

Witness: Connor Merrifield
Filed on behalf of the Claimant
Number of witness statement: Third
Date: 28 October 2024
Exhibits: CM18-CM19

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No. PT-2024-000893

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS

OF ENGLAND AND WALES (ChD)

PROPERTY, TRUSTS AND PROBATE LIST

B E T W E E N:-

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Claimant

-and-

(1) ABEL HARVIE-CLARK

(2) TARA MANN

(3) HAYA ADAM

(4) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS PROTESTS BY THE 'SOAS LIBERATED ZONE FOR GAZA' AND/OR 'DEMOCRATISE EDUCATION' MOVEMENTS, ENTER OR REMAIN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CLAIMANT UPON ANY PART OF THE LAND (DEFINED IN SCHEDULE 1)

(5) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS PROTESTS BY THE 'SOAS LIBERATED ZONE FOR GAZA' AND/OR 'DEMOCRATISE EDUCATION' MOVEMENTS, OBSTRUCT OR OTHERWISE INTERFERE WITH ACCESS TO AND FROM ANY PART OF THE LAND (DEFINED IN SCHEDULE 1)

(6) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS PROTESTS BY THE 'SOAS LIBERATED ZONE FOR GAZA' AND/OR 'DEMOCRATISE EDUCATION' MOVEMENTS, ERECT ANY TENT OR OTHER STRUCTURE, WHETHER PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY, ON ANY PART OF THE LAND (DEFINED IN SCHEDULE 1)

Defendants

THIRD WITNESS STATEMENT OF CONNOR MERRIFIELD

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I, Connor Merrifield, Solicitor of Pinsent Masons LLP of 55 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2FG,

WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am authorised on behalf of the Claimant to make this statement in further support of the Claimant's claim for a final precautionary injunction and application for an interim precautionary injunction. It supplements my first witness statement dated 22 October 2024.
2. Pinsent Masons LLP are instructed by the Claimant in relation to the Claim. I have day-to-day conduct of the Claim on behalf of the Claimant alongside my supervising partner Alicia Foo.
3. The facts and matters set out in this witness statement are based upon matters set out in documents, photographs and videos I have seen unless otherwise stated. The facts and matters set out in this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
4. I prepared this witness statement. Any defined terms used herein have the meaning given to them in the witness statement of Alistair Jarvis dated 11 October 2024 unless expressed otherwise.
5. The Claimant's application for an interim precautionary injunction has been listed for hearing before Mr Justice Thompsell on Tuesday 29 October 2024. This witness statement is principally intended to update my first witness statement dated 22 October 2024.
6. There is now produced and shown to me marked as **Exhibits "CM18" – "CM19"** a bundle of true copy documents and videos taken from social media accounts associated with the Defendants to which I refer in the course of this witness statement; where the exhibits are videos they are within a USB Stick labelled **"USB2"** a copy of which is included with this witness statement: -

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EXHIBIT	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DATE	PAGE NO. OF EXHIBITS
			(Where video evidence, the videos can be found within a USB Stick referred to as “USB2” due to their file size)
“CM18”	collaborative post published on 24 October 2024 by @democratise.education and @soasliberatedzone advertising a rally	24 October 2024	1-2
“CM19”	Video posted by @soasliberatedzone depicting a mass rally	24 October 202	Exhibit “CM19” on USB2

FURTHER THREAT OF ESCALATION SINCE 22 OCTOBER 2024

7. Following service of the claim upon the Defendants on Wednesday 23 October 2024, the following posts have been added to Instagram by the following accounts associated with the

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Defendants: @soasliberatedzone and @democratise.education which show that the Defendants intend to continue to demonstrate and trespass upon the Land: -

- a. I refer to Exhibit CM18 which is a collaborative Instagram post published on 24 October 2024 by @democratise.education and co-authored by @soasliberatedzone which stated that they have received the Claimant's claim documents and would continue to hold rallies nonetheless – and specifically stated that a “walk out and rally” would be held at 4:30pm on 24 October 2024. The post provides: -

“We were served with court papers by the University of London seeking to effectively ban student protest on campus. All land outside of SOAS’ buildings is owned by the UoL, which is taking us to court in order to prohibit student protest and rallies. As we prepare to fight the university in court next week, we will delay our planned walk-out and rally to 16:30PM instead. This serves even more as motivation for our student body to unite and stand against this unprecedented repression that all of us students are suffering. Not only are Haya and Tara suspended for 6 months, but our institutions now seek to ban the campaign against their repression. Nonetheless we will rally, we will not be silenced, and we will make our voices heard.”

- b. I further refer to Exhibit CM19 which is a video posted to Instagram on 24 October 2024 by @soasliberatedzone. This video shows the Third Defendant, as well as circa. 30 persons unknown, at the aforementioned rally, where the Third Defendant states *inter alia* “we will continue to protest”, “we will be the ones to continue the fight for Palestinian liberation”, “we will continue until divestment is made” and that Palestinian liberation must be achieved “**by any means necessary**”. (my emphasis)

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8. Following service of the claim upon the Defendants, it is their clear intention to continue to hold rallies and to demonstrate upon the Claimant's Land. Indeed, it is their express intention to continue to seek the achievement of their aims "*by any means necessary*".

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Name: Connor Merrifield

Date: 28 October 2024

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Merrifield', with a stylized, cursive script.