From: Roberts, Brendan Sent: Friday, 10 March 2017 5:36 PM To: Brianna Parkins Subject: response

Hi Brianna, thanks for your email.

Answers to your questions are as follows:

1. I was the only journalist on the day who made it inside the court room for the hearing (as security was tight and only 30 people, most of whom were supporters of the three charged men, were allowed inside) as the people who were part of the alleged parody group protested outside the court. They were dressed as many of the UPF members and supporters have been at each of the many rallies I have covered, their faces masked and wearing Australian flags on their back. They were repeating the same argument both Cottrell and Shortis made outside court that their right to free speech had been denied and they were in a separate area from the anti-racism protest contingent.

2. The group was protesting outside of court, while I was inside covering the details of the court case in which the three accused men appeared. They had left by the time the accused men left the court.

3. Categorically no, refer to the above answers.

Brendan Roberts Crime Reporter | News



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Hi Brendan,

I called earlier and one of your colleagues gave me your email address. This week we are looking into your package of Blair Cottrell's hearing at the Melbourne Magistrates Court on March 6. Your report incorrectly labelled members of the satire protest group Million Flag Patriots as supporters of Cottrell. Other media outlets attending correctly identified them as protesters. The group claim they told journalists and cameramen they were a parody group. We have the following questions:

- 1. Were you aware that these people were not supporters of Blair Cottrell?
- 2. Did you attempt to find out who this group was before labelling them 'supporters'?
- 3. Did you intentionally mislabel the group because it made for better vision?

Our deadline is 9.30 am Monday.

Cheers, Brianna