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LANDMARK INTERNATIONAL CYBERSTALKING CONVICTION

SINGAPOREAN ADMITS 6 YEARS OF DEATH THREATS AND INTMIDATION OF AMERICAN OPERA SINGER

With interview quote from Leandra Ramm

A cross-border cyber stalker who terrorised his victim across the globe, even in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, has been convicted of cyber staking in Singapore.

International opera singer Leandra Ramm's life was almost destroyed by a man she had never met, threatening to kill her, her family, her friends – and even sending pictures of the gun he swore he would use to do it.

Lack of comprehensive international legislation to counter cross-border stalking meant that Leandra had to survive six years of psychological terrorism before the authorities brought the perpetrator to justice.

Today, 38 year old Colin Mak Yew Loong admitted to 31 counts of criminal intimidation of Ms Ramm from 2005 to 2011.

Ms Ramm's nightmare began in 2005 when Mak contacted her pretending to be someone who could help her with her music career.

He then manipulated and tortured her through emails culminating in sending death threats via emails and voice messages. He also tracked her to a cruise ship where she was working and sent messages and emails pretending to be on board and preparing to imminently attack her.

Ms Ramm worked with international organisations including the FBI and the UK Charity Network for Surviving Stalking to track her perpetrator to Singapore and put pressure on the authorities there to arrest Mak.

"When I woke up this morning to see that Colin was finally convicted, I knew this nightmare was finally over. I am proud of myself for fighting for justice and sticking with this case until the end, not giving up," said Leandra.

"This is a landmark case in the fact that Colin Mak was convicted for cyber stalking despite international borders. The internet is one place, and finally my case has proven that. This case has impacted my life on many levels.

At first I was a helpless victim whose life and career were ruined, then I became a survivor and a woman determined to stop this even though authorities said there is nothing they can do repeatedly.

Finally, I am now an advocate and starting my own non-profit organization to help other victims and amend current cyber crime laws."

The international cyberstalking case is believed to be the first of its kind.

"It is the first one I have heard of and should give victims the courage to come forward. It just goes to show these cowardly people who carry out this kind of behaviour that it is a criminal offence and that you cannot hide from justice," says Rhory Robertson, a Partner in Collyer Bristow, a London law firm specialising in cyberstalking cases.

Besides harassing Ms Ramm, Mak also admitted to 11 other offences, including intentional harassment and criminal trespass.

In his submissions, prosecutor Alan Hu said this is an "aggravated case involving numerous charges."

He stressed that the offences were committed over a long period of time and asked for a global sentence of two to four years' jail.

For criminal intimidation, Mak can be jailed up to seven years and fined on each count.

He is expected to be sentenced on December 13th.

ENDS.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Leandra Ramm is an international opera singer, dancer, actress and model. She has written a book about her ordeal called 'Stalking a Diva'.

For more information on Leandra please visit:

www.LeandraRamm.com

To fix interviews please call Leandra on 00 1 646 481 4379 or info@LeandraRamm.com She is based in California at the moment but is happy to travel to NYC or elsewhere.

For further information please call Alexis Bowater, Bowater Communications, on 00 44 7786 362454

For further information on stalking please visit the websites

www.nss.org.uk

<http://www.stalkinghelpline.org/>

<http://www.protectionagainststalking.org/>

The National Centre for Cyberstalking Research: <http://www.beds.ac.uk/research/irac/nccr>

The National Stalking Clinic: <http://www.beh-mht.nhs.uk/mental-health-service/mh-services/national-stalking-clinic.htm>