Case No: HC14X03192

[2015] EWHC 2019 (QB) IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

The Royal Courts of Justice Strand London WC2A 2LL

Friday, 26 June 2015

BEFORE:

SIR DAVID EADY Sitting as a High Court Judge

BETWEEN:

QRS

Claimant/ Appellant

- and -

DANIEL CHARLES BEACH

Defendant/ Respondent

MR GODWIN BUSUTTIL appeared on behalf of the Claimant

MR D BEACH appeared on his own behalf

Judgment

(As Approved)

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- 1. MR JUSTICE EADY: The nature of the contempts alleged and proved is set out in the judgment ha nded dow n on 22 May. There are, according t o m y cal culation, thirteen instances pr oved on t he f irst a pplication, da ted 10 December, and t hree i n relation to the second application, dated 14 April.
- 2. Every opportunity has been given to you since January of this year to comply with the orders made but there has been defiance at every stage.
- 3. You were also given the opportunity to attend yourself, to be represented by a lawyer or to s erve r elevant m edical ev idence on t he i ssue of w hat, i f a ny, p enalty s hould be imposed.
- 4. In the end, on 22 May, 1 June, 12 June and 1 9 June, the c ourt w as l eft with no alternative but either to impose a penalty in your absence or to have you arrested and brought before the court to give yet another opportunity to make representations.
- 5. As to the penalty to be imposed, there is no d oubt that time and a gain the custody threshold has be en r eached and p assed, but it would be necessary to give careful consideration to the question of whether any sentence should be suspended.
- 6. Potentially relevant to that is sue would be whether or not there was any last minute change of heart and a willingness to try and comply with the orders and remove the websites in que stion, but no s uch mitigating factors have been advanced and I must now decide on the appropriate course to take.
- 7. Last week, following your arrest, you complained of ill health, were taken to hospital and then discharged yourself after about three quarters of an hour.
- 8. I will imp ose a p enalty on each of t he s ixteen s eparate contempts to which I have referred, to run concurrently. The total sentence will be six months. O rdinarily you can expect to be r eleased when h alf of t hat has be en s erved. If t here is no f urther offending, you would normally expect to hear no more of the matter. On the other hand if there is a further defiance of the court's order, then the rest of the sentence imposed could well be activated, quite apart from any separate penalty imposed in respect of the new offending.
- 9. You will pay £11,000 in respect of the costs incurred by the Claimants since 22 May.