him significant consternation. To make such allegations against a Jew and someone who uses his free time to lead an organisation committed to fighting anti-Semitism was offensive to Mr Falter..

Nevertheless, Mr Falter is satisfied that Mr Atzmon has come to court to apologise to him and to acknowledge that the allegations complained of are false.

Mr Atzmon has agreed not to republish the relevant allegations and to pay damages to Mr Falter.

#### **Defendant's Solicitor, Jeffrey Smele**

On behalf of the Defendant, Mr Gilad Atzmon, I agree with the words of my learned friend. Mr Atzmon never in fact intended that his article would suggest to the reader that Mr Falter was a "fraudster" or that he personally profited from his position at the CAA.

Mr Atzmon offers his sincere apology to Mr Falter for his actions.

#### **Claimant's Counsel**

With that, Mr Falter is content to let the matter rest. It only remains for me to seek permission to withdraw the record.

Signed .....

Seddons, Claimant's solicitors

Signed .....

Simons Muirhead & Burton, Defendant's solicitors