

British caver sues Elon Musk over 'pedo' remark

AFP, Washington

A British caver who helped in the dramatic rescue of 12 boys trapped in Thailand earlier this year sued Tesla founder Elon Musk on Monday for calling him a "pedo guy" and a "child Muslim."

The defamation suit filed in Los Angeles by Vernon Unsworth, a Briton involved in several cave rescues, follows a highly public spat between the two after Musk traveled to Thailand and offered to assist in rescue efforts.

The dispute made headlines in July, when Unsworth called Musk's effort to build a mini-submarine for the rescue a "PR stunt" and Musk responded on Twitter by calling Unsworth a "pedo guy," or pedophile.

Musk, a tech entrepreneur who also founded the private space firm SpaceX, apologized days later but not before his comments were widely condemned, raising concerns over his leadership abilities.

But he reignited the dispute in August with an email to BuzzFeed News accusing Unsworth of being a "child rapist," marrying a 12-year-old and engaging in child sex trafficking, the lawsuit alleges.

Musk made the series of false statements "with actual malice, that is, with actual knowledge of falsity or a reckless disregard for truth or falsity," according to the complaint.

Instead of apologising for his comments, Musk responded with an explosive-laden statement saying, "I hope he...sues me," according to the lawsuit.

Unsworth is seeking unspecified damages "for the worldwide damage he has suffered to his reputation," according to the lawsuit, which noted that a separate complaint was being readied in the High Court of London.

The suit also seeks an injunction barring Musk from making further slanderous comments, according to Unsworth's lawyer L. Lin Wood.

Unsworth, who lives part of the year in Thailand, took part in the gargantuan 18-day effort to retrieve the boys and their coach, a mission that ended on July 10, when the last five members were extracted.

Musk has been the focus of increased scrutiny in recent weeks over erratic behavior including an online interview in which he was smoking marijuana.

Tesla shares have faced pressure amid concerns over Musk's stability as the company seeks to ramp up production of its mass-market electric car.

Delhi

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Majumder, Secretary General, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Feroz Salauddin and Joint Secretary (BM), Indian Ministry of External Affairs Vikram Doraiswami were also present.

In the last one year or so, Bangladesh has hosted close to one million Rohingyas from the Rakhine State of Myanmar.

This humanitarian gesture has been appreciated by India and all concerned.

"As a neighbour, friend and partner of Bangladesh, India has responded promptly to support the government of Bangladesh in meeting the relief requirements posed by this large influx of displaced persons," said the High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner, who also visited Rohingya camps, handed over third phase of relief assistance of over 1 million litres of Super Kerosene Oil and 20,000 kerosene stoves.

The first tranche of relief material consisting of 4.5 lakh food packs of rice, lentils, milk, etc was delivered in September 2017.

In May 2018, the second tranche of relief material consisting of 373 metric tons of dry fish, milk powder, baby food, rain coats and gum boots to cater to the rainy season was handed over.

Shringla said India has also started construction of pre-fabricated houses in the Rakhine State.

"I am happy to inform that we are building 250 houses which are nearing completion. Foundation work has already started for 50 houses at a village called Kyein Chaung in Maungdaw district of Myanmar. These dwellings are intended to facilitate the return of displaced persons from Bangladesh," he said.

India, earlier, underscored the need for three Ss - safe, speedy and sustainable return of the displaced persons to Rakhine State.

The High Commissioner aid India reiterated India's commitment to help in the return of displaced people to their homes in Myanmar.

"India has always stood by Bangladesh in times of need. Ours is a relationship based on trust, friendship and shared martyrdom that goes beyond strategic partnership," he said.

Shringla said, "It is in this spirit of friendship that we have come forward to share their burden and will continue to do so."

Restore Rohingya

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A summary of the report was issued on August 27.

The Fact-Finding Mission recommended the Myanmar government remove from Rakhine all divisions, battalions and units of security forces responsible for perpetrating violations of international law before starting the repatriation of refugees, and not allowing them any role in the repatriation process or security to the returnees.

The UN investigators said the Myanmar army should be removed from politics and reiterated their call for top generals to be prosecuted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Rohingya.

Over 720,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since August 25 last year escaping a brutal military crackdown in Rakhine.

The report said the Myanmar government should act without delay to restructure the Tatmadaw (the armed forces of Myanmar) and transform its role. "That should begin with replacing the current leadership of the Tatmadaw. Through a constitutional amendment process, the Government should further pursue the removal of the Tatmadaw from Myanmar's political life."

It also provided new details about the investigators' concerns about the how the UN reacted during that spasm of violence. The investigators pointed out the only statement from the UN resident coordinator's office "was to condemn the ARSA [militant group] attacks and losses suffered by the Myanmar security forces".

The report's critique of the UN focused not only on its response to the Rohingya crisis, but its efforts across Myanmar.

The investigators pointed to failings of the UN office in Myanmar, alleging that "quiet diplomacy" was prioritised. For example, the investigators noted that the UN had rolled out a Human Rights Up Front Action Plan in Myanmar, but said its "human rights driven" approach was rarely, if ever, pursued.

The UN experts said they regretted that some UN entities and staffers showed a lack of cooperation with their work, and appeared to view it as a threat, rather than a means to address the most deep rooted human rights challenges facing Myanmar. "This attitude and approach must change."

The investigators did acknowledge that some people in the country had faced "intimidation and reprisals" for their engagement with the United Nations.

"As a matter of urgency, there must be a comprehensive, independent inquiry into the United Nations' involvement in Myanmar since 2011, with a view to establishing whether everything possible to prevent or mitigate the unfolding crises was done; identifying lessons learned and good practice; making recommendations as appropriate, including on accountability; and enabling more effective work in future," the experts said.

Drawing on 875 detailed interviews

US accuses China

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especially sensitive issue given the political maelstrom over alleged Russian meddling in the real estate tycoon's surprise 2016 presidential victory.

"China has openly stated that they are actively trying to impact and change our election by attacking our farmers, ranchers and industrial workers because of their loyalty to me," Trump wrote.

"China has been taking advantage of the United States on Trade for many years. They also know that I am the one that knows how to stop it," he added.

"There will be great and fast economic retaliation against China if our farmers, ranchers and/or industrial workers are targeted!"

It was not clear what open statements by China -- if any -- Trump was referring to.

However, Beijing's previous tariffs did target major US agricultural products like pork and soybeans. That hurt soybean powerhouse states like Illinois, Kansas and Minnesota, which are all toss ups in the November House races.

Recent NBC News/Marist polls have also found that the trade war -- a pillar

India plans

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month, Bangladesh raised the issue of border killings by the BSF when India talked about the issue of increasing criminal attacks on BSF personnel along the border.

The smart fencing projects built under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme is the first of its kind in India, said the home minister, adding that the two projects each covering a 5.5km border stretch along the border have got hi-tech surveillance system that would help the BSF detect and foil infiltration bids in most difficult terrains.

The CIBMS is designed to guard stretches where physical surveillance is not possible either due to inhospitable terrain or riverine borders, Rajnath said.

He said with the digital smart fencing, "our borders would become absolutely safe since it would virtually make it impossible for the terrorists to breach it and infiltrate across the borders."

He alleged that around 70-80 cases were filed against Sohel over the last eight months. "We strongly condemn and protest his arrest."

The BNP leader demanded that the government release Sohel immediately after withdrawing all the "false" cases filed against him.

conducted in locations in five countries, the report illustrates, in graphic detail, the violent modus operandi that is the hallmark of Myanmar military, known locally as the Tatmadaw operations against its own people. The Mission was struck by how similar the Tatmadaw operations and conduct were in all three states -- Rakhine, Kachin and Shan.

"During their operations the Tatmadaw has systematically targeted civilians, including women and children, committed sexual violence, voiced and promoted exclusionary and discriminatory rhetoric against minorities, and established a climate of impunity for its soldiers," said Marzuki Darusman, chair of the Fact-Finding Mission.

"We insist that the perpetrators of the gross human rights violations and international crimes, committed in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states must not go unpunished," he insisted.

The report sets out in extensive detail its findings on the extreme violence perpetrated against the Rohingyas in Rakhine since August 25 last year, in what the Tatmadaw referred to as "clearance operations" in 54 locations, and received first-hand accounts of additional operations in a further 22 locations.

The report includes satellite images, setting out detailed analysis that corroborates information provided by victims and witnesses. The images show the transformation of much of northern Rakhine over the past year, with at least Rohingya 392 villages razed to the ground, providing irrefutable documentation of the scale of destruction perpetrated.

"The horrors inflicted on Rohingya men, women and children during the August 2017 operations, including their indiscriminate killing, rise to the level of both war crimes and crimes against humanity," said Radhika Coomaraswamy, another member of the Mission.

"Addressing situations like that in Myanmar touches on the very purpose of the United Nations," the experts said, calling upon all competent organs and the UN agencies to step up to the task, and act with urgency.

"The international community has failed. Let us now resolve not to fail the people of Myanmar again."

MYANMAR REJECTS REPORT

Myanmar yesterday rejected the UN report, terming it "one-sided".

Kyaw Moe Tun, Myanmar representative to the UN in Geneva, told the UN Human Rights Council that the report "lacked balance, impartiality and fairness," criticising its reliance on refugee testimony and the reports of NGOs -- though the Myanmar government did not grant the UN mission access to the country.

"Not only is this report detrimental to social cohesion in Rakhine state, it also undermines the government's efforts to bring peace, national reconciliation and development to the entire nation," he said.

Trump has been urging China to change these unfair practices and give fair and reciprocal treatment to American companies, "Trump said in a statement on Monday.

"These practices plainly constitute a grave threat to the long-term health and prosperity of the United States economy," he said.

"But, so far, China has been unwilling to change its practices," including theft and forced transfer of technology.

Once the new round of tariffs takes effect on September 24, punitive duties will be in place on \$250 billion in goods the US buys from China -- its largest source of imports.

This latest round of imports will face 10 percent tariffs through the end of the year, and then the rate will jump to 25 percent.

Trump warned that "if China takes retaliatory action... we will immediately pursue phase three, which is tariffs on approximately \$267 billion of additional imports."

Habibun Nabi

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around 7:30pm, said Shamsuddin Dider, a staff of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's press wing.

He was taken to the office of Detective Branch of police on Minto road, police said.

UNB adds: BNP Senior Joint

Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi at an emergency press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office alleged that the government arrested Sohel as part of continuous arrest of BNP leaders and activists in different cases.

He alleged that around 70-80 cases were filed against Sohel over the last eight months. "We strongly condemn and protest his arrest."

The BNP leader demanded that the government release Sohel immediately after withdrawing all the "false" cases filed against him.

According to climate scientists, during the past century, most of the Himalayan glaciers have been shrinking, and between 2003 and 2009, the range lost an estimated 174 gigatonnes of water each year at a rate faster than the global average.

These countries and the whole region are highly dependent on water provided by Himalayan glaciers and increased snowmelt in the HKH region, triggered by the rising temperature, has made the region highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Tk 3,825cr EVM

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Commissioner Mahbub Talukder strongly opposed it, saying, "It alone might plunge the polls into controversy."

The prime minister also said the machines should not be imposed hurriedly.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda soon afterwards said the use of EVMs in the upcoming election would depend on enactment of law, training of officials and acceptance among stakeholders.

"If the government enacts necessary laws and a congenial atmosphere is created, then the EC will think about using EVMs in some constituencies," he said at the time.

The BNP and many other political parties are also against the use of EVMs in the parliamentary polls.

They alleged the government would use the machines for vote rigging.

However, the EC is planning to amend the RPO incorporating the provision to use EVMs.

Five suspected

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An outlaw, Kurban Ali, 30, was killed in a "shootout" with police in Koujuri village of Pabna's Atgharia upazila, said the law enforcers.

Kurban was accused in a number of cases, including for murder and robbery, police said.

Masud Rana, officer-in-charge of Ataikula Police Station, said the "gunfight" ensued around 1:30am as the law enforcers carried out a raid on information that several outlaws were holding a secret meeting in the village.

Kurban was shot after the criminals opened fire at police, forcing them to retaliate. Doctors declared him dead as he was rushed to a local health complex, he said.

The OC claimed that four policemen were also injured in the incident.

[Our correspondents in Cox's Bazar and Pabna contributed to this report]

A joy

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[Heydey], you knew this car and knew how much it meant to him," wrote Jake on Facebook, September 2. "Well I was blessed enough to find her again after 10+ years without her and was able to come to an agreement with previous owner."

In his post, Jake shared photos of Wesley's Ford Mustang as well as his Wesley's emotional reaction upon seeing the car. In one of his videos, Wesley can be seen sitting on the curb as a car delivering the Mustang drove up to him. It didn't take long for him to burst out in tears as he was reunited once again with his favorite car in the world.

"Coming home surprising my pops was a feeling and moment I'll never forget," said Jake. "To see his face and emotion made it all worth it."

Jake continued to share that he and his sister Jeni grew up in the car since they were practically in diapers. "Many memories growing up with it with a dream to have it as my own one day."

Their mom, however, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, compelling their dad to sell his beloved car so he can pay the bills.

"As life goes, my mom was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, (13 years cancer free now) and being the man he is, someone who has always supported each and one [of] us through thick and thin, my pops had to sell it for financial reasons for our family," Jake explained.

Selling the car, Jake said, was one of the hardest decisions his dad had to make for them. He recalled, "I know how much it broke him in half seeing that car drive away from him. A day I'll never forget."

Only good tears were shed, as Jake and his family are now ready to create new memories with their father's old, trusty Mustang.

"Well... She's back home pops and here to stay this time," said Jake. "Looking forward to building this car with you this time instead of being in a booster seat looking out the window."

5 South Asia

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Bahadur Basnet said, "South Asia is home to the largest glaciated area outside the poles, and the region shares many common challenges related to climate change and glacier melting."

"Greater cooperation with our South Asian neighbours will bring the solutions we need to keep our Himalayan glaciers