FRIDAY, MARCH 05, 2010

Tony Baldry MP, working for you. And James Ibori

Interesting post by Craig Murray about another attempt to silence some journalists using Britain's libel laws - ever popular with users, if not those who fall foul of them.

They've got Geraldine Proudler of Olswang - who specialises in "reputation management issues" - to write to various publications who have chosen to highlight the work Tory MP Tony Baldry has done for one James Ibori.

He, for the record, is a Nigerian politician. The UK government has frozen £21m of his assets. They are a lot of assets for a man who earned $25,000 per annum as Governor of Delta State between 1999 and 2007.

Some of his chums are facing money-laundering charges in the UK, which "overjoys" Nuhu Ribadu, long-term enemy of James's and Senior Fellow at Oxford University.

But it does not overjoy Mr Ibori. So he enlisted the help of some chums in Westminster. So Tony Baldry, apart from "working for you in North Oxfordshire", also went to work for James Ibori in Nigeria.

He reportedly wrote to the Foreign Secretary and others. What he said is the subject of some dispute. Geraldine says Tony said that "perhaps after the outcome of the criminal proceedings is known, relevant agencies might want to reflect on lessons learned". Craig Murray has paraphrased: "We can't turn up our noses at money looted from the African people, old boy. Think of the effect on the City."

Others say Tony went further in what he urged the government. But we can't know because the Home Office has refused a Freedom of Information request. Shame, as it would let us see the letter, dated 24 September 2009, and copied to the Attorney-General, the Baroness Scotland QC, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the Jack Straw MP, and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Alan Johnson MP.

Two of them are also barristers. One is a former postman.

Key point

But the key point to stress here, as I'm sure the Rt. Hon. Mr Baldry and Ms. Proudler would want me to, is that while he is working for you in North Oxfordshire in his capacity as an MP, he is working for Mr. Ibori in his capacity as a barrister.

You see, as an MP you can have a second job. So you can defend someone from Nigeria and you can write to the government. You just have to make sure that you do so in your capacity as an advocate.

The fact that you may well be chums with the Foreign Secretary, the Attorney General, the Home Secretary and lots of other friendly politicians all working for you, the people, in Westminster is by-the-by, because you are doing this in your capacity as a barrister.

You see? I hope so. Because you certainly should. If you do not, and if you detect a conflict of interest, you may well have to have a chat with Geraldine.

The Independent had a chat with Geraldine. Then they said sorry and deleted their article.

WordPress had a chat with Geraldine (here), who in turn had a chat with Richard Wilson. He...
All my own views..

WILL JORDAN @ TWITTER
A thorough list of all the Terry Talibans, who they are, who they kill, and who they command: http://bit.ly/bMuS2b about an hour ago
RT @TelegraphNews Jon Venables is no longer the guilty boy who killed James Bulger - Telegraph http://is.gd/9EK6T about 4 hours ago
follow me on Twitter

ABOUT ME

ARCHIVE
▼ 10 (4)
▼ Mar 2010 (1)
Tony Baldry MP, working for you. And James Ibori
► Feb 2010 (1)
► Jan 2010 (2)
► 09 (80)
► 08 (47)
'Two cheers are quite enough.' - Will Jordan's blog: Tony Baldry MP, ... http://willjordanuk.blogspot.com/2010/03/tony-baldry-mp-working-for...