Pull Rampage Jackson off the Jan. 26 Chicago Fight Card

January 24, 2013

To: FOX Network, the Ultimate Fighting Championship, and UFC Sponsors

We are writing because we are outraged that the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) has Quinton “Rampage” Jackson on the main card of their upcoming January 26, 2013 UFC on FOX fight at the United Center in Chicago, IL. Jackson is a well-known UFC fighter who has repeatedly denigrated women. Last year, he even posted an internet video in which he makes light of sexual assault by pretending to attempt to rape a woman in a parking garage.

The fighter’s video is alarming in itself, but is particularly unsettling in light of the alleged New Year’s Eve rape of a young woman in a parking garage by two young men who, according to court documents, all know each other from a mixed martial arts school in the Washington D.C. area known for developing top UFC fighters. (In the court documents, the victim stated that she knew both of the Defendants from the Lloyd Irvin Martial Arts Academy, where she was an employee and a current student. She also stated that she and one of the alleged rapists were previously employed as co-workers at the Lloyd Irvin Martial Arts Academy, during this time they saw each other almost daily. The Academy specializes in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, mixed martial arts, and Thai boxing; owner Lloyd Irvin has trained and taught top UFC fighters.)

Jackson also has a disturbing track record of mimicking sexual acts with female reporters during interviews. As Yahoo! Sports reporter Kevin Iole wrote, “It is already difficult for women to compete on equal footing with men as sports writers and Jackson’s sexual overtones simply made it worse.”

Last month, the UFC allowed fighter Abel Trujillo, who has pled guilty twice to Domestic Abuse Assault Causing Bodily Injury, an aggravated misdemeanor, to fight on national television. In both cases, the victim was identified as the mother of his child. The UFC has yet to acknowledge or comment on the fighter’s history.

Offensive and irresponsible behavior doesn’t end with the fighters. UFC President Dana White sets a despicable tone for fighters to follow. White has used foul and abusive language, especially derogatory to women, to users on Twitter, female journalists, and even to UFC fighters.

This kind of institutional culture is unacceptable, but it becomes even more troubling knowing that Dana White has stated the following: “… I want kids watching us. [...] This is a great sport for kids.”
The behavior of Rampage Jackson, UFC President Dana White, and other UFC fighters is unacceptable. Misogynistic and sexist behavior can no longer be tolerated in the UFC. The UFC and FOX need to clean up their act in 2013 by cutting Quinton “Rampage” Jackson from the January 26th fight card and adopting a meaningful code of conduct.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Jen Suh at 702-386-5167 or at jsuh@culinaryunion266.org.

Respectfully,

Deborah D. Tucker  
Executive Director  
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

Polly Poskin  
Executive Director  
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA)

Rachel Durchslag  
Executive Director  
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Vickie Smith  
Chief Executive Officer/ Executive Director  
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Sharmili Majmudar, MSW  
Executive Director  
Rape Victims Advocates

Yesenia Maldonado, LCSW  
Director of Program  
Between Friends

Yesenia Romo, MSW  
Director of Sexual Violence Support Services  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Dawn Dalton  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network

Maria S. Pesqueira  
President and CEO  
Mujeres Latinas en Acción

Stacey Geller, PhD  
Director  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Veronica Arreola  
Assistant Director  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender  
UIC Women in Science & Engineering Program

Leslie Carnahan  
Research Associate  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Shauna Gardino  
Graduate Research Assistant  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Manorama Khare, PhD  
Senior Research Specialist  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Abby Koch  
Research Specialist  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Patricia Newton  
Program Services Aide  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Stephanie Thompson  
Assistant to the Director  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Kristine Zimmermann  
Assistant Director  
UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Rebecca Gordon, EdD  
Director  
UIC Women’s Leadership and Resource Center and Campus Advocacy Network

Athanasia Papaioannou  
Assistant Director  
UIC Women’s Leadership and Resource Center

Men Against Sexual Violence  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Susan Grossman, PhD  
Associate Dean for Academics, Professor of Social Work  
Loyola University Chicago

Christine C. George, PhD  
Research Associate Professor  
Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University Chicago

Shweta Singh, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Loyola University Chicago

Alexis Pride, PhD  
Director of Graduate Programs  
Columbia College Chicago
Brett Stockdill, PhD  
Chair and Professor of Sociology  
Department  
Northeastern Illinois University

William Sites, PhD  
Associate Professor in School of Social Service Administration  
University of Chicago

Sister Cathy Wright  
Little Sisters of Jesus

Father Robert Oldershaw  
St. Nicholas Parish

Father Tom Joyce  
Claretian Missionaries

Father Paul Ewers  
Comboni Mission Center

8th Day Center for Justice  
Staff

Sister Marilyn Kolfer  
Chair  
Sister and Brothers of Immigrants Advocacy Committee

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