



JUDICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

15 November 2007

Statement issued on behalf of Mr Justice Singer

“A judgment handed down in the Court of Appeal today concluded that remarks made by me in the case of *El Faraghy -v- El Faraghy & others* were regrettable, unacceptable and might be perceived as racist jokes.

“I wish publicly to apologise to Sheikh Khalid Ben Abdullah Rashid Al Fawaz for these remarks, which were not intended to be racially disparaging.

“My comments were poorly chosen. They were not intended to be racist, nor have I ever intended any disrespect or disregard for the tenets of Islam, or for the Sheikh’s Saudi nationality and Arab ethnicity.

“My judicial work and public speeches clearly demonstrate that I am in no sense racist.

“With regard to my decision not to recuse myself from further involvement with the case, and as the Court of Appeal judgment overturning that decision makes clear, I did attempt to arrange for the final hearing to be conducted by one of my colleagues, but the workload on the Family Division of the High Court and the judicial resources available to us did not permit this if a long postponement of the final hearing was to be avoided. Clearly though this does not excuse the way I expressed myself.”

Note for Editors

1. Mr Justice Singer will not be giving any interviews in relation to the judgment. The judgment is available at:
http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/docs/judgments_guidance/elfaraghy_judgment.pdf
2. Mr Justice Singer was appointed as a High Court Judge in the Family Division in 1993, and he has mainly been involved in hearing disputes involving children and their welfare, and family cases with an international dimension. Prior to his judicial appointment he had 25 years practice at the Bar, virtually all in family law and he is a Past Chairman of the Family Law Bar Association. He is a frequent contributor to family law lectures and conferences, often on the topics of child abduction and forced marriage, and he serves on the Family Justice Council's International Committee.

In 2003 he was one of the UK judges who took part in the first Anglo-Pakistan Judicial Conference on Family Law issues, and he has continued in this role with visits to Pakistan. Further CV and biographical details are available from the JCO on 020 7073 4852.

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