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Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Daniel Ramos and Kanye West

On July 19, 2013, Kanye West, a world-famous musician, wrongfully assaulted a videographer who was simply exercising his free speech and doing his job. Today, we have filed a lawsuit on behalf of that videographer Danny Ramos against Kanye West.

Danny was outside of the Tom Bradley Terminals International Arrivals at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on July 19, 2013, with a number of other professional photographers. Danny and the photographers were gathered on the sidewalk area in front of LAX to photograph celebrities who might emerge from the terminal. Mr. West exited the terminal and saw the gathered group of photographers. Danny, who was standing about 10 feet away from Mr. West called out to him and said "Kanye, can we talk to you, Kanye? Danny then said "What's' going on? Why can't we talk to you? I mean why?"

Danny asked Mr. West that question because one week earlier on July 12, 2013, Mr. West had shouted at photographers. "Don't talk to me. I don't want to hear paparazzi talk to me or anybody I know."

After hearing Danny ask on July 19, why Mr. West would not speak to him, Mr. West stopped walking, put his bag down at his car and turned and spoke to Danny. Then without warning or provocation, Mr. West suddenly attacked Danny, punching him and attempting to wrestle Danny's camera from his hands.

Danny held onto his camera and fell down onto his knees onto the paved sidewalk with enough force that he sustained injuries to his right hip, was in great pain, and had to be transported in an ambulance to the emergency room.

As a result, today we have filed a lawsuit against Kanye. West in L.A. County Superior Court alleging assault, battery, negligence and interference with Danny's civil rights. (California Civil Code 52.1). Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution guarantees certain inalienable rights to persons in this state and has

been designed specifically to include the fundamental right to pursue a lawful occupation. We allege that at the time of the attack described in our lawsuit that Mr. West sought to prevent Danny from pursuing his occupation as a professional video photographer and that in perpetrating that attack on Danny, that Mr. West attempted to interfere and actually interfered with Danny's exercise and enjoyment of his fundamental rights to pursue a lawful occupation which is secured by Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution.

We are seeking general and punitive damages according to proof at trial. In addition, we are seeking injunctive relief. We are asking the Court for an order preventing Mr. West from touching, striking, annoying, contacting, molesting, attacking, threatening or otherwise interfering with, directly or indirectly, Daniel Ramos and or the right of Danny and all persons, seeking to pursue the occupation of photographer.

We are speaking out today for two reasons. First, it has been more than a month since the attack and Mr. West has still not apologized to Danny. Second, other celebrities have been speaking out in support of Mr. West's attack on Danny and we are concerned that celebrity support for an attack on photographers will increase the risk of harm to them.

For, example, actress Kirstie Alley reportedly tweeted " I love Kanye West all whack on that a #@%\$ paparazzi...too bad he didn't whip his a** with his hat. Go Kanye." When one of her followers replied "You're just saying that because you hate them". She responded "That is true...I applaud anyone who takes a swing at them."

Cher also reportedly tweeted on July 21, 2013. "Dear Kanye, Thank you for trashing those loathsome parasites who steal our most precious gifts, time and privacy. We can never get those back."

Kylie Jenner, in discussing Mr. West's attack on Danny stated ""It's not like he would flip out on them for no reason." Kylie, we disagree. The video of the incident is clear. All that Danny did was to exercise his free speech. If Mr. West did not like what he heard, he had a right to exercise his free speech and respond in words, but he had no right to attack and batter Danny in response.

Celebrities enjoy many privileges. They are rich and famous, but they do not have any right to physically attack anyone simply because someone spoke to them. They need to respect people like Danny Ramos who are simply doing their jobs and trying to earn a living. Being in public means that we all may hear statements that we do not like, but that is the price we all must pay in order to uphold the right of free speech.

Photographers should not be forced to suffer physical attacks simply because they speak to a celebrity. Celebrities are not above the law and they have no right or special license to hurt others. Like everyone else, they need to be accountable for their misconduct. With privilege comes responsibility. Through this lawsuit we expect Mr. West to be held accountable for his attack on Danny Ramos and face the consequences of the pain and suffering that he has forced Danny Ramos to endure.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Daniel Ramos
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