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Atif Choudhury

1. Atif Choudhury applies for designation as a core participant, that Cormac McDonough be designated his recognised legal representative and for an award of costs under section 40(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005. I accede to each application.
2. According to the facts set out in the letter of application, which I have no present reason to doubt, Mr Choudhury was, in late 2004, a core member of the London branch of the International Solidarity Movement, one of the groups infiltrated by HN18. According to him, they became close friends and shared intimate personal information. He witnessed the developing relationship between HN18 and Maya. He ought to be well placed to describe HN18's interaction with her and with other members of the International Solidarity Movement. I am satisfied that he played or may have played a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates and so satisfies the first requirement in rule 5(2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006.
3. Nevertheless, he has delayed in making his application. He was first aware of the deployment of HN18 the day after his cover name was released on 11 December 2018. I accept that the closeness of his relationship with HN18 and the demands of his two small businesses did give him reason to pause before applying. Even so, they could not by themselves justify a delay of several months. His intention to apply was, however, notified on 3 April 2019, the date on which Maya applied for a restriction order in respect of her name. It is also stated, and I accept, that he asked his and her solicitors to give priority to her application. The Inquiry has not yet embarked on the active investigation of HN18's deployment, so that his delay has not impeded its progress. These factors permit me, on balance, to exercise the discretion which I have to entertain his application late.
4. He will require the assistance of legal representatives to participate effectively in the Inquiry. I have been provided with evidence about his means, which I accept. I am satisfied that they are not such that it would be reasonable to expect him to bear the costs of his own legal representation. The Inquiry would, in any event, have paid for legal assistance in the preparation of the witness statement which it will seek from him. He will be represented by the same legal team as represent

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the three other members of the International Solidarity Movement. The award of costs is on the same basis as that made in their favour.

11 June 2019

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry