

ANNEX 1

Claim No. QB-2019-001989

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS LIST

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

BETWEEN :-

REHAM REHMAN

Claimant

and

DUNYA NEWS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Claimant's representative:

1. My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Ms Reham Rehman (who is popularly known as Ms Reham Khan). Mr Mian appears on behalf of the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a British national of Pakistani origin and she is a successful broadcasting journalist. She is also the ex-wife of Imran Khan, the current Prime Minister of Pakistan and former international cricketer.
3. The Defendant is a company incorporated in England which holds the Ofcom licence for broadcasting 'Dunya TV' in the UK.
4. 'Dunya TV' is a 24-hour Urdu language news and current affairs television channel which is broadcast to approximately 59,000 viewers in the UK, on average, every day. It is presently available in England and Wales on Sky channel 765 and it is also widely broadcast online and in other jurisdictions.
5. On 5 June 2018, a television programme titled 'On the Front' was broadcast in the UK by the Defendant on 'Dunya TV' ("the Broadcast"). In the course of the Broadcast Sheikh Rasheed,

who appeared as a guest commentator on political affairs in Pakistan, made serious allegations the effect of which was to:

- (i) Compare the Claimant to a historical Pakistani female figure known as 'Budhan Bai' who was a well-known courtesan and state that the Claimant "was worse than Budhan Bai", an implication being that the Claimant was a prostitute;
 - (ii) Compare the Claimant to Christine Keeler, a topless showgirl of the 1960s era, an implication being that the Claimant was a topless dancer; and
 - (iii) State that the Claimant colluded with her ex-husband's political rivals the Pakistan Muslim League ('PML') and/or accepted a substantial payment from or on behalf of its leader, Shehbaz Sharif, in return for writing her autobiography.
6. These allegations are entirely false. They amount to very serious slurs upon the Claimant's reputation and integrity, and they have caused her considerable distress. Indeed, the Claimant has suffered extensive abuse as a result of the grave libels which the Defendant has published.
7. In June 2018, the Claimant submitted a complaint to Ofcom in respect of the Broadcast. However, the Defendant refused to accept the validity of her complaint. In February 2019, Ofcom published its decision, upholding the Claimant's complaint in full.
8. The Defendant now accepts that these allegations are wholly untrue and appears here today to express its apologies to the Claimant for the distress and embarrassment caused by the Broadcast and to apologise publicly to the Claimant. In the circumstances, the Claimant is prepared to let the matter rest.

Defendant's representative:

9. My Lord, through me the Defendant offers its apologies to the Claimant for any distress and embarrassment caused by the Broadcast. The Defendant accepts that there was and is no truth in the allegations advanced during the Broadcast and is happy to set the record straight and apologise to the Claimant. The Defendant has agreed to pay the Claimant substantial damages and her legal costs. The Defendant has also given suitable undertakings to the Claimant in respect of the defamatory content.

Claimant's representative:

10. My Lord, in these circumstances I ask for leave to withdraw the record.

Ambis LLP

Solicitors for the Claimant

Date

20/08/19.

Adrian Khan

Solicitors for the Defendant

Date

20/08/19