

Our ref: BHK/Akhtar.Shoab

Date: 19th June 2015

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
Home Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

BY FAX & POST: homeaffcom@parliament.uk

Dear Sir,

**Re: Mohammed Shoaib & Akhtar Iqbal
Family of 12 Missing Persons**

We act on behalf of the above named.

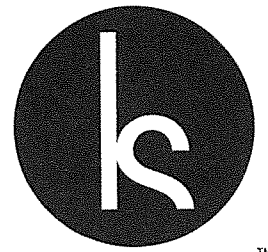
You will undoubtedly be aware of the above matter which is currently being investigated by the North East Counter Terrorism Unit (NECTU).

Our clients who are the fathers of the children now believed to be in Syria, are extremely disappointed with the manner in which this matter is being investigated by West Yorkshire Police and have expressed grave concerns in the conduct of the police leading to these events.

Indeed, we are alarmed by the fact that the police have been actively promoting and encouraging contact with the brother-in-law of our clients whom, it is believed, is fighting in Syria. It would appear that there has been a reckless disregard as to the consequences of any such contact on the families of those whom we represent.

Plainly, by the NECTU allowing this contact they have been complicit in the grooming and radicalising of the women. If this contact between them had been prevented our clients would not now be facing such circumstances. Clearly these facts are disturbing to say the least.

Our clients have made repeated attempts to gain information from the police as to the progress of this investigation. Each request has been met by a wholesale lack of information. Instead, the police have been anxious to ensure that there is no criticism of them and their tactics in allowing, encouraging and promoting contact with somebody believed to be in Syria.



khan solicitors™

Directors:

Rashid Majid (LLB Hons),
Amjad Hasan* (LLB Hons),
Shakil Ahmed (LLB Hons),
Faryal Akhtar* (LLB Hons),
Balaal Hussain Khan*
(LLB Hons, LLM).

Associates:

Mohammad Afsar (BA Hons,
PGDL)
Sarah Aslam (LLB Hons)
Abbas Younis (BA Hons)*
Khateeb Riaz (LLB Hons)
*solicitor advocate

Reg Company No: 6518419.
Khan Solicitors is a trading
name of Khan Solicitors Ltd.

Head Office:

24 Sunbridge Road
Bradford BD1 2AA
DX: 11788 BRADFORD

T: 01274 301 999
F: 01274 301 998
E: info@khansolicitors.com

Sheffield Branch:

Sorby House
42 Spital Hill
Sheffield S4 7LG

T: 01142 132 490
F: 01142 132 491

Website:

www.khansolicitors.com

**EMERGENCY 24 HOUR
HELPLINE**

07623 951 208 (Pager)
07976 958 826 (Telephone)

Members of the Very High
Cost Case (Crime) Panel

Regulated by the Solicitors
Regulation Authority
SRA No. 492028



Lexcel
Practice Management Standard
Law Society Accredited

Thus far, our clients have not publicly criticised the police nor have they disclosed the fact that the police were actually promoting and encouraging contact with someone believed to be in Syria.

We agree with the comments of the home secretary on 18th June 2015 that 'a real partnership is needed' to defeat the 'poisonous' and 'twisted' ideology of IS.

However, this case poses some serious questions. Clearly the NECTU needs to explain why contact between the family 'was' and 'is' being promoted by the NECTU. The actions and misjudgment of the NECTU has placed the lives of 12 British Citizens at risk, 9 of which are innocent children the youngest being 3 years of age.

Due to the families concerns, a lack of information from the Police and a refusal by the Police to release a joint statement, the fathers decided to hold a press conference to raise awareness, to make a direct appeal to their loved ones to return home, they felt that time was against them and not enough had been done by the Police.

This press conference was not used to criticise the Police because there was a more pressing issue at hand.

As result of the press conference, contact was initiated by one of the sisters, namely Zohra Dawood, in a voice message to her family on Wednesday 17th June 2015. In that message, as referenced before she asserted that she was already in Syria and that the family had all travelled there together due to the oppressive nature of the continued surveillance by the police.

A statement was released by the Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, Russ Foster, detailing this contact by Zohra Dawood without any prior consultation with our clients. We then decided that we would like to speak to the Chief Constable and requested an urgent meeting.

DI Greenwood contacted our firm stating that we cannot meet the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police or even the assistant Chief Constable. We were also advised that we cannot meet the Senior Investigating Officer. We raised our concerns over the lack of communication. The DI stated that the officers will not contact us directly despite my clients providing me with authorisation.

We made it clear to the officer that we are unhappy with the way this matter has been conducted and letters will be sent out to the Home Secretary, Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee and Foreign Secretary.

We write to you now as time is of the essence and a meaningful dialogue between those who are investigating this matter and ourselves is essential. To this end, we invite and would welcome your intervention.

We would like you to facilitate a meeting with a Senior Officer and would like to be updated as to the progress of the investigation.

We would welcome a full investigation in relation to the above matters raised.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully


KHAN SOLICITORS