STATEMENT FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

06 July 2012

Statement from *Nature* responding to judgement in libel trial

In the case of Professor Mohammed El Naschie –v- Macmillan Publishers Ltd (trading as Nature Publishing Group) & Mr Quirin Schiermeier, the court has found in favour of Nature Publishing Group (NPG) and Quirin Schiermeier on all defences: justification, honest comment and Reynolds qualified privilege (the public interest/responsible journalism defence).

The judgement was handed down at Bristol Crown Court on Friday 06 July at 09.45am. It states: "My conclusions are that the Article is substantially true, whether one considers the meanings complained of by the Claimant or justified by the Defendants, that it contains comments which are defensible as honest comment, and that it was the product of responsible journalism, so that the defence of Reynolds privilege succeeds."

Quirin Schiermeier, Senior Reporter at *Nature*, and second defendant in the trial, says: “This long-awaited judgement takes a huge load off my mind. It is powerful confirmation of the high journalistic standards we apply at *Nature*. It is also reminder of the value of freedom of speech in civil society.”

Tim Appenzeller, Chief Magazine Editor, *Nature* says:
"This judgment is a great vindication for *Nature*'s journalism and for our reporter, Quirin Schiermeier. It leaves no doubt about the care with which the story was reported and edited, and about the importance of this kind of coverage."

Dr Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, *Nature* says:
“*Nature* has vigorously defended this article for over three years and we are all delighted that the court has found our journalism to be honest, justified and in the public interest.”

The original story has been posted online at:
www.nature.com/news/2008/081126/full/456432a.html
The final judgement can be downloaded here (PDF): **http://go.nature.com/jjzt1n**

Contact for enquiries:

Ruth Francis, Head of Press, Nature Publishing Group: **r.francis@nature.com**

About us **Privacy policy** **Naturejobs**
Contact us **Use of cookies** **Nature Asia**
Accessibility statement **Legal notice** **Nature Education**
Help **Terms** **RSS web feeds**

Search: go

SPRINGER NATURE

© 2019 Nature is part of Springer Nature. All Rights Reserved.

partner of AGORA, HINARI, OARE, INASP, ORCID, CrossRef, COUNTER and COPE