**RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DR SALAH AL BANDER**On 22 January 2013, Dr Salah Al Bander, a member of Cambridge Liberal Democrats, posted in Arabic on the website [sudaneseonline.com](http://sudaneseonline.com) about an appearance by a Sudanese woman, Nahla Mahmoud, on UK Channel 4 television on 17 January 2013. He posted further, in both January and February. Cambridge Liberal Democrats had no knowledge of these communications, which were entirely and properly Dr Al Bander’s own business.

Nevertheless, six month’s later, on 5 August 2013, we began to receive emails alleging that Dr Al Bander was harassing Nahla Mahmoud, currently in London and apparently awaiting the outcome of an appeal to the UK government against its refusal to grant her permission to remain in this country. The allegations quoted from an article recently published on the website 'Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain' ([freethoughtblogs.com](http://freethoughtblogs.com)).

Other articles in similar vein later appeared on the same website. The emailers questioned us as to whether Dr Al Bander’s alleged behaviour was compatible with his membership of the Liberal Democrat Party. Similar emails have been sent to Liberal Democrat Parliamentarians.

We have therefore carefully examined these allegations. In particular, we have considered articles published by the 'Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain' (at [freethoughtblogs.com](http://freethoughtblogs.com)) on 2 August 2013, 2 September 2013, 4 September 2013, and 28 September 2013, under the authorship of Nahla Mahmoud. In these articles, Nahla Mahmoud has referred to posts by Dr Al Bander on [sudaneseonline.com](http://sudaneseonline.com). The specific posts cited by Nahla Mahmoud were dated: 22 January; 25 January; 29 January; 10 February; and 22 February.

Nahla Mahmoud has claimed in her articles that these posts by Dr Al Bander, together with other actions by Dr Al Bander in the UK, in Sudan, and on line, amount to a campaign of harassment that has endangered her health, safety and security in the UK, and that of some of her family in Sudan, and that Dr Al Bander has attempted to silence her. Cambridge Liberal Democrats has not received any allegation about Dr Al Bander's behaviour from Nahla Mahmoud herself, nor from any agent designated by Nahla Mahomoud to act on her behalf.

The Executive Committee of Cambridge Liberal Democrats has examined the allegations. For this purpose, we commissioned English translations of Dr Al Bander's posts on 'Sudanese Online' from a high quality, independent, translation firm, and have taken these fully into account. Our findings are as follows:

**1.**  Nahla Mahmoud's allegations against Dr Al Bander are very serious, in their nature, and in the scale and persistence of their dissemination.
**2.**  The allegations are based on Dr Al Bander's posts on 'SudaneseOnline'.  We have had these independently translated into English.
**3.** None of the independent translations supports the allegations made in Nahla Mahmoud's articles of 2 August 2013, 2 September 2013, 4 September 2013, and 28 September 2013. By a combination of of mistranslation, omission of key phrases, and highly selective and partial quotation, she has created serious distortions of the meaning of Dr Al Bander's posts.

**4.** Our conclusion is that Dr Al Bander has no case to answer in respect of the allegations by Nahla Mahmoud.

**5.** We are therefore satisfied that there is nothing in Dr Salah Al Bander’s behaviour which conflicts with his continuing membership of the Liberal Democrat Party.

Cambridge Liberal Democrats therefore consider this matter closed.

**Cambridge**

**5 November 2013**