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Today the 25th August 2016

Attention : The Editor

Malta Independent

Dear Sir

I write in the name and on behalf of Mr. Neville Gafa, and this in reference to the article titled 'Government official was netting up to €150,000 a month in medical visas scam' which appeared on your newspaper on Sunday the 21st August 2016, who wishes to avail himself of the Right of Reply afforded him at Law and therefore request that you publish, in line with the legal requirements the following.

"With reference to the article titled 'Government official was netting up to €150,000 a month in medical visas scam' which appeared on your newspaper on Sunday the 21st August 2016, the person purportedly responsible for this article, David Lindsay is basing his story on unfounded allegations and outright lies and hiding behind alleged anonymous high ranking Libyan secret service officer.

From the outset I Neville Gafa deny any and all allegations of misconduct and or bribery this article alleges and deny that I have ever received any monies in any way or manner aside from my due government salary.

The Public has a right to know that the Maltese Government signed an MOU with the Libyan Authorities to help in providing medical assistance to persons injured in this conflict. The persons who were to be provided this service were to be identified by the Libyan authorities and cleared from their end, and subsequently reviewed by the local Secret Service, Police, Immigration and medical departments and services. The persons concerned were not requested to pay anything, not even the 66 euro visa fee which was waived by the Maltese Government. Only the accompanying family members were requested the visa fee. All other expenses as regard the patient were entered into a Government account as debt to be subsequently settled by the Libyan Authorities. No

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fees or charges were levied by myself or the respective departments for the vetting of the persons concerned.

The due diligence effected, included, and actually commenced from the Libyan secret service which therefore gives the lie to the source quoted by the journalist concerned.

The article gives the impression that Mr. Neville Gafa went to collect monies in Libya from injured persons, when if anything it is the alleged middleman, who had no legal or statutory rights to enter into these government to government negotiations, who results from the same article as having collected monies on the unfounded pretext of having Libyan or Maltese clearance.

As to the allegations that patients were not brought to Malta, let it be known that Malta has since provided some 600 medical services, some of them major and life threatening cases to those that have been filtered through the system. Some cases have been refused, in the usual tragic triage system, for the benefit of other cases and/or where the medical services requested could not be given.

What Mr. Gafa posts in his Facebook has been described as rabid by the said journalist indicating a clear political bias enhanced by the alleged comments included by Mr. Ivan Grech Mintoff who acted as interlocutor to the anonymous secret service source.

The lack of contact on the part of the journalist with Mr. Gafa for his comments give the article a one sided biased unfounded and downright libelous view so acute that it is regrettable for Mr. Gafa to have to reply and inform all that libel proceedings will be initiated in the coming days against the said David Lindsay, Simon Busuttil and all other persons, political or otherwise who participate in the spreading of such libelous unfounded allegations."

Best Regards



Peter Paul Zammit LP