



Editorial Complaints Unit

Mr M Cushman
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CT/1000049

26 March 2010

Dear Mr Cushman

Jewish man jeered at SOAS university debate, BBC News Website

I am writing to let you know the outcome of the Editorial Complaints Unit's investigation into your complaint about a web page which was previously posted on the BBC News website.

Having reviewed the original article, I accept that it would have given readers a seriously misleading impression of what happened at the meeting in question. In considering whether to uphold your complaint, I have borne in mind the action taken by BBC News once it became aware of the true situation. Within 24 hours, of its being posted, the article was removed from the BBC News website and replaced with an accurate version which you can see at the following link: (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8419532.stm>). In addition, the editor responsible, Hugh Berlyn, has assured us that the reporter concerned has been made aware of the need to check information provided by sources more carefully in future and to ensure that a wider range of views is sought. The reporter has, in turn, recognised the errors that were made in researching and writing the original article and has apologised Mr Berlyn in writing.

In some circumstances, actions of this kind would enable me to conclude that the complaint had been resolved. In this case, however, it seems to me that the first and erroneous account of events has gained the kind of circulation which calls for correction on the public record. I am therefore upholding your complaint, which means that further action will be taken by BBC News in response to my finding. I shall come back to you when it had been decided what form this action will take, but I would expect it to involve some way of informing readers of the story as it now stands that the original version was misleading.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fraser Steel', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Fraser Steel
Head of Editorial Complaints