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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

**MET APOLOGISES TO VICTIM OF RACE ATTACK**

The Metropolitan Police Service has apologised and compensated a victim of a racist attack in settlement of a claim that police officers abandoned him at the scene, despite him having a serious head injury.

Mr Omar Mohamud, a 31 year old Black British man of Somali origin, was on a nightbus in Wood Green on 9 June 2012 when he was subjected to an unprovoked attack by a large group of white males who struck blows to his head and taunted him with racial slurs. As a result, Mr Mohamud sustained a laceration to his scalp, neurological symptoms and bruising and grazing all over his body.

Police arrived at the scene, but despite Mr Mohamud's head injuries and the fact that he was significantly outnumbered by his white attackers, officers failed to provide him with any assistance.

Instead of supporting Mr Mohamud as a victim of race hate attack and preserving evidence, officers ignored him and threatened him with arrest when he sought help. Mr Mohamud had to wait with his friend for an ambulance, watching his attackers walk away. He remained hospitalised for three days.

On release from hospital, Mr Mohamud filed a police complaint which was partially upheld, including that there was a case to answer for discrimination on the part of one officer. Three officers were brought before a misconduct meeting and it was found that three of the officers had failed to record the matter as a crime. The charge of discrimination was not upheld.

Mr Mohamud issued a claim for race discrimination and breaches of his human rights at Central London County Court which was eventually settled out of court by the Metropolitan Police. In apologising to Mr Mohamud, a Detective Inspector stated *'I regret that you did not receive the service that you should have from the Metropolitan Police. In particular, I recognise that the manner you were treated served to compound your sense of victimisation'*.

In response **Mr Mohamud** said:

*"On 9 June 2012 I was a victim of a racist attack but rather than helping me the police treated me like I was to blame. No one took me seriously and I watched as my attackers walked free. I feel that as a black man the police are not available to protect me in the same way that they would if I was white. I have accepted the police apology and hope that my experience will mean that other victims of racism get proper support from the police".*

Mr Mohamud's solicitor **Sophie Naftalin** of **Bhatt Murphy** solicitors said:

*'My client was badly let down by the Metropolitan Police – the same institution that was supposed to protect him. The outcome of his case serves to vindicate his claim that he is entitled to equal treatment by the police and that their failings were unacceptable. It is clear that officers of the MPS still have a lot of work to do in addressing the needs of victims of racism'.*

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