

Ms. Jamilah Taib Murray
Sakto Group
688 Manor Avenue
Rockcliffe, ON K1M 0E2
info@sakto.com

9 August 2023

Re: Stop the SLAPP suit against Swiss human rights and environmental activists

Dear Ms. Taib Murray:

The signing organizations condemn Sakto Corporation and Sakto Development Corporation (together “Sakto Group”) for trying to silence the Swiss civil society organization, the Bruno Manser Fonds (“BMF”). The legal actions against BMF have recently been [verified as a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation \(SLAPP\) by The CASE](#), Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe. We also condemn Vischer lawyers for having taken on these legal actions.

Since its beginnings in 1991, the Bruno Manser Fonds has spoken out on behalf of marginalized Indigenous communities and advocated for the conservation of the rainforests of Sarawak, Malaysia. In the public interest, they raised questions about where the profits from deforestation in Sarawak ended up. We, the signatories to this statement, stand in solidarity with the Bruno Manser Fonds against the Sakto Group. It is the core responsibility of civil society organizations to speak out in the public interest and to defend free speech. If one of us is attacked for speaking out, it impacts us all.

We request that you and the Sakto Group withdraw the suit against the Bruno Manser Fonds and its director – which is scheduled to go to trial August 16th 2023 at the Civil Court of Basel-Stadt, Switzerland.

Yours sincerely,

1. The Borneo Project
2. Aliran
3. Australian Forests and Climate Alliance
4. Biodiversity Conservation Center
5. Biofuelwatch
6. Birmingham Friends of the Earth

7. Both ENDS
8. Bristol Friends of the Earth Group
9. California Trade Justice Coalition
10. Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)
11. Centre for Independent Journalism
12. CESTA, Amigos de la Tierra El Salvador
13. Clean Up the Tropical Timber Trade
14. COECOceiba, Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica
15. Community Action Network (CAN) Malaysia
16. DIRIBUMI Ecological Services
17. Earthsight
18. East Dorset Friends of the Earth
19. Family Frontiers
20. FastMedia
21. Forum Ökologie & Papier
22. Friends of the Earth
23. Friends of the Earth, Canada
24. Friends of the Earth, England, Wales and Northern Ireland
25. Friends of the Earth, Leeds
26. Friends of the Earth, Manchester
27. HEKS/EPER
28. humanrights.ch
29. Indigenous Peoples Rights International
30. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific
31. Jaringan Kampung Orang Asli Semenanjung Malaysia (JKOASM)
32. Keruan Organisation
33. Keystone Foundation
34. Klima Action Malaysia (KAMY)
35. Koalition für Konzernverantwortung
36. KRuHA Indonesia
37. Legal Human Academy
38. Malaysian Action for Justice and Unity (MAJU)

39. Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth Netherlands
40. Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM)
41. NTFP Exchange Programme Networking Forum India
42. OTROS MUNDOS A.C. / Amigos de la Tierra México
43. Oxfam International
44. PACOS Trust
45. Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM)
46. Pergerakan Tenaga Akademik Malaysia (GERAK)
47. Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA)
48. Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor
49. Persatuan Tindakan Alam Sekitar Kuala Langat
50. Pertubuhan Suara Anak Sabah
51. Pertubuhan Wanita Maju KL & Selangor
52. Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland
53. Public Eye
54. REDES AT Uruguay
55. Rettet den Regenwald
56. Rettet den Regenwald - Schweiz
57. RimbaWatch
58. Sabah Environmental Protection Association
59. Sahabat Alam Malaysia
60. Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA)
61. SAVE Rivers
62. Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM)
63. SOBREVIVENCIA, Amigos de la Tierra Paraguay
64. Society for Indigenous right of Sarawak
65. Solidar Suisse
66. SOLIFONDS
67. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
68. Terabai Kenyalang Heritage Association of Sarawak (TKHAS)
69. Terre des Hommes Switzerland
70. The Altai Project

71. The Oakland Institute
72. Tierra Nativa / Amigos de la Tierra Argentina
73. Westminster Citizens Climate Action Network (WeCCAN)
74. Working Group ICCAs Indonesia
75. Yayasan Hutan Hujan Indonesia