

## Home News

### Journalist Mazher Mahmood to appear again in Leveson inquiry



The former News of the World investigations editor Mazher Mahmood was scheduled to appear before the Leveson inquiry for a second time on Wednesday.

Mahmood, who now works for the Sunday Times, was one of just two witnesses listed to appear on Wednesday along with blogger David Green AKA Jack of Kent.

The coming Monday is dedicated to broadcasters with BBC chairman Lord Patten and director general Mark Thompson appearing, along with executives from ITN and Channel 4 News.

While Tuesday's witness list includes Ryan Parry, the Mirror reporter who won scoop of the year in 2003 after posing as a member of the royal household to uncover security failings at Buckingham Palace, and two News International witnesses – Gary O'Shea and Stephen Waring.

Inayat Bunglawala, who is a spokesman at the Muslim Council of Britain, will also give evidence on Tuesday as will John Kampfner of Index on Censorship and Marai Larasi of End Violence Against Women, on a day when Lord Justice Leveson will hear from several lobbying and campaigning groups.

Representatives from Google, Facebook and Popbitch will give evidence on Thursday, along with the information commissioner, Christopher Graham.

## 'Al-Qaida member' killed in US drone attack in Somalia

An alleged al-Qaida member from London was reportedly killed in a missile attack from a US drone while fighting alongside insurgents in Somalia.

Bilal el-Berjawi is said to have died when three missiles fired from the unmanned aircraft hit his car on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

The 27-year-old's wife is understood to have given birth to a child in a London hospital a few hours before the missile strike, prompting suspicions among relatives that his location had been pinpointed as a result of a telephone conversation between the couple.

About 12 months ago, Berjawi was stripped of the British citizenship he had held since his family moved to the UK from Lebanon when he was an infant.

He is the third Muslim from London to be killed in drone attacks in recent weeks.

In November, it was confirmed that Ibrahim Adam, 24, and 38-year-old Mohammed Azmer Khan, both from Ilford, had been killed in a drone attack in the South Waziristan region of Pakistan. Khan's brother, Abdul Jabbar, was killed in a drone



attack in the same region a year before.

Berjawi's death was reported in a statement by the insurgent al-Kataib media foundation. "The martyr received what he wished for and what he went out for," the statement said. "Brother Bilal al-Berjawi was exposed to bombing in an outskirt of Mogadishu from a drone that is believed to be American. He was martyred immediately."

The Associated Press news agency reported that the strike had been confirmed by a US official in Washington.

Omar Jamal, the first secretary

in the Somali mission to the UN, issued an emailed statement that said: "Good riddance, and [I] hope al-Shabaab leadership will come to their senses and cease the hostility in Somalia."

Berjawi grew up in west London, travelling to Somalia around three years ago. There were unconfirmed reports that he had been injured in a drone attack last June, after which his wife was said to have returned to the UK.

He was stripped of his British citizenship under the 2006 Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act using powers the Home Office has been deploying

with increasing frequency since the last election.

Berjawi is understood to have sought to appeal against the order, but lawyers representing his family were unable to take instructions from him amid concerns that any telephone contact could precipitate a drone attack.

Relatives have dismissed allegations that he was a senior al-Qaida figure in the region. There had been claims that he helped oversee recruitment and training for al-Shabaab, which is fighting the weak UN-backed Somali government, and that he was a close associate of one of the masterminds of the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Observers say there are several hundred foreign fighters in Somalia, mainly clustered in training camps around the insurgents' stronghold of Kismayo.

An unknown number of British-Somali dual nationals have returned to Somalia and joined the fighting on both sides.

If reports are correct, Berjawi may be the second British citizen killed in Somalia in two days. An official al-Shabab Twitter feed displayed documents said to belong to Said Abdi Jaras, a Somali government official from London, as proof that he had been killed in battle by al-Shabaab.

### Mother of one furious after losing deportation battle



A mum accused immigration chiefs of treating her worse than an extremist after she failed in a last-ditch bid to stay in the UK.

Elma Medini has been battling to stay in South Tyneside with seven-year-old daughter, Kerima, for more than four years.

But she was only this week told that a last-ditch attempt to the European Courts of Human Rights to have the decision overturned had failed – and she must leave the UK.

Mrs Medini hit out after radical cleric Abu Qatada, won his deportation appeal at the same Strasbourg court.

The 30-year-old said: "It's just not right."

Mrs Medini has been battling immigration chiefs to stay in the

UK since arriving in the country in 2007 with her husband, Mohammed, who died the following year.

Earlier this month, she and her daughter, Kerima, were ordered to return to her native country of Bosnia.

The devastated mother was told a final attempt to the Strasbourg court, to have the decision overturned, had failed.

The pair were readying to say goodbye to their home in Tyne Dock, South Shields.

And she hit out after Qatada won his deportation appeal at the same court.

The Palestinian-Jordanian preacher, whose real name is Omar Othman, is one of the most influential extremist in Europe.

British judges have described him as "truly dangerous".

He has never faced trial in the UK, but has been detained without charge and had his movements restricted by a control order – a form of house arrest – and has been convicted in his absence of involvement in two major terrorism plots in Jordan.

But the European Court of Human Rights ruled this week the UK government cannot deport him to Jordan in case he does not get a "fair trial".

Mrs Medini said: "I am absolutely gutted. I have tried everything I can.

"I just don't understand how a terrorist can be allowed to stay in the country and yet they are ruining my daughter's life by forcing us to leave – it's just not right."

Mrs Medini fears she and her daughter – who bade a tearful farewell to school pals at SS Peter and Paul School, in Olive Street, South Shields this week – will be victimised for their westernised ways when they return to Bosnia.

Mrs Medini added: "I am really worried for Kerima as it is going to be completely different for her. "The community I come from is very strongly Muslim and I am worried about Kerima's safety as she doesn't know any other way of life except the British way of life.

"Kerima is heartbroken. She has really settled here, but there is nothing left for me to try."

### Muslim leaders assist murder probe cops

Muslim leaders outraged by a street murder handed a string of leads to the police.

They rallied locals to help the police probe when William McKeeney, 57, was kicked to death outside his home in Pollokshields, Glasgow – as his partner Annmarie Newlands, 48, looked on.

When police revealed they were looking for two suspects of Asian appearance, they were immediately given several names by the area's Muslim community.

A source close to the investigation said: "The whole city was shocked and leading members of the Muslim community put out feelers and came up with possible names.

"They were shocked by William's death and were only too happy to help."

Two men were arrested since the attack and were last night being held in police custody.

Asif Rehman, 20, and Adil Ishaq, 19, are expected to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court in connection with William's death.

A police spokesman said a report would be sent to the procurator fiscal.