ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California. 1 David K. Demergian, Esq. (CSBN 095008) County of San Diego DEMERGIAN LAW 2 501 W. Broadway, Suite 800 03/21/2023 at 03:24:00 PM San Diego, California 92101-3546 Clerk of the Superior Court Direct Telephone: (619) 239-3015 3 By Bernabe Montijo, Deputy Clerk Facsimile: (619) 239-3029 4 david@demergianlaw.com 5 Attorney for Defendant/Cross-Complainant/ Cross-Defendant NINUS MALAN 6 7 8 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO 10 HALL OF JUSTICE BRANCH 11 -00Oco-SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual, 12 Case No. 37-2018-00034229-CU-BC-CTL **IIMAGED CASE** Consolidated With 13 Plaintiff, Case No. 37-2018-000039388-CU-BC-CTL 14 VS. NINUS MALAN, an individual; CHRIS HAKIM, an Individual; MONARCH MANAGEMENT 15 16 CONSULTING, INC., a California Corporation; **DECLARATION OF NINUS** SAN DIEGO UNITED HOLDINGS GROUP, MALAN IN SUPPORT OF 17 LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; MOTION BY NINUS MALAN FOR SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO CCP FLIP MANAGEMENT, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; MIRA ESTE PROPERTIES, 18 **§128.5 AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND** LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; ČROSS-DEFENDANT SALAM ROSELLE PROPERTIES, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company; BALBOA AVE. 19 **RAZUKI** COOPERATIVE, a California Non-Profit Mutual 20 Benefit Corporation; CALIFORNIA CANNABIS GROUP, a California Non-Profit Mutual Benefit 21 Date: 4-14-23 Time: 9:00 a.m.
I/C Judge: Hon. Eddie C. Sturgeon Corporation; DEVILISH DELIGHTS, INC., a California Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation; 22 Dept: C-67 Filed: 7-10-18 and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive, 23 Trial Date: 4-14-23 Defendants. 24 NINUS MALAN: an Individual: CALIFORNIA CANNABIS GROUP, a 25 California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; DEVILISH DELIGHTS, INC., a California 26 Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; BALBOA AVE. COOPERATIVE, a California Nonprofit 27 Mutual Benefit Corporation; AMERICAN 28 DECLARATION OF NINUS MALAN IN SUPPORT OF MOTION BY NINUS MALAN FOR SANCTIONS

PURSUANT TO CCP \$128.5 AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND CROSS-DEFENDANT SALAM RAZUKI

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     LENDING AND HOLDINGS, LLC, a Limited
     Liability Company; MONARCH MANAGEMENT
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     CONSULTING, ÍNC., a California Corporation;
     FLIP MANAGEMENT, LLC, a Limited Liability Company; SAN DIEGO UNITED HOLDINGS,
 3
     GROUP, LLC, a Limited Liability Company,
 4
                     Cross-Complainants
 5
     VS.
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     SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual; RAZUKI
     INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Limited Liability
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     Company; MARVIN RAZUKI, an Individual;
     SARAH RAZUKI, an Individual; MATTHEW
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     RAZUKI, an Individual; SH WESTPOINT
     GROUP, LLC, A Limited Liability Company; EL CAJON INVESTMENTS GROUP, LLC, a
     California Limited Liability Company; SAN
     DIEGO PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, LLC, a
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     California Limited Liability Company;
     STONECREST PLAZA, LLC, a California
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     Limited Liability Company; SUNRISE
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     PROPERTY INVESTMENTS, LLC, a California
     Limited Liability Company; LÉMON GROVE
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     GROVE PLAZA, LP, a California Limited
     Partnership; SOCAL BUILDING VENTURES
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     LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; RM
     PROPERTY HOLDINGS, LLC, a Limited Liability
     Company; MELROSE PLACE, INC. a Delaware Corporation; and ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY; SUPER 5 CONSULTING GROUP, LIC (Formerly POE 1): ALTERNATIVE
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     GROUP, LLC (Formerly ROE 1); ALTERNATIVE )
HEALTH COOPERATIVE, INC. (Formerly ROE 2)
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     GOLDN BLOOM VENTURES, INC. (Formerly
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     ROE 3); and ROES 4 through 50. Inclusive,
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                     Cross-Defendants.
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     CHRIS HAKIM, an Individual; MIRA ESTE
     PROPERTIES, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; and ROSELLE PROPERTIES, LLC.,
22
     a California Limited Liability Company,
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                     Cross-Complainants,
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     VS.
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     SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual; SOCAL
     BUILDING VENTURES, LLC., a Delaware
27
     Limited Liability Company; SAN DIEGO
     BUILDING VENTURES, LLC., a Delaware
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1	Limited Liability Company; and ROES 51-100,
2	Cross-Defendants.
3	SOCAL BUILDING VENTURES, LLC, a
4	California Limited Liability Company; SAN BUILDING VENTURES, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company,
5	Plaintiffs-In-Intervention,
6	vs.
7	<b>5</b>
8	SAN DIEGO HOLDING GROUP, LLC., a  California Limited Liability Company; BALBOA  AVE. COOPERATIVE, a California Cooperative  OUTPUT  Description:
9	Company; MIRE ESTE PROPERTIES, LLC., a  California Limited Liability Company: ROSELLE
10	PROPERTIES, LLC, a California Limited Liability ) Company; CHRIS HAKIM, an Individual NINUS )
11	MALAN; an Individual; MONARCH )
12	MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, INC., a California Corporation; CALIFORNIA CANNABIS)
13	GROUP, a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit ) Corporation; DEVILISH DELIGHTS, INC., a
14	California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; ) FAR WEST MANAGEMENT, LLC, a California )
15	Limited Liability Company; HEIDI RISING, an )   Individual; MATTHEW FREEMAN, an )
16	Individual; ALEXIS BRIDGEWATER, an ) Individual; and ADAM KNOPF, an Individual, )
17	Defendants-In-Intervention.
18	RM PROPERTY HOLDINGS, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company,
19	
20	Cross-Complainant,
21	vs.
22	NINUS MALAN, an Individual; and POES 1- 20, Inclusive,
23	Cross-Defendants.
24	SH WESTPOUNT INVESTMENTS GROUP,
25	LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; ) and SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual,
26	Plaintiffs,
27	vs.
28	,

1 NINUS MALAN, an Individual; AMERICAN LENDING & HOLDING, LLC., a California 2 Limited Liability Company; and DOES 1-100, Inclusive, 3 Defendants. 4 5 I, NINUS MALAN, declare that if called as a witness I could, and would, testify of my own 6 personal knowledge as to the following facts and circumstances: 7 1. I am a named Defendant, Cross-Complainant and Cross-Defendant in the above-captioned 8 matter and am, therefore, familiar with the facts and circumstances surrounding same. 9 2. Based upon my conversations with the United States Attorney's Office, The Government's 10 Complaint/Probable Cause Statement in United States of America v. Razuki, et al-U.S.D.C. Case No. 11 18MJ5915 (See: RFJN, Exhibit "B"), The Government's Consolidated Sentencing Brief in United States 12 of America v. Razuki, et al-U.S.D.C. Case No. 18CR05260 (See: RFJN, Exhibit "C") and the FBI, I am 13 informed and believe that<sup>1</sup>: 14 In September 2018, RAZUKI and Elizabeth Juarez (a RAZUKI employee) met with a 15 Confidential Informant (CI) requesting that the CI arrange to kill me. According to RAZUKI and Sylvia 16 Gonzales (a Razuki employee), they had invested in multiple properties and business ventures together and 17 were now involved in a civil dispute over their assets. 18 RAZUKI and Gonzales told the CI that they wanted the CI to "shoot him [Me] in the face," 19 "to take [me] to Mexico and have [me] whacked," or kill [me] in some other way. RAZUKI and Gonzales 20 provided CI with a picture of me which the CI provided to the FBI. 21 On or about November 5, 2018, the CI met with Gonzales at The Great Maple in San Diego, 22 CA. During the meeting, Gonzales asked if the CI could "get rid of Salam's [RAZUKI] other little 23 problem, [Me], because it looks like they're going to appeal.... I would love for him [Me] to go to TJ and 24 get lost. Just leave [Me] over there." 25 26 <sup>1</sup> The same is not offered for the proof thereof, proof having already been shown by RAZUKI's 27 plea of guilty (See: Declaration of David K. Demergian) but, instead, for the non-hearsay purpose of the information's effect on the listener (MALAN). 28

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Gonzales said the civil dispute between her, RAZUKI, and I was over \$44 million dollars. Gonzales went on to say, "It's no joke, Salam [RAZUKI] has a lot of money tied up right now, and he's paying attorney fees. You need to get rid of this asshole [Me], he's costing me too much money!" Gonzales wanted this to occur before the next court date in this matter then scheduled for November 16, 2018.

At a certain point during the conversation, a server was close to their table and Gonzales said, "You don't have to kill him, you don't have to put him off the face of the earth." Despite her words at the time, Gonzales was making a slashing movement across her neck indicating she wanted me to be killed. During the conversation, Gonzales advised that there was no reason to involve RAZUKI in planning for the my kidnaping because "I am the one with the balls, any time they [business partners, including RAZUKI] have a problem, they come after me ... they say Sylvia is like a little ... honey badger ... they're like send the honey badger after them."

On or about November 8, 2018, the CI met with Gonzales at Banbu Sushi Bar and Grill in La Mesa, CA. At the outset of the meeting, Gonzales continued to complain about me and the ongoing civil lawsuit. According to Gonzales, another individual was coming, later identified as Juarez, to talk about how to handle me. GONZALES said, "Elizabeth [JUAREZ] right here, Elizabeth is going to give you a proposition also on that problem. She said all you got to do is get him to Mexico and she'll take care of him over there." The CI asked, "She will?" and Gonzales replied, "Yes, that's why she's coming."

Approximately one hour and 20 minutes into Gonzales's and the CI's meeting at Banbu Sushi Bar and Grill, Juarez joined them. Juarez said that all the CI needed to do was to get me down to Mexico and she would take care of the rest. Juarez and Gonzales said a lot of people have it out for me so nothing would come back on RAZUKI.

Gonzales said she wanted to watch and wanted me to know that it had come from them [Gonzales and RAZUKI], but Juarez cautioned Gonzales shouldn't watch because it would be gruesome and haunt her. Juarez said this "wasn't her first rodeo" and went on to talk about a previous incident involving a female from Vista, CA, who was drugged and kidnaped.

The CI, Gonzales, and Juarez discussed a cost of \$2,000 for the job. The CI clarified whether Gonzales and Juarez wanted this to happen in the United States or Mexico. Juarez said, "No, I

don't want it done here [in the United States]." Gonzales added, "No, let's do it in Mexico because we can't be charged in the US. Let's do it in Mexico in case anything comes back to us." Juarez said, "In Mexico it's easier to make things go away. You pay for your freedom."

Gonzales and Juarez said they wanted to "put the turkey up to roast before Thanksgiving." After the meeting, the CI positively identified a driver's license photo of Elizabeth Juarez as the individual that joined them and talked of my kidnaping and murder. This is the same individual observed by FBI agents as joining the meeting as well.

Gonzales advised that RAZUKI often referred to me as "the midget" and near the end of the dinner, Juarez handed the CI her cellphone to take a picture of Gonzales and Juarez and said, "You can take a picture of us when we were going to get rid of the midget [decided to kidnap and kill me]."

After dinner, the CI called Gonzales and confirmed that the CI could kidnap and murder me. During the call, the CI told Gonzales to provide information on me, including my address, what car I drove, and other identifying information. Gonzales asked to meet the next day so she could give the CI the information requested.

On or about November 9, 2018, Gonzales called the CI and asked the CI to meet her, RAZUKI, and Juarez. During the meeting, RAZUKI, Gonzales, and Juarez, discussed with the CI several loans they were trying to secure for their businesses, including cannabis dispensaries, as well as RAZUKI's frustration with the ongoing civil suit with me.

Gonzales asked if the CI needed money [for my kidnaping] and said she would go get \$1,000 but asked if the CI wanted the full payment instead. The CI indicated that \$1,000 was fine for the time being and Gonzales sent to the [Cross-Defendant] GOLDN BLOOM Dispensary and returned with \$1,000 cash. Surveillance agents observed Gonzales walk to the GOLDN BLOOM Dispensary across the street and return.

At the same time that Gonzales and RAZUKI were meeting with the CI on November 9, 2018, RAZUKI was exchanging messages with Juarez in which RAZUKI pressed for updates about "work" related to me that RAZUKI had "commissioned."

After the meeting, the CI provided agents with \$1000 cash provided by Gonzales as well

as an envelope with a piece of paper inside, which had also been provided by Gonzales. The paper had two business addresses for me according to Gonzales in a later meeting.

On or about November 13, 2018, Gonzales contacted the CI again via phone and informed the CI that RAZUKI and Gonzales would be with me in court at the Hall of Justice located at 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA. Gonzales requested the CI join them so the CI could see me in person. The CI declined going into the courtroom, but agreed to stand outside the building and wait for me to exit.

While inside the Hall of Justice, Gonzales took a picture of me with her phone and sent it to the CI and then called the CI and described what I was wearing at the hearing. Gonzales exited the Hall of Justice and met with CI to further discuss my description, which was recorded. According to Gonzales, the information on the envelope and back of the paper provided on November 9, 2018, was to assist the CI in locating me for the kidnaping and murder in Mexico. Gonzales also stated during the meeting "if they take him now, it's gunna be good." Gonzales went back into the courthouse and provided the CI with updates as I was departing the Hall of Justice to ensure the CI observed me as I left. Gonzales told the CI that I would be exiting the courthouse and that Gonzales, RAZUKI, Juarez, and their attorney would exit after me. FBI agents observed me exit the courthouse after the CI had been told this and agents observed RAZUKI, Gonzales & Juarez proceed on foot to the vehicle they arrived in and depart.

On November 15, 2018, the CI met with RAZUKI, which was recorded and surveilled by FBI agents. The CI said, "I took care of it." RAZUKI replied, "So he will take care of it, or it's done?" The CI replied, "Done." RAZUKI quickly changed the subject to discuss other business investments and pending loans. Later in the conversation, the CI said, "Well, when I talked to what's her name, she said that she wanted to have proof. Do you want to see it, or are you ok with it?" RAZUKI replied, "No, I'm ok with it. I don't want to see it." Shortly thereafter, the CI requested the remainder of the agreed-upon payment and RAZUKI directed the CI to follow up with Gonzales for payment.

- 3. On November 14, 2018 my girlfriend and I awoke to a ringing doorbell and 7 FBI agents who told me my life was in danger, and that we needed to come with them. My thoughts immediately turned to RAZUKI as the only person I knew who might want to do me harm.
  - 4. FBI agents then created a murder scene in my home. They gagged me, duct taped me to a chair,

tore my clothes and put make-up on to make it look like I had been beaten bloody. It was a difficult 90-minute photo shoot, but had to be grotesque as I was told that the people who wanted him dead wanted him shot in the face.

- 5. After surrendering their electronic devices, and being told not to contact friends or family, my girlfriend and I were whisked away to a hotel room where we were secreted with an armed guard outside, and the television and phone removed, for an indeterminate period.
- On November 15, 2018, Gonzales was arrested. On November 16, 2018, Juarez and RAZUKI were arrested.
- 7. Remarkably, after his arrest RAZUKI demanded I pay him \$25 Million and make a public apology, as well as increasing his aggression towards me!
- 8. At the time thus original motion was brought in 2019 my fees and expenses occasioned by RAZUKI's delaying tactics totaled \$31,189.25. Since that time my attorney's fees and expenses which have been occasioned by RAZUKI's tactics have well-exceeded \$200,000.
- 9. Moreover, in the context of punitive damages, the effect of RAZUKI's bad-faith tactics on me personally have been immeasurable, and from which I will likely never recover. I have suffered, and continue to suffer, from extreme emotional distress and post-traumatic stress disorder. With RAZUKI out on bail since November, 2018, I fear for the safety of myself and my loved ones every single day. Nightmares and insomnia are common, where I never experienced them before. I have suffered, and continue to suffer, from medical and domestic issues from the anxiety associated with the attempt to take my life. I occasionally have trouble breathing when anxiety levels get high. Whereas I used to like to go out to dinner and the like, I prefer now to stay home where I feel safer. I fear RAZUKI will continue to manipulate the criminal justice system to avoid, for as long as humanly possible, actually going into custody.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this Declaration was executed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 at San Diego, California.

