Statement from Steve Cannane, ABC journalist:

As Justice Jagot said in her initial judgement this defamation case is an "attempt to rewrite history".

It's been a very difficult, draining and expensive exercise and although I want to fight this all the way, there are many things to consider, including the victims and their surviving relatives.

They were determined to tell their story but whether their health will allow them to do it all again remains to be seen.