

Libel News

CONFIDENTIAL submissions to the Commons inquiry into libel law reveal that those champions of free speech at Carter-Fuck are making pots of money by, among other things, menacing the critics of radical Islam.

The Centre for Social Cohesion, which investigates white and Islamist far-right groups, has told John Whittingdale, inquiry chairman, how it had wanted to produce a factual guide to Muslim organisations. When it came to the Interpal charity, the think tank duly said it gave aid to Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza strip, and then noted the following facts that were on record:

The US Treasury had alleged that Interpal had links to terrorism in 2003. In 2006, a BBC *Panorama* documentary had alleged it had links to Hamas, a designated terrorist group in the US and the European Union. Meanwhile Britain's Charity Commission had launched three investigations into whether Interpal had raised funds for Hamas (although the report stressed that the commission had found no evidence of wrongdoing on Interpal's part).

Because it was producing a guidebook, the Centre of Social Cohesion sent a proof to every organisation it named. Interpal turned to Carter-Fuck who warned that repetition of allegations in the public domain would result in an instant libel action. Even to say that Interpal was a "muslim" charity was false, the lawyers thundered.

In his submission to the MPs, Douglas Murray, director of the Centre for Social Cohesion, says the threat from Carter-Fuck stopped the report's publication. It was, he said, an "unacceptable restriction on freedom of speech" for lawyers to threaten small organisations with a "lawsuit and potential bankruptcy simply for reproducing information already reported in numerous reputable sources". An "unacceptable restriction on freedom of speech"? Whatever next from Carter-Fuck!

'Ratbiter'