



POSTAL ADDRESS
PO BOX 741 | BROMHOF | 2154 | JHB | REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA
PHYSICAL ADDRESS
236 FREDERICK DRIVE | NORTHCLIFF | JOHANNESBURG 2196
| REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA
OFFICE +27 87 265 6421
| **EMAIL** INFO@GHINC.CO.ZA
CONSULTANT
YAZEED MIA (CONVEYANER AND NOTARY PUBLIC)

To: **RADIO AL ANSAAR**
207 WEST ROAD
OVERPORT
DURBAN
KWA-ZULU NATAL

'WITH PREJUDICE'

Date: 18 February 2026

Our ref: GHINC/K.G/89012

Email: info@alansaar.org.za

Dear Sirs/ Madam

RE: LETTER OF DEMAND – MUFTI EBRAHIM SMITH // AL ANSAAR
BROADCAST OF DEFAMATORY INFORMATION

1. We confirm that we act on behalf Mufti Ebrahim Smith (hereinafter referred to as "our Client").
2. This letter concerns the broadcast aired on or about 13 December 2025 on Radio Al Ansaar, titled "GBV#NITELINE", hosted by Dr Anwar Jeewa and Mr Mohamed Variawa ("the presenters"), featuring Ms Natalie Solomons ("Solomons"). Our instructions are that the presenters, at all material times, acted within the course and scope of their employment with you.
3. Our Client instructs us that the broadcast contained statements which he contends were false, malicious, and defamatory, and which were calculated to injure his reputation, dignity, and standing in the community. These allegations, as aired, are denied by our Client.
4. This letter further addresses the controversy arising from our Client's arrest on or about 14 October 2025 by members of the Benoni SAPS on allegations of rape and/or sexual misconduct.

5. Our Client further instructs us that the arrest triggered widespread commentary and dissemination of information across various social media platforms (including TikTok, Facebook, and WhatsApp). He contends that this included material he regards as misleading, harmful, and defamatory. According to our Client, Solomons played a prominent role in circulating such material, which prompted him to take appropriate legal steps, addressed hereinunder. Solomons was, as set out in this letter, at least in part aided and abetted by the presenters. In acting as they had, the presenters have conducted themselves unlawfully.

BACKGROUND:

6. On or about 16 October 2025, our client made his first appearance at the Benoni Magistrates' Court. The State, after reviewing the docket, elected not to enrol the matter. The Prosecution in Benoni, acting under the authority of the NPA, concluded that the matter was not suitable for prosecution. The NPA held the *prima facie* view that the available evidence could not sustain any charge, and accordingly the case was not placed on the court roll. At that juncture, the State and SAPS resolved to investigate the full circumstances of the allegations further.
7. Notwithstanding the State's decision of 16 October 2025, Solomons and other self-styled activists persisted and continued in making unfounded defamatory remarks and spreading misinformation about our client across social media platforms. This compelled our offices to issue an official public statement dated 20 October 2025, titled "Official Public Statement issued on behalf of Mufti Ebrahim Smith" attached hereto as **Annexure ES1**.
8. The purpose of the statement was to place the factual position on record and to forewarn, particularly in paragraph 10, that:

"Our client reserves all his rights to take further legal action, including instituting defamation proceedings and/or any other appropriate action against any person or entity who continues to publish or circulate false information that undermines his good name and standing in the community."
9. We mention that your presenters were acutely aware of this statement.
10. Despite this warning, Solomons continued her campaign *ad terrorem* on social media. Our client was accordingly compelled to apply for a Protection from Harassment Order in the Benoni Magistrates' Court. On or about 27 November 2025, an *interim* order was granted interdicting Solomons and any

third parties acting through her from disseminating or publishing any defamatory remarks on social media and the like platforms. This interim order remains in force pending finalisation.

11. Notwithstanding service of the *interim* order, Solomons breached its terms. Our client was therefore obliged to take remedial steps, including obtaining a warrant of arrest and laying a criminal charge. Breach of a court orders is a criminal offence, irrespective of public sentiment. These steps ultimately saw Solomons arraigned before the criminal court to answer her breach.
12. The above aside, as regards our Client's position, after careful consideration of the allegations made against him, the State ultimately elected to issue a "*Nolle Prosequi*" certificate. This means that the state declined to continue any prosecution, upon a consideration of all evidence before it. In other words, having weighed up all the evidence before it, the state accepted that a charge and conviction could not be sustained against our Client.
13. At every material juncture, our Client has placed his confidence in the law and due process, holding accountable those who fail to subscribe to the very constitutional values they purport to represent.

RELEVANCE TO AL ANSAAR:

14. The relevance of the foregoing is that, notwithstanding our client's active steps to interdict Solomons and other role players, including the issuance of an official public statement, Radio Al Ansaar through its presenters nevertheless deemed it appropriate to invite Solomons onto its GBV Show. On our client's instructions, this invitation was not intended to address gender-based violence in South Africa, but was calculated to defame, undermine, and embarrass our Client before the Islamic community and the constituency he represents.
15. The matter assumes particular significance because of the position and title our client holds within the Islamic community and his relationship with Al Ansaar and its constituency.
16. It must further be noted that our client's name and personal information had already been widely circulated on social media. Accordingly, any reference to allegations whether by innuendo or pseudonym was understood by listeners to relate directly to our client. In fact, Radio Al Ansaar's presenters invited Solomons not to engage in a genuine discussion on domestic violence, but to generate sensationalism, to trend on misinformation, and to provoke a response from your constituency by targeting our client.

17. Crucially, Radio Al Ansaar failed to discharge its duty and obligations to verify the accuracy and truthfulness of the information broadcasted by formulating opinions, discussions and engagements on information which was false and inaccurate.

RELATIONSHIP WITH RADIO AL ANSAAR:

18. To amplify our client's position, it is pertinent to note that he is no stranger to Radio Al Ansaar. As far back as 2012, our client appeared regularly with his late teacher, Mufti Faiyaz, alongside host the late Shafa'at Ahmed Khan.
19. Following the passing of Mufti Faiyaz in 2023, our client continued to be hosted on programmes such as Jumuah Lift-Off and News in Focus, with appearances extending into 2024.
20. During these regular engagements, our client contributed to Islamic Question-and-Answer sessions, community upliftment programmes, and political analysis on current affairs, thereby strengthening his relationship with Radio Al Ansaar and its constituency.
21. As you are aware, our client is a respected and long-standing leader within the Islamic community including being recognised by your Radio station. He has devoted many years to serving the community with integrity, knowledge, and dedication, consistently upholding the highest standards of moral and religious guidance.
22. Accordingly, his relationship with Radio Al Ansaar spans more than thirteen (13) years. It is therefore particularly egregious that his reputation and goodwill built over decades of service was tarnished by your presenters, unprovoked, before the very same community and constituency that both our client and Radio Al Ansaar represent locally and internationally.

GBV#NITE – 13 DECEMBER 2025:

23. It must be recorded that your presenters invited Solomons onto the programme despite being fully aware of her views directed against our client. It is our instructions that the invitation was aimed solely at engaging on our client's matter, which was immoral, unethical, and unprofessional. The presenters knew that Solomons would advance unlawful and illogical views concerning our client. One presenter even stated that he "knows" our client and was aware of information circulating. In truth, Radio Al

Ansaar, its listeners, and its constituency knew precisely who Solomons was referring to, and that these issues were already viral when discussed, including the views she had formulated.

24. By entertaining Solomons on its platform, Radio Al Ansaar was complicit in the perpetration of defamatory statements and remarks against our client.
25. Al Ansaar elected to advance the unlawful views of Solomons in the face of our Client's published statement. As such, Al Ansaar was complicit in the propagation of the statements and the unlawful remarks regarding our client. These statements and remarks included:
 - 25.1 Alleging that our client raped and sexually abused a third party.
 - 25.2 Declaring that our client "brutally raped" the complainant.
 - 25.3 Suggesting that our client induced the complainant into a secret marriage to perpetrate unlawful acts.
 - 25.4 Alleging that our client abused his power and emotionally manipulated the complainant.
 - 25.5 Suggesting that our client has influence and money to manipulate police and judicial outcomes.
 - 25.6 Disseminating misinformation that charges were dropped because money was exchanged.
 - 25.7 Baiting Solomons to claim that "police were paid" and that this is what our client normally does.
 - 25.8 Submitting that, in terms of Islam, our client was prohibited from meeting the complainant alone, and that such conduct was unacceptable.
 - 25.9 Declaring that, irrespective of whether our client gets away with it, Solomons and her associates would ensure the public is made aware of his alleged unlawful conduct including informing women and children must be aware of what was done.
26. Following the engagement with Solomons, your presenters proceeded to a Question-and-Answer session with listeners. During this segment, further defamatory statements were made, *inter alia* that:
 - 26.1 in court processes, victims are treated as suspects.
 - 26.2 our client "cooked his goose" by engaging in consensual intercourse.
 - 26.3 under Sharia law, the punishment for such conduct is death.
 - 26.4 "Where there is smoke, there is fire," insinuating that the allegations must carry merit.
27. These remarks were false, unverified, and malicious. They were broadcast with full knowledge of their defamatory nature and without any attempt to verify their accuracy. In doing so, your presenters compounded the harm already caused by Solomons' participation and further entrenched the

narrative that our client was guilty of misconduct and misinformation despite this being untrue and not in accordance with the true state of the facts. .

CONSEQUENCE AND DAMAGES:

28. The broadcast has caused grave harm to our client's reputation, dignity, and standing within the community.
29. Our client has devoted over twenty years to building goodwill and trust, which has now been tarnished by your presenters' conduct.
30. The defamatory broadcast has:
 - 30.1 Undermined his credibility as a religious leader.
 - 30.2 Impacted his donations received to his institution.
 - 30.3 Caused reputational damage locally and internationally.
 - 30.4 Inflicted emotional distress and humiliation.
 - 30.5 Eroded the goodwill he has built over decades of service.
31. The harm is ongoing and irreparable unless remedied by immediate corrective action.

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS:

32. Radio Al Ansaar is further bound by the Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999 and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("ICASA") Code of Conduct, which require broadcasters to:
 - 32.1 Broadcasters must report news truthfully, accurately, and fairly.
 - 32.2 verify information before broadcasting.
 - 32.3 distinguish clearly between fact, opinion, and commentary.
 - 32.4 Avoid broadcasting material that is false, misleading, or likely to cause harm.
33. It is our instructions that the broadcast of 13 December 2025 was in flagrant breach of these obligations.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL DIMENSIONS ADVANCED BY OUR CLIENT:

34. The above aside, our client has adopted a stance that your institution, purporting to propagate Islamic teachings, has violated core Islamic beliefs by acting as aforesaid. In amplification thereof, we understand that you are a Durban-based Islamic broadcaster operating under the Al Ansaar Foundation and publicly positions yourself as a values-driven, Shariah-aligned institution. By virtue of your positioning, you bear a heightened duty to ensure that your content complies with the Quranic and Prophetic standards governing speech, verification, and the protection of honour.
35. Your station's influence within the KwaZulu-Natal Muslim community, and its reputation for religious programming, amplify both the expectation of compliance and the gravity of deviation. Against this backdrop, your decision to broadcast an allegation of rape against a mufti, made by a woman who had consulted him on private matters, without evidence, verification, or due process, constitutes a direct breach of the Qur'anic prohibition against false accusations of sexual misconduct. This is aggravated by the fact that the National Prosecuting Authority has found no triable case to pursue on the facts, which confirms that there is not even a ***prima facie*** basis upon which to pursue criminal charges.
36. Your conduct is deprecated having regard to Islamic Scriptures. In Surah al-Nur (24:4) you will immediately recognise that those who level such allegations as you have repeated without producing four witnesses are to be deemed *fāsiq*, their testimony rejected, and their conduct condemned. While our client does not seek the hadd consequences referenced therein, the verse establishes the gravity of the transgression and the categorical prohibition against disseminating unverified allegations of this nature. Your broadcast, devoid of any evidentiary foundation and made despite the State's decision not to prosecute, falls squarely within the conduct censured by this verse, and is rendered even more egregious by the religious authority your station claims to uphold.
37. Furthermore, the Qur'an explicitly rebukes those who transmit rumours and unverified allegations, describing such conduct as "speaking with your tongues that of which you have no knowledge" and treating as trivial that which is, in the sight of Allah, "tremendous" (Surah al-Nur 24:15–16). These verses, revealed in the context of the slander against Sayyidah A'ishah (RA), establish the juristic principle that the mere repetition or rebroadcast of an unverified allegation constitutes participation in the slander itself. Al Ansaar, by choosing to air an allegation made by a woman and advanced as hearsay, without any proof, context, or lawful process, has engaged in precisely the conduct the Qur'an condemns.

38. In addition, your actions violate the Qur'anic command of tabayyun, or verification, set out in Surah al-Hujurat (49:6), which obliges believers to investigate the reliability of information before disseminating it. A broadcaster that claims to operate within an Islamic framework bears an even higher duty to ensure that its content does not contravene this divine instruction. Al Ansaar's failure to verify the allegation, to interrogate its credibility, or to consider the nature of any interaction between the accuser and the mufti, constitutes a breach of a fundamental Quranic standards governing speech, reporting, and public communication.
39. Moreover, the Prophetic Sunnah imposes severe moral liability upon those who falsely accuse believers or transmit harmful speech. The Prophet (PBUH) warned that whoever falsely accuses a believer will be confined in the punishment of Hell until he retracts what he said (Sahih al-Bukhari) and further stated that "it is enough of a lie for a person to narrate everything he hears" (Sahih Muslim). These narrations establish that the rebroadcasting of unverified allegations is not a neutral act. Instead, it is a sinful one. Al Ansaar's conduct is therefore not merely negligent. It is a direct violation of Prophetic instruction, particularly egregious given the religious authority of the Mufti targeted and the religious authority your station claims to represent.
40. Additionally, Islamic law recognises 'ird (honour) as one of the five essential protections of the Shariah, alongside life, property, intellect, and religion. The Prophet (PBUH) declared the honour of a Muslim to be sacred. By broadcasting defamatory allegations of rape / sexual misconduct against a Mufti, a scholar entrusted with guiding the community, without proof, Al Ansaar has violated a protected right recognised across all schools of Islamic jurisprudence. This constitutes *darar* (harm), *ta'addī* (wrongful transgression), and *sababīyyah* (causation of injury), all of which attract liability under classical fiqh.
41. In addition to the foregoing, Al Ansaar's conduct has inflicted broader communal harm by undermining the trust that the Ummah has, and is religiously obliged to have, in its fuqaha. Islamic scholarship occupies a position of custodianship over the community's spiritual and ethical life, and the Quran commands believers to refer matters of religious and moral gravity to "those vested with authority among you" (Surah al-Nisā' 4:59). By choosing to air an unverified and highly sensitive allegation against a mufti, Al Ansaar has contributed to the erosion of confidence in the very class of scholars who serve as interpreters of the Shariah and guides of the community. The reckless dissemination of such claims, particularly where the accuser had no relationship to our client and the allegation was not subjected to any process of verification, creates an atmosphere of suspicion around the fuqaha, weakens the community's reliance on their guidance, and contradicts the Islamic imperative to preserve the dignity and credibility of those entrusted with religious leadership.

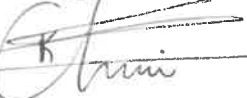
42. Finally, the juristic maxim that “the transmitter of slander is like the originator” applies with full force to your conduct. The fact that the allegation may have originated from a woman who claimed to believe a third party was raped, and her repeaters who have no relationship to the Mufti, does not absolve Al Ansaar of responsibility. Under Shariah, the rebroadcaster is a full participant in the sin and its consequences. By choosing to air the allegation, Al Ansaar assumed moral, ethical, and legal responsibility for its dissemination, and in doing so, violated the very Islamic principles it claims to uphold.

DEMANDS:

43. In view of the circumstances, we are instructed to demand, as we hereby do:
- 43.1 A written and formal apology to our client and to be circulated to your viewers and constituency.
- 43.2 A payment of R4 000 000 – 00 (four million rand) for harm suffered.
44. Should you fail to comply within fourteen (14) days of receipt hereof, our client will proceed without further notice to:
- 44.1 Institute our clients claim for damages.
- 44.2 Lodge a formal complaint with ICASA regarding your contraventions.
45. Our clients remaining rights not specified above remain reserved in *toto*.

Yours Faithfully

GHIRAO INCORPORATED



Per: Kylan Ghirao



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PHYSICAL ADDRESS

236 FREDERICK DRIVE | NORTHCLIFF | JOHANNESBURG 2196

| REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE +27 87 265 6421

| **EMAIL** INFO@GHINC.CO.ZA

CONSULTANT

YAZEED MIA (CONVEYANER AND NOTARY PUBLIC)

To: **Whom it may concern**

Date: 20 October 2025

Our ref: GHINC/kc/0012

Dear Sirs/ Madams

OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED ON BEHALF OF MUFTI EBRAHIM SMITH

1. We act on behalf of Mufti Ebrahim Smith (hereinafter referred to as "*Our Client*").
2. Our Client is a well-known, highly respected and long-standing member of the broader body of *Fuqahaa* (Islamic Jurists) within the Islamic community, having devoted many years of selfless community service to both the Muslim and non-Muslim South African population. Our Client has served with integrity and dedication, calling upon his extensive *Deeni* knowledge, in upholding the highest standards of moral and religious conduct.
3. Our Client has recently been subjected to a targeted social media campaign in which he has been falsely accused of serious criminal conduct. Such allegations are not only deeply offensive but also unequivocally defamatory. This statement is issued at our Client's instruction in order to halt the ongoing and relentless campaign of vilification being perpetrated by these accusers. It also serves to bring the true facts to light and to promote transparency in the face of misinformation.
4. Our Client is both disappointed and deeply concerned by the widespread dissemination of false and harmful allegations against him on social media platforms, including TikTok and Facebook. These allegations were propagated by individuals presenting themselves as "human rights activists," who, in a troubling contradiction, violated the very principles they claim to uphold. By publicising one-sided accusations without first establishing the existence of corroborating evidence, and without affording our Client the fundamental right to respond to or confront these claims, they have acted irresponsibly and unjustly.

5. It must be clearly stated that our Client does not concede that the premature publication of these allegations was lawful. On the contrary, the manner in which these claims were broadcast has denied our Client the opportunity to be heard, and to engage with the relevant authorities to verify both the factual and legal context of the matter.
6. Our client categorically denies the allegations levelled against him, and further denies any form of criminal misconduct. The clear evidence that exists directly refutes the allegations levelled against our Client. Said evidence is currently in the possession of the relevant authorities and had been considered by them in determining whether or not the allegations could be sustained. It could not, and for that reason, charges were not preferred against our Client.
7. In further clarification, our client was arrested purely as a procedural measure pursuant to the laying of a complaint. In certain instances, the police are required to arrest and present an accused person before a court based solely on the complaint per se, and irrespective of its merit. Our Client's arrest was not a reflection of guilt, nor did it imply that the allegations against him were substantiated.
8. Upon review of the docket, the prosecutorial team at the Benoni Magistrates Court, acting on behalf of the National Prosecuting Authority, concluded that the complainant's allegations were insufficient to sustain any charge. Our client was accordingly released from custody.
9. In short, no criminal case against our Client is pending, and no finding of any wrongdoing has been made against our client.
10. Notwithstanding the above, the same commentators and online personalities have persisted in their attacks on our Client, seemingly intent on conducting a *"trial by social media"*. These individuals continue to cast aspersions on our Client's good name and reputation, in clear violation of the presumption of innocence and in sheer disregard of the rule of law. Their conduct continues to be unlawful and deeply troubling, which appears to be a desperate attempt to save face following their earlier unlawful assertions.
11. By persisting in their current conduct, they continue to inflict unwarranted harm, not only to our Client's reputation and goodwill, but also to the broader principles of justice and fairness. Such conduct undermines the integrity of due process and erodes the foundational values upon which our Constitution and legal system is founded.

12. We urge all those who published or shared these false narratives to issue prompt corrections and update their audiences to reflect the true facts and trust that this unfortunate matter serves as a lesson in fairness and accountability. In view of the fact that social media commentators are not subject to an ethical code of conduct, our client nonetheless appeals to such commentators to subscribe to a moral code that demands a proper and thorough investigations be conducted and both sides be heard before hurling public allegations or drawing conclusions of such an egregious nature. Decisions are to be left to the Courts and not to social media platforms.
13. Our client reserves all his rights to take further legal action, including instituting defamation proceedings and/or any other appropriate action against any person or entity who continues to publish or circulate false information that undermines his good name and standing in the community.
14. Our client remains committed to the principles of truth, justice, and service to the community.
15. Our client's rights remain reserved.

Yours Faithfully

GHIRAO INCORPORATED

Per: Kylene Ghirao

(Sent electronically therefore unsigned a signed copy can be provided on request)