

Bhatt Murphy Solicitors

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 December 2011

MET ASSAULT ON PROTESTOR

A High Court Judge has today found that a protestor attending a demonstration outside the Israeli Embassy in January 2009 was the victim of an assault by a Metropolitan Police officer. Kelly Minio-Paluello attended the demonstration in protest against the bombing bombardment of Gaza by the Israeli Army during 'Operation Cast Lead'. After raising concern with the police about the arrest of her friend, Ms Minio-Paluello was removed from the scene by an officer twisting her arm behind her back and then lifting her off the ground by her locked arm. This caused a serious fracture and long-term injury to her arm.

Mr Justice Eder held that the officer had used "very considerable force" effecting an "obviously dangerous" hold, thereby causing "entirely avoidable injuries" for which he awarded Ms Minio-Paluello £14,300.00.

Kelly Minio-Paluello said:

"This case shows that the Met continues to defend the 1% at the expense of the 99%"

Alice Hardy of Bhatt Murphy, solicitor for Kelly Minio-Paluello said:

"It is hoped that this judgment will prevent other protestors being exposed to unlawful use of force by police. The Commissioner should never have defended this case."

Ms Minio-Paluello is available for interview. To arrange a time, please email Tony Murphy of Bhatt Murphy on t.murphy@bhattmurphy.co.uk.

NOTE TO EDITORS

A copy of the approved judgment is **attached**.

END of RELEASE