

**THE OREGON JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST JOE BIGGS AND TARA LAROSA AND SEEKS INJUNCTION TO STOP THEM FROM CONVENING, RALLYING, AND ENGAGING IN THE “END DOMESTIC TERRORISM” RALLY PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 17.**

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The Oregon Justice Resource Center has filed a lawsuit on behalf of our client, Luis Marquez, against Joe Biggs and Tara LaRosa, two of the organizers of the “End Domestic Terrorism” rally, and is seeking an injunction against them to stop them from convening, rallying, and engaging in the events planned for today.

In July 2019, Mr. Marquez received word from Portland Police Bureau Officer Combs that there were “credible” threats against his life. This threat related to an event that will be occurring in Portland, OR on August 17, 2019, entitled “End Domestic Terrorism,” wherein right-wing extremists and white nationalists wish to violently confront “Antifa,” whom they perceive as a threat. Defendants Biggs and LaRosa have directed, encourage, and facilitated the organization of a dangerous far-right lynch mob intent on injuring Mr. Marquez.

Mr. Marquez fears for his life. The convergence of right-wing paramilitary groups in Portland, OR on August 17, 2019 will bring not only severe harm to Mr. Marquez, but the community of Portland. Because of this tortious conduct, Mr. Marquez is now seeking damages for defamation, false light, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligence

Additionally, the OJRC is seeking Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction enjoining Defendants Joseph Biggs, Tara LaRosa, and all persons acting on their behalf, from convening, rallying, and engaging in the harmful behavior as described in the Complaint on August 17, 2019 in Portland, OR. Mr. Marquez similarly requests that the Court enjoins Defendants from returning or soliciting other individuals or groups to return to Portland, Oregon, as part of a unit of two or more persons acting in concert while armed with a firearm, weapon, shield, or any item whose purpose is to inflict bodily harm, at any demonstration, rally, protest, or march; instructing or facilitating the instruction of individuals or groups in the use of any weapon or technique capable of causing injury or death, knowing or intending that the weapon or technique will be used at

any demonstration, rally, protest, or march, in Portland, Oregon; or issuing any commands, instructions, or directives to any group of two or more persons armed with a firearm, weapon, shield, or any item whose purpose is to inflict bodily harm, which commands, instructions, or directives are related to the use of such weapons or any techniques capable of causing injury or death, at any demonstration, rally, protest, or march, in Portland, Oregon.

Juan Chavez of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, the attorney representing Mr. Marquez said: “Our city and community has endured a lot from white nationalists and far right-right extremists over the last couple of years. It is necessary and important that we no longer accept the harms they are causing, especially to our client. We must push back against the harms and fear that they cause. We must abandon red herrings, false equivalencies, and ‘both sides’ rhetoric that misunderstands the realities of what we are facing: a threat to our democratic institutions and forms of government, and actual harms to individuals in our communities who are fighting for their right to live in peace and with dignity. I’m proud of my client for continuing to stand up to white nationalists and far-right extremists by bringing this lawsuit and trying to keep our community safe by seeking this injunction.”

Bobbin Singh, the Executive Director of the Oregon Justice Resource Center said: “The rally scheduled to occur on August 17 brings together an incredibly volatile and unstable mix of far-right extremists and white nationalists who have and continue to cause serious harms to our client, this community, and across the country. The fear and intimidation caused by the rally organizers and supporters are creating both direct trauma to survivors and vicarious trauma to the communities that survivors live in. This is a time where individuals who are impacted by these far-right extremists and white nationalists need all support that we can offer them which is why this litigation and injunction is so important. This is a way in which we can stand against hate and those trying to intimidate us. Until and unless we are willing to directly confront racism and bigotry, and the related intimidation and bullying, we will continue to bear witness to the acts of brutality and hate we have seen across this country and in this city. We hope that by securing an injunction by a federal court, we are able to prevent additional harms and ensure Portland and Oregon remain a community that rejects white nationalist and far-right extremist intimidation and violence.”

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