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The Editor,  
Daily Express,  
The Northern & Shell Building,  
10 Lower Thames Street,  
London, EC3R 6EN.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Dear Sir,

The Daily Express article on Wednesday referred to graffiti daubed on a war memorial in the village of Stretton in Staffordshire as being the work of “Muslim vandals” and as being “extremist Islamic graffiti” (“Muslim vandals daub hate signs on war memorial,” Daily Express, Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> March).

The matter is under investigation and unless your reporter has evidence to substantiate the claim that the perpetrator(s) was a/re Muslim(s), your headline would appear to be inaccurate. The fact that a prior case of defacement was the work of one Tohseef Shah is not sufficient grounds to presume that the perpetrator this time around is also a Muslim.

Secondly, the graffiti, distasteful and distressing such as it is, is not “extremist Islamic graffiti,” as you claim but graffiti that seems to be politically inspired. The references to the “Taliban” and to “Iraq” are very clearly political statements and could not reasonably be construed as “Islamic graffiti”, extremist or otherwise.

We would ask you to reflect on the laudable response of the local vicar, Rev. Kim Thomas who said “I’m concerned the Muslim community will get the blame but they are not responsible.”

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif,  
CEO