



Dear newsagent,

You will be aware of the events of 15th April 1989 when 96 innocent men, women and children lost their lives. Four days later the Sun newspaper ran an article under the banner headline “The Truth” and proceeded to make outrageous claims that the fans had robbed and urinated on the dead, as well as beating up police as they tried to carry out the rescue operation. These allegations have, of course, been proven to be lies. Far from being “The Truth” the banner headlines should have read “The Lies”.

The British Judicial Inquiry into the disaster headed by Lord Justice Taylor found the main cause to be “The Breakdown of Police Control”. Former police sergeant Martin Long was awarded an estimated £330,000 compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder after witnessing the tragedy. By comparison Anne Williams received £3,500 for her dead son Kevin.

The author John Pilger described the treatment of the Hillsborough victims of the Sun “The Sun’s treatment of the Hillsborough tragedy was typical not only of its record of distortion, but of its cruelty. The rich and famous have been able to defend themselves with expensive libel actions; the singer Elton John won damages, before appeal, of £1 million following a series of character assassinations. But most of the Sun’s victims are people like the Hillsborough parents, who have had to suffer without recourse.”

The press complaints commission upheld complaints about the Sun’s coverage of the disaster and found them guilty of lying, yet following the damning verdict Murdoch still refused to publish an adequate apology for the coverage. Nearly Twenty years after these scandalous lies the Sun has continuously refused to print a front page apology for their disgraceful behaviour, the dead, the bereaved and the survivors still suffer at the hands of that very article. The fight for justice goes on, hampered in the eyes of millions by the lies printed by in the aftermath of the disaster.

Whilst we appreciate that selling newspapers is your livelihood and would not wish to affect that in any way, shape or form, we would hope that you can show some compassion towards those who lost their lives in 1989 and respect those who still fight for justice in their name. On Merseyside this once popular newspaper is now reviled and widely boycotted because of their treatment of the disaster.

We realise that you are unlikely to be able to refuse to accept deliveries of the Sun newspaper for this day but would hope that you could display the attached notice, perhaps along with this letter, in the hope that we can remind your customers of the monstrosities carried out in the name of “The Truth”. We would not wish to turn your customers away merely to encourage them to opt for a different newspaper, even if it is only for this one day.

Thank you very much for your help and co-operation in this matter.