

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.¹ 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.²

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.³ (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 interviews⁴ 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.”⁵

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.⁶ 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.⁷

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.”⁸



We demand that the Ultimate Fighting Championship and FOX immediately pull UFC light heavyweight Quinton “Rampage” Jackson off the January 26, 2013 fight card. The UFC must begin holding its fighters accountable for their actions and adopt a meaningful code of conduct.

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

Director

National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health

Veronica Arreola

Assistant Director

UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender

Director

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

Jessica L. Collett, PhD
Associate Professor in Sociology
University of Notre Dame, Indiana

Amanda Littauer, PhD
*Assistant Professor in History and
Women's Studies*
Northern Illinois University

Jack Metzgar, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Humanities
Roosevelt University in Chicago

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

Virginia L. Parks, PhD
*Associate Professor in School of
Social Service Administration*
University of Chicago

Father Clete Kiley
Archdiocese of Chicago

Father Larry Dowling
St. Agatha Parish, ARISE Chicago

Reverend Dominic J. Grassi
St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church

Sister Cathy Wright
Little Sisters of Jesus

Father Robert Oldershaw
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Father Tom Joyce
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Staff

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Chair
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Advocacy Committee

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1 UFC.com, "Full Fight Card," <http://www.ufc.com/event/FOX6>

2 "Rampage Jackson—How to Pick Up a Gurl—Fast," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfG5amLtWEQ>

3 Jennifer Donelan, "Matthew Maldonado, Nicholas Schultz accused in New Year's Eve rape," ABC 7 News, Jan. 8, 2013, <http://www.wjla.com/articles/2013/01/matthew-maldonado-nicholas-schultz-accused-in-new-year-s-eve-rape-83850.html>; LloydIrvin.com, <http://www.lloydirvin.com/adult/nhb/index.html>

4 YouTube videos, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKVeBOCPpGU>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYmYA4ZPsIM>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpoauqfklU>

5 Kevin Iole, "UFC cannot condone sexual harassment," Yahoo! Sports, Jun. 3, 2011, http://sports.yahoo.com/mma/news?slug=ki-iole_ufc_sexual_harrassment_060311

6 UFC.com, "Full Fight Card," <http://www.ufc.com/event/FOX5#/fight/Tim-Means-Abel-Trujillo>; "The Culinary Union Has Uncovered Some Disturbing Facts About 'UFC on Fox 5' Fighters Tim Means and Abel Trujillo," Cage Potato, <http://www.cagepotato.com/the-culinary-union-has-uncovered-some-disturbing-facts-about-ufc-on-fox-5-fighters-tim-means-and-abel-trujillo/>

7 Video: <http://www.blinkx.com/watch-video/ufc-president-dana-white-notorious-rant/FYZcYppmYJ5wwYruuKpvpw>; Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/danawhite/status/63635042731175936>, Apr. 28, 2011.

8 Kevin Cook, "Playboy Interview: Dana White," Playboy, Sept. 1, 2008.