ENGAGE
Media Awareness • Political Participation

PO Box 2278
Ilford
Essex
IG1 9XT

T: 020 7330 8796
E: info@iengage.org.uk
W: www.iengage.org.uk

Press Complaints Commission
Halton House
20/23 Holborn
London EC1N 2JD

19 November 2008

Dear Sir,

I am writing concerning stories printed today (19 Nov) about the Labour peer Lord Ahmed of Rotherham who is said to be facing a possible trial for dangerous driving over an accident on the M1 in December last year that involved a fatality.

Many newspapers, national and regional, have made mention of the peer's religion, headlining or reporting the news as detailed below:

1. **'Muslim peer Lord Ahmed faces court over death crash'**, Daily Telegraph, 19 Nov 2008.

2. **'Muslim peer to be charged over 'texting' death crash'**, Mail Online, 18 Nov 2008 (http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1087022/Muslim-peer-charged-texting-death-crash.html).

3. **'Muslim peer charged over death crash'**, Yorkshire Post, 19 Nov 2008.

4. **'Britain's first Muslim peer faces charges over text message he sent shortly before fatal car crash'**, Evening Standard, 19 November 2008.

5. **Peer to face trial over death crash**, The Independent, 19 Nov 2008:

'Muslim peer Lord Ahmed will face court proceedings over alleged dangerous driving relating to a Christmas Day crash which left one man dead, police have confirmed.'

6. **Peer charged over fatal crash**, Lancashire Evening Post, 19 Nov 2008:

'South Yorkshire Muslim peer Lord Ahmed is to face a court accused of dangerous driving after a six-car Christmas Day horror smash that claimed the life of a Slovakian driver.'

7. **Fatal crash peer faces danger driving charge**, Metro, 19 Nov 2008:

'Lord Ahmed is to face court accused of dangerous driving when he was involved in a six-car pile-up in which a man died.

‘A text message was allegedly sent from the Muslim peer's phone shortly before his Jaguar was in collision with a car that had broken down in the fast lane of the M1 near Rotherham.'

The mention of the peer’s religion is wholly unrelated to the subject at hand, his facing trial for dangerous driving, and breaches article 12, section 2 of the PCC Code of Practice.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Inayat Bunglawala,
Advisor on Research and Policy,
ENGAGE