

Thompson v Metropolitan Police Commissioner [1998]

The case about the amount of coverage for physical damages.

Evidence

The two plaintiffs of this case were attacked and beaten up by police officers employed by the accused. The plaintiffs reported an assault in addition to injuries, persecution, and unlawful imprisonment. Both of them suffered severe physical harm, and the court obligated the accused to cover the damages. The accused, however, appealed the decision of the court, arguing that the judge misled the juries into this decision and that the coverage of damages was excessive.

Problematics

It was important to define whether the judge gave the jury appropriate directions in terms of covering damages for the plaintiffs.

Resolution

The absence of detailed instructions on the part of the judge concerning the amount of coverage necessary made the jurors award excessive compensation. The court decided that a lower sum of awards be assigned. The jurors should have received greater guidance for the amount of compensation given to the victims of the assault and unlawful imprisonment. In order to fairly determine the amount of compensation, each category of damages should be estimated separately. The judge should establish the possible minimum and maximum coverage in cases such as these.

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