January 29, 2018

To whom it may concern;

I wish to submit a letter to explain events surrounding the case against Macintosh Johnson.

More Than Me (MTM) on the onset of this case and up to the end cooperated with the Government of Liberia in making sure the defendant, Macintosh Johnson, was arrested by the police and sent to court. All through the case, the prosecution was very professional in parading all of the witnesses that it had thoroughly prepared to testify to the relevant issues that were supportive of its side of the case.

MTM as an institution reported the case and helped the prosecution in identifying the victims and making sure they were protected before, during and after the case. MTM did not engage into any act that was contrary to the practice of law in our country. Neither did they interfere into the legal process as alleged by Fin Young. The allegations made by Fin Young that MTM bribed the jurors on behalf of the prosecution is highly far-fetched and inconceivable as the prosecution had an overwhelming and compelling evidence to prosecute this case against the perpetrator.

MTM as an institution has been one of the most reliable partners of the Sex Crimes Unit. It has worked very hard in ensuring child protection and assistance both to Liberian girls and the SGBV Crimes Unit.

It is a glaring reality that sexual abuse and the exploitation of children has been very high in our local communities and schools. MTM served as an example to other educational institutions on how to provide a safe space for girls and what to do when the children come forward.

I had heard that Katie Meyler was in Liberia a couple of times during the trial. I had also heard that Katie Meyler tried to attend the case but because she was not one of the selected witnesses at the time she could not be given access because rape trials in Liberia are done through camera hearings, confidentially to protect victims.

Katie Meyler and Michelle Spada were never asked to testify in court because their testimonies were not necessary as versions that they were to testify to where already testified by other witnesses. Hence, the prosecution did not deem it necessary for Katie Meyler or Michelle Spada to attend court. If we had felt it was needed they would have been asked and we are sure they would
have come. As it is an accepted fact that they were VERY cooperative and supportive of the prosecution at the time.

As the Director of SGBV, I am a living witness to the humanitarian assistance provided to young Liberian girls by MTM of which Katie Meyler is the founder and CEO. A review of the workings of MTM clearly shows they have provided not only humanitarian assistance to young Liberian girls but has also provided work opportunity for professional Liberians who are regularly paid by MTM. This incredible service to the Liberian people would not be made possible if the Founder/CEO and other staff at MTM had not been charismatic and professional in managing MTM in Liberia.

Fin Young came to my office in December 2017 or January 2018 and presented himself as a journalist in a much more hostile and disrespectful manner than I had previously known him. It was there and then that I asked for his journalistic permit and what institution he was reporting for. He informed me that he was a freelance journalist. Fin Young did not present a permit from the press unit of Liberia neither did he present a work permit to legalize the work he was doing as a freelance journalist while in my country.

He came and threatened me of negative publication that will defame not only me, but Liberia. I told him I could not be threatened by his negative publication as a credible and professional lawyer; I told him further that I am prepared to defend myself and my country. There and then he brought a white lady who served as a note taker.

As a professional lawyer in Liberia whose services are tilted towards the protection of women and children in Liberia, I will always remain in the vanguard of protecting an institution of this kind against agents and provocative saboteurs whose ultimate intent is to damage the future of our Liberian girls for their selfish gain or personal aggrandizement. Fin is looking for fame that will bring down a big institution like MTM that is helping our Liberian girls whose parents are faced with economic hardships.

To every story, there is another one. I would highly appreciate you, the readers of Fin’s propagandistic story, to recourse to the accused so as to have a comparative, balanced and justifiable understanding of the scenarios that Fin Young is trying to explore. Please remember that Fin’s publication is a one-sided story and should require thorough investigation. I have previously said to you that Fin’s “journalistic investigation” was wholly based on hearsay, rumors, perceptions, mere insinuations and hatred and it should not be taken seriously. As a “journalist”, he did not employ the ABC (Accurate, Balanced, and Credible) standards of his own profession.

Sincerely,

Cllr. John A.A. Gabriel
Director/SGBV Crimes Unit/MOJ