

16 April 2004

Mr Malcolm Brinded  
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**URGENT: One Page By Fax Only To: 011 44 (0) 207 934 7371**

Dear Mr Brinded

**"Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive"**

The headline making accounts of cover-up, deception and intrigue at Shell in relation to the shortfall in oil and gas reserves holds no great surprises to me.

I am a long term Shell Transport shareholder. In 1998 I wrote to every Shell Transport director bringing to their attention sinister undercover activity against my family in relation to a lawsuit my son had brought against Shell. I recently discovered to my horror that I was in fact communicating directly with the then spymasters of "Hakluyt", a shadowy organisation closely linked with MI6, specialising in undercover operations for corporate clients, including Shell.

Individuals who were directors/shareholders in Shell Transport were simultaneously directors/shareholders in Hakluyt. In fact Shell directors including a former Group Chairman were at the helm of Hakluyt as its President and Chairman. Shell has admitted using Hakluyt in widespread undercover activities against its perceived enemies (Sunday Times article 17/6/01). How could Shell directors pledge transparency, integrity and honesty in all its dealings on the one hand, and on the other, be part and parcel of a sinister spying organisation whose stock in trade is deception and trickery? There is a huge credibility gap between these two extremes.

My family, our witnesses and our solicitor were besieged and intimidated by undercover agents in the run up to the High Court trial. Burglaries occurred at the residences of a key witness, my son's solicitor, and at our own house. Privileged documents were examined. Shell Legal Director Richard Wiseman admitted in writing the activities of one undercover agent who was caught red-handed illegally checking our mail during an intelligence gathering mission. DJ Freeman, the solicitors acting for Shell made the same written admission but warned us in a letter that other agents were also being used against us. This was also meant to intimidate us. Shell settled our first three High Court Actions against them for breach of confidence paying around £500,000 in damages and legal fees. When we sued again Shell turned very nasty.

In addition to the covert operations against us and various NGO's including Greenpeace and Body Shop, Shell simultaneously set up and paid for a private army of 1400 Police spies supporting the then murderous regime in Nigeria ( Mail on Sunday article 4 April 04)

The preparation and prosecution of my sons High Court Trial against Shell was completely undermined by the "no holds barred" tactics used against us. One key witness, a former Shell manager of long standing was too frightened to give evidence. The Police carried out enquiries but Shell obviously did not disclose its shameful expertise in using the very tactics being investigated; tactics which in a UK setting, amounted to a criminal conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Surely you do not endorse such tactics? A response would be appreciated.

Please visit [shell2004.com](http://shell2004.com) to read my Affidavit concerning these matters. You will also find the world's most comprehensive news portal website covering the Royal Dutch/Shell Group (on which my correspondence with Shell is also being published, including this letter).

Yours sincerely

  
Alfred Donovan

Chairman, Shell Shareholders Organisation (email: [alfrededonovan@hotmail.com](mailto:alfrededonovan@hotmail.com))