

PRESS RELEASE

13 October 2009

Chair of the Haringey Stop and Search Monitoring Group and member of the Black Independent Advisory Group to the Metropolitan Police achieves compensation and an apology in litigation against the British Transport Police

27 Hoxton Square
London N1 6NN

Phone 020 7729 1115
Fax 020 7729 1117

www.bhattmurphy.co.uk
DX 36626 Finsbury

Ken Hinds, carnival organiser and community worker, took proceedings against the Chief Constable of British Transport Police in the High Court alleging false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The trial was due to begin on 2 November 2009. The Chief Constable has now agreed to pay £22,000 compensation, has apologised to Mr Hinds and agreed to pay his legal expenses.

On 28 May 2004, Mr Hinds stopped to observe police searching a young black male at Seven Sisters Underground Station. PC Lucas, a constable of the British Transport Police told Mr Hinds to "Fuck off" and then falsely claimed to his colleague, PC Iroko that Mr Hinds had sworn at him. PC Lucas arrested and handcuffed Mr Hinds before taking him to Wood Green Police Station where he was detained for 4 hours. Mr Hinds was charged with using threatening words and behaviour.

Mr Hinds stood trial before Haringey Magistrates Court on 6 May 2005. PC Lucas and PC Iroko were cross-examined about the striking similarity between their statements, which they had not made together. PC Iroko denied relying upon PC Lucas's statement to assist in making his own. Mr Hinds was acquitted: the Court indicated that it did not consider PC Iroko's account credible.

Mr Hinds fully cooperated with the police complaint process which took over 3 years to resolve. It emerged that PC Lucas had sent his statement to PC Iroko electronically and PC Iroko had then transposed parts of that statement into his own. This conduct was in flagrant breach of police procedures and entirely inconsistent with PC Iroko's evidence. Nevertheless, the officers received a written warning in relation to the manner in which they had compiled their evidence and the investigation did not address the false account they had given in evidence.

Mr Hinds comment:

"My message to them is: we understand you've got a difficult job and you won't get it right 100% of the time. We want you there to help safeguard our communities, but we want you to do it in a fair and just way. When you do make a mistake, say sorry, it's not a big deal. I should not have had to take legal proceedings to force you to do so."

Mr Hinds is available for interview. Please contact his solicitor, Fiona Murphy on the number above or by emailing her at f.murphy@bhattmurphy.co.uk.

Partners
Hamish Arnott
Raju Bhatt
Simon Creighton
Fiona Murphy
Tony Murphy
Mark Scott

Solicitors
Hannah Chambers
Nancy Collins
Carolynn Gallwey
Alice Hardy
Megan Phillips

Regulated by the
Solicitors Regulation
Authority No. 60787/05

Community
Legal Service



Criminal
Defence Service

