

Response from E&S Consultancy Ltd, Karl Schranz and Christian Ellul

11 June 2021

From: Karl Schranz

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited E&S Consultancy Ltd, Karl Schranz and Christian Ellul to respond to the inclusion of lawsuits the company previously filed in an analysis of cases that bear the hallmarks of strategic lawsuits against public participation.

E&S Consultancy sent the following statement:

“E&S Consultancy Ltd, Karl Schranz and Christian Ellul are not involved in any SLAPPs.

E&S Consultancy Limited, Karl Schranz and Christian Ellul have been mentioned separately by the Journalist and accused of complicity in a murder as well as assisting an individual in setting up a money laundering. These allegations are not only untrue and shocking but have also caused irreparable damage to the 3 mentioned persons.

It is also very important to note that we were never contacted for either our comment or a right of reply by this so-called journalist. This is not journalism in our opinion but plain bullying.

The libel cases have been filed in Maltese courts with the simple aim of clearing our name against totally unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations. These laws suits will never financially cripple the journalist and the damages awarded in Maltese Courts are very limited.

May we also point out that, prior to a libel case being allowed to start in Malta, parties must sit down for intermediation. The said journalist turned this down and thus left us with no other option but to proceed to clear our names.

Therefore, such lawsuits are not strategic in any way, are not filed in foreign Courts, and were filed simply for victims like us to clear our name. Lastly as the unfounded allegations have been repeated numerous times by the said journalists and his associates who have then been quoted internationally, the financial damages suffered by all three parties has been substantial but more importantly the moral damages suffered by Karl Schranz and Christian Ellul are incalculable, and the unfounded allegations have negatively changed their lives forever. This is the reason by three separate cases were filed by three separate persons in order to one day be able to clear our name. We are victims of the pen if there ever were any!” Karl Schranz