Official Statement Estate of Michael Jackson

On Thursday 4 July 2019 a court hearing is taking place in the Northern French city of Orleans where the Michael Jackson Community, the MJ Street and On The Line groups will commence proceedings against Wade Robson and James Safechuck, two men who sullied the image of the late singer Michael Jackson in the four- hour HBO documentary Leaving Neverland which aired in March.

The fan groups are taking action in a French Court because of French defamation laws.

In the US and UK, libel protection does not extend after death but in France sullying the image of a deceased person is a criminal offense.

French attorney Emmanuel Ludot who is representing the fan groups in the case against Robson and Safechuck has called the allegations against Michael Jackson “extremely serious” and likened them to “a genuine lynching” of Jackson, who died on 25 June 2009.

The fan clubs are seeking symbolic damages of one Euro each.

According to John Branca, Co-Executor of the Estate of Michael Jackson, “The Estate is in full support of Mr. Ludot’s efforts on behalf of Michael and his beloved fans in France and across the globe that the truth shall ultimately prevail. We remain hopeful that a victory in France will soon fuel a movement In the United States to finally explore changes in the law to afford defamation protection for the deceased.”

Jonathan P. Steinsapir
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP
808 Wilshire Blvd, Third Floor | Santa Monica, CA 90401
Telephone: 310.566.9834 | Fax: 310.566.9884
jsteinsapir@kwikalaw.com | www.kwikalaw.com