

Murdoch heads to UK after phone-hacking trial

LONDON, UK: News Corporation Executive Chairman Rupert Murdoch visited the headquarters of his British newspaper division in London after his protege Rebekah Brooks was cleared of all phone-hacking charges in a high-profile trial.



Rupert Murdoch, Executive Chairman of News Corporation has held talks with his staff after Andy Coulson was convicted of phone hacking charges. Image: Wikipedia

The 83-year-old US-based media mogul flew in to hold discussions with staff after the trial of former News of the World journalists concluded with Brooks being acquitted but a former editor of the tabloid, Andy Coulson, being convicted of hacking.

News UK is the parent company of The Sun, The Times, The Sunday Times and the now-defunct News of the World.

Murdoch was photographed being driven away from a property in Mayfair in central London, reading a copy of The Sun, and then went to the company's offices in Wapping, east London.

He has yet to comment on the outcome of the eight-month hacking trial. Brooks, who was Murdoch's trusted lieutenant in Britain.

Murdoch had strongly supported Brooks following her arrest in 2011, shortly after he shut down the News of the World when it emerged the paper had hacked into the voicemail of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler.

Brooks, 46, rose from humble beginnings to become editor of the News of the World and The Sun, which is read by millions. She had close links to politicians including Prime Minister David Cameron and his predecessor Gordon Brown.

After resigning from the News of the World, Cameron employed Coulson as his communications chief.

The prime minister apologised to parliament for this appointment, saying it had been the "wrong decision" to take on Coulson in 2007.

But Cameron denied he had ignored warnings about Coulson's activities at the tabloid, which hacked the phones of celebrities including actors Jude Law and Sienna Miller, politicians and crime victims.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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