

People whose lives were ruined by the media

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

set the stage high-profile allegations hounded
culprits intrusion stained pored

Caroline Flack



Caroline Flack was best known as the presenter for popular reality shows like “The Xtra Factor” and “Love Island”. Throughout her career, Flack had been the subject of considerable media coverage, mostly regarding her 1) _____ romantic relationships. Things, however, took a devastating turn in 2019 when she was arrested and charged with assaulting her boyfriend, Lewis Burton. Flack was subsequently 2) _____ by the press and her coverage in the tabloids became increasingly negative. This, coupled with online trolling, took a significant toll on her already fragile mental health. On February 15th 2020, seemingly dreading the media 3) _____ in the face of her apparent assault trial, Flack tragically took her own life.

Steven J. Hatfill

In the weeks following the 9/11 attacks, a series of letters containing the toxin anthrax | 'ænræks | (a disease that causes fever, swelling and often death in animals and can be passed on to humans) sent to the offices of certain U.S. senators and news organizations. This act of bioterrorism led to the deaths of five people. Early on in the investigation, a reporter made 4) _____ against American physician and bioterrorism expert Steven J. Hatfill, which triggering an FBI investigation. When he was publicly named a person of interest in the case, the media ran with it and 5) _____ for his accusation that 6) _____ his reputation. Hatfill sued the FBI and multiple publications including the New York Times, Vanity Fair and Reader’s Digest. In 2008, he was officially cleared of any wrongdoing in the attacks.



Salah Eddin Barhoum

The 2013 Boston Marathon bombing was a terrorist attack that claimed the lives of three people and injured nearly 300 others. While authorities investigated the case, amateur online sleuths 7) _____ over hundreds of pictures and surveillance videos attempting to fish out the perpetrators. One particular image showing Salah Eddin Barhoum and his friend eventually made its way to the front page of the New York Post, seemingly labelling them as potential suspects. However, the actual 8) _____ were identified later that same day. Despite the publication clarifying the article and the FBI clearing Barhoum, the damage was already done. The Moroccan teen experienced profound emotional distress and was reportedly too scared to even leave his house.

