

# Bhatt Murphy Solicitors

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## HIGH COURT JUDGE FINDS MET POLICE OFFICERS RACIALLY ABUSED AND ATTACKED TEENAGERS

On 2 October 2015, having heard evidence over three weeks of trial, Mr Justice Gilbart upheld a claim against the Met Police brought by Omar Mohidin and Basil Khan arising out of an incident on 1 June 2007 involving officers of the MPS Territorial Support Group. He found:

*I am wholly satisfied that Omar Mohidin was forced into the van, and then abused and sworn at in the van by PC [Mark] Jones in a threatening, intimidating and very aggressive manner. Part of the abuse was racist.*

*I am abundantly satisfied that [Basil Khan] was then hit by PC Jones and abused, including racist abuse, and then forced to the floor and handcuffed, where he was left to kneel, in a manner intended to further humiliate him. I also find that PC Jones grabbed him around the neck, making it difficult for him to breathe.*

*I also accept that Sergeant [William] Wilson [PC Jones' supervising officer] struck him and abused him...[and] allowed Jones to hit and scream abuse at him.*

*I do not accept that [Mr Khan] made any threats to kill or injure any police officer [as alleged by PC Jones and PS Wilson].*

*I do not accept any of the evidence which alleges that Basil Khan struck PC Jones.*

*All three [PC Jones, PS Wilson, and PC Giles Kitchener, who was also in the van] have lied about what occurred once Basil Khan was put in the van.*

Mr Khan said: ***"From the very beginning these officers lied about what happened and they carried on with those lies all the way through 8 long years to this trial before the High Court Judge. Those lies have finally been exposed and the truth of what happened on that day is set out plainly for all to see."***

Mr Mohidin said: ***"If not for the bravery of PC Onwugbonu<sup>1</sup> in reporting what happened to us, our long journey to achieving justice would have been all the harder. Our society would be very much better if all police officers had his courage and integrity."***

Mr Khan and Mr Mohidin were represented by Megan Philips and Michael Oswald, both of Bhatt Murphy Solicitors, and Phillippa Kaufmann QC and Raj Desai, both of Matrix Chambers. Michael Oswald said: ***"More than eight years after these terrible events, our clients have finally been able to achieve the accountability and vindication they have long sought. However, the burden of bringing these officers to account should never have fallen on their shoulders. It is a sad indictment of the systems supposed to ensure police accountability that the officers were able to escape criminal sanction, and that PC Jones and PS Wilson were able to resign from the MPS without ever being disciplined for their actions."***

Ends

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<sup>1</sup> See note 2

## NOTES TO EDITOR

1. Mr Khan and Mr Mohidin are both available for comment and interview. Arrangements can be made by emailing Michael Oswald of Bhatt Murphy: [m.oswald@bhattmurphy.co.uk](mailto:m.oswald@bhattmurphy.co.uk).
2. Amongst the various police officers who witnessed the treatment of Mr Mohidin and Mr Khan, one, PC Amechi Onwugbonu, reported his fellow officers' wrongdoing to his superiors. There ensued an investigation by the MPS managed by the IPCC, which led to the officers facing criminal prosecution in October 2009. However, the officers were acquitted of all charges after key pieces of evidence were not placed before the jury.
3. A copy of the judgment is attached.