# Prince Harry's Attempt to Include Rupert Murdoch in Phone Hacking Claims Denied by High Court Judge



Prince Harry's attempt to name Rupert Murdoch in the ongoing phone hacking and unlawful information gathering claims against News Group Newspapers (NGN) has been denied. The High Court judge, Mr. Justice Fancourt, on May 21, 2024, ruled that individual allegations against Murdoch and some other senior executives should not be included in the trial scheduled for January 2025. The ruling allowed certain amendments, such as adding allegations against additional journalists and private investigators, but rejected introducing new claims of phone hacking from 1994, 1995, and 2016.

Prince Harry, alongside other claimants including Labour peer Doreen Lawrence, alleges widespread misconduct at Murdoch’s newspapers, specifically The Sun. The judge stated that adding Murdoch to the allegations would not significantly impact the trial, as accusations already involve senior figures like James Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks. NGN, which has settled over 1,300 claims since the 2011 phone hacking scandal, welcomed the court’s decision. The broader group of about 40 other claimants also found their requests to extend the period of wrongdoing denied.