

# THE EAST LONDON MOSQUE & LONDON MUSLIM CENTRE



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Re: Misrepresentation of the East London Mosque in *The Sun*

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*The Sun* has published a highly defamatory article 'Mosque Fiend: Muslim who raped girl claimed he was preaching' (18 March 2008).

Readers are led to understand that a convicted rapist was a "leader" and "preacher" in the mosque, and that mosque "members" lied to provide a false alibi. This is untrue.

The East London Mosque is attended by up to 3,000 people each day, and as many as 5,000 people each Friday and during Ramadan. Like most religious places of worship, the mosque is open to all those who wish to come and practise their faith there, and as such it is possible that those referred to in the article have attended it as worshippers.

Indeed, the defendant along with seven others who claimed they had been in the mosque at the time of the offence were shown in court to be lying, and were thus convicted of perverting the course of justice.

The Sun's reporting makes entirely misleading and inappropriate links with the East London Mosque, and also risks inciting hatred against Muslims generally at a time of already heightened sensitivity with regard to the Muslim community. The mosque's legal representatives have written to *The Sun* to make a formal complaint for defamation and to seek redress.

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*Further information:*

East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre – 020 7650 3000 [info@eastlondonmosque.org.uk](mailto:info@eastlondonmosque.org.uk)

*The East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre form one of the largest Muslim centres in Western Europe, set in the heart of the UK's biggest Muslim community. Working with local, national and European government support, they are helping to create community cohesion in a society that celebrates diversity.*