18th March 2008

Statement of Michael Mannion

I have tried my best to depose and assist in the cause of justice. But the following events have dissuaded me to come forward till now.

That I was under fear that in case I deposed, I might be severely assaulted by the persons who have committed the crime on Scarlett.

That I might be falsely implicated by corrupt police officers of Anjuna P.S, who now stand suspended.

That on 23rd February 2008, I was advised by Adv Jos Peter D’Souza from Mapusa, that to secure my life and liberty, I must lie low or immediately leave Goa until he instructed me to return.

I contacted the british high commission in Mumbai, and was directed to approach the Indian Authorities and assist the matter with my deposition.

In fear of my life, I have had a miserable time. I find it hard to believe that it is so difficult for a witness to depose on the facts seen by him in a civilised society.

I sincerely hope that an adequate structure is created, where witnesses can depose without fear.

Even though I have suffered a lot in my attempts to come forward and assist justice, my heart is with Fiona Mackeown whose loss is irreplaceable.