

Tournament Case 2025

R v Silip

Canada,
Province of Ontario,
County of Missinaba,
In the Superior Court of Justice,

His Majesty the King

against

Jo Silip

Jo Silip stands charged:

- That they, between September 2023 and May 2024, in the City of Mariposa, did commit criminal harassment against Amaru Ore, contrary to s. 264 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Dated this 3rd day of July 2024 at Mariposa, Ontario.

Amy Brand

Amy Brand,
Agent for the Attorney-General of Ontario

Witness List

Crown:

- Amaru Ore
- Ngozi Madue

Defence:

- Jo Silip
- Mica Carmine

SWORN WITNESS STATEMENT OF AMARU ORE

My name is Amaru Ore and I am 20 years old. I am an influencer and a marketing student at the University of Mariposa.

About a year ago, I started hanging out with Jo. Jo was always a bit intense. Part of my brand is being free-spirited, and I felt like being attached to Jo started impacting my image. After about 4 months, I decided we should stop spending time together. I didn't like how much of my time was taken up by them. Since we are both students at UofM, I'd still see them around campus, but since we were in different majors, it didn't bother me too much.

About a month after I told Jo to find new friends, they changed their major from computer science to marketing. I didn't love that, but what was I going to do? I needed to take the required classes for my major but it meant that I had to see Jo every day. They fell into my social group and we started spending a lot of time together again. I didn't want to be around them so much, but they kept hounding me to hang out. Eventually I had to tell them again that they need other friends. That's when things started getting uncomfortable.

Jo kept walking me home from school, always waiting outside my house every morning, and kept calling me non-stop. It got so annoying that eventually, I asked my professor for my marketing class to transfer Jo to the afternoon block. My professor turned me down because it was the busy season and apparently, "they don't care about my personal problems." I started to feel a bit trapped. I didn't want to be interacting with Jo all the time, but it didn't seem like a big enough deal to make a fuss.

I asked Jo to leave me alone so many times I've lost count. I have told them to stop following me, to stop talking to me, and to stop commenting on my social media. Jo scares me. Even Ngozi tried to get Jo to leave me alone, but nothing seemed to work. Jo would always be at my front door with a coffee ready to walk to class together. I don't even like coffee! I would go along with it, though, because it was easier than trying to hide and walk earlier. I ended up swapping to a different major so I would feel able to go to class.

If that was the end of it, we wouldn't be here today. But after I switched into a major I was less happy with, Jo decided to hurt my business. I make a lot of money off of my social media persona, and Jo decided to spam my comments and made me lose a bunch of followers.

On May 12, I had the launch of a big campaign. I was contracted to do a live video in the field on campus that I usually film at. Jo knows about this area and has bothered me in the past, but I was hoping that this time would be different. When I arrived with Ngozi, Jo was already there but we set up our shoot anyways hoping that Jo would just leave us alone. Instead, Jo started blasting music and screaming words that are banned from social media. This caused me to lose out on this brand deal and made me think I had to do something to stop Jo's behaviour.

That was the last straw. After that, I went to the police to report Jo.

Amaru Ore.
Amaru Ore

Sworn (or Affirmed) before me at
Mariposa
in the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, on
this 12th day of May 2024
Andi Wyzin
A Commissioner for Taking Oaths for Ontario

SWORN WITNESS STATEMENT OF NGOZI MADUE

My name is Ngozi Madue. I'm 21 years old and I have lived with Amaru since first-year university. I remember when Amaru first started taking classes for the marketing major this year. Amaru loved those classes since it would help give tips on how to build up the influencer lifestyle. It's been really hard watching Amaru's situation with Jo over the past year. I never really got to know Jo because they seemed kinda boring and not interested in anything that we liked to do, so I was happy when Amaru told Jo to get lost and get new friends.

About a month or two later, Jo suddenly started appearing in front of our house constantly. They would walk to and from campus all the time and I tried to mind my own business. I had to start paying attention when my life started being impacted though. Amaru couldn't ever have the ringtone on their phone because Jo was calling it non-stop. I remember Amaru telling me about it one time because other people couldn't get a hold of them since Jo was tying up the line all the time. Amaru never answered, but the calls kept coming. I could hear the phone vibrating through our bedroom walls at all hours of the night.

Jo also started sending weird deliveries to our house. Every time I tried to leave the apartment, there was stuff piled in the doorway that Jo delivered to Amaru - food, random packages, balloons - even one time a person with a guitar tried to sing at me before I screamed that I wasn't Amaru and could escape.

Amaru couldn't relax at home. Amaru insisted that we start closing all the curtains when we were home and leaving all the windows locked which we had never done before. I was scared a few times when I tried to leave the house at night and I could see that Jo's car was parked across the street but Jo wasn't in it. It felt like a matter of time before Jo would be trying to break into our house.

I told Amaru to get the cops involved but Amaru didn't want Jo to get in trouble. What changed was when Amaru had to switch out of marketing AND THEN began to lose income because of Jo. I always help Amaru film for various brand deals. We have a favourite filming spot in the main field on campus. Jo knew of this location and started camping out there waiting for us. Jo would bring sound machines and various distractions so we could never get the right shots.

Amaru also started losing followers quickly because the posts weren't being posted every day and a bunch of really horrible comments started appearing on all the videos we posted. We tried to talk to Jo but it didn't go very well.

N. Madue
Ngozi Madue

Sworn (or Affirmed) before me at
Mariposa
in the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, on
this 14th day of May 2024
Andi Wyzin
A Commissioner for Taking Oaths for Ontario

SWORN WITNESS STATEMENT OF JO SILIP

My name is Jo Silip and I am 22 years old. I'm a student at the UofM in marketing. I also did two years as a computer science student. When I met Amaru, I knew right away that we would have a special connection. Things were going perfectly until someone on one of the social media accounts decided to tell Amaru that I shouldn't be on screen.

This really hurt my feelings. When I tried to talk to Amaru about it, they told me that their social media brand was more important than me, and I was "basically a random person trying to get famous by being their friend". I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep. I waited about a month before I decided I needed to show Amaru how real our friendship could be. I switched into a marketing major so we started seeing each other every day, and we started hanging out together. I thought everything was going perfectly.

I wanted to show that I could be the perfect friend. I walked Amaru to and from campus every day, I left presents at Amaru's apartment, and I went to the field on campus where Amaru and Ngozi filmed to watch and support Amaru's brand. Amaru loved it. I always had a coffee and flowers ready at the door, and I could tell that they wanted me there because they never rejected my gifts. Things seemed like they were back on track, and that we were building an even more solid friendship. Amaru never told me to stop.

Then one day without warning, Amaru told me to get new friends again. Amaru basically had our professor do it for them by swapping me out of our class. But then Professor Carmine put us on a project together instead and I thought that we might be able to turn things around. I figured that Amaru was just insecure about how close we were, and worried about how their social media would react when they tried to get me out of their class. After we launched our class video at the end of January, Amaru seemed really buddy-buddy with me again. I even got a really nice birthday card. After we went viral together, I thought we were locked in as best friends, but I was wrong again I guess. I felt so used.

Part of Amaru's brand is being all lovey to the universe, but this type of behaviour shows that it's all an act. I had to let Amaru's followers know the truth. I started leaving comments on all of Amaru's videos and posts. It wasn't anything that I didn't know to be true. Any time I happened to be on the campus field at the same time as Ngozi and Amaru were filming, I tried to talk to them but they always made me feel unwelcome so

I'd leave. Trust me, I didn't want to be close to Amaru anymore, but we always bumped into each other. The campus is so small!

I knew Amaru had a big live video planned for May 12th, but I just happened to be there that day. It's my favourite place on campus to study and relax. I had some speakers and wanted to play my new album to relax. I was actually minding my business that day and didn't even try to go up to them. But as soon as Amaru saw me, they decided to start harassing me. They were yelling at me and telling me I had to leave. I don't remember exactly what I said, but I remember just trying to express that I had a right to stay in the public space if I wanted to. And here we are.


Jo Silip

Sworn (or Affirmed) before me at
<u>Mariposa</u>
in the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, on
this <u>15th</u> day of <u>May</u> 20 <u>24</u>
<u>Andi Wyzin</u>
A Commissioner for Taking Oaths for Ontario

SWORN WITNESS STATEMENT OF MICA CARMINE

My name is Mica Carmine and I am a professor of Marketing 201 at the University of Mariposa. I have been a professor for over 10 years and have extensive experience dealing with students causing drama in my classroom.

When Jo switched into the marketing department in October, I was a little perplexed because it was clear that there was a steep learning curve. We have a small department, so I could tell that Jo was taking a bit longer than other students to get a handle on the material. There isn't much overlap in the skills needed to be successful in computer science and the skills required for marketing. Jo started coming to me during office hours sessions to catch up, so I got to know Jo very well. Jo was a dedicated student and improved dramatically.

Shortly after the midterm exam, Amaru came to me and asked to switch Jo's study blocks to the afternoon cohort. This wasn't possible because the block was already full, and to be completely honest, the paperwork never would have been approved. I didn't see it as an urgent matter because Amaru was doing really well in the class and despite the personal situation that was disclosed, I didn't see any evidence of harassment or disruption in my classroom and it wouldn't be fair for me to impose a schedule change on another student.

When Amaru came to me about getting Jo to switch to the afternoon block, I of course let Jo know about the request. I've never seen Jo so devastated. I comforted Jo and made it clear that nothing would be done without full consent as it goes against university policy. After that moment, Jo really started working hard. I've never seen a student engage themselves so intensely. Jo was always asking thought-provoking questions about the ethics of having an online presence and creating a brand with a certain viewpoint.

Shortly after the break, I put Amaru and Jo together on a group project. This was in maybe early January? It was a, perhaps misguided, attempt to smooth over the tension between some of my favourite students. The project was to create a marketing video for a fake product and interview fellow students on whether they might purchase the product. Amaru and Jo worked wonderfully together from my perspective. The video was lighthearted and funny and Amaru even posted it to their personal page. I remember this specifically because I made a joke about my class going viral because

the video got so many views. They seemed to be getting along, and there were no complaints that I was made aware of.

I was surprised when Amaru, seemingly out of nowhere in mid-February, switched out of the marketing department though. I wonder if I should have intervened somehow, but Jo never broke any university policies from my perspective. Jo is a model student in our department now, and I think it would have been a mistake to prevent them from trying to become a Marketing major. I am really proud of Jo for all the work that they have done this year to improve.

Mica Carmine

Mica Carmine

Sworn (or Affirmed) before me at
Mariposa
in the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, on
this 12th day of May 24
Andi Wyzin
A Commissioner for Taking Oaths for Ontario