

January 24, 2008

OPEN LETTER

Peter Lowe
Director of Marketing-Canada
Apple Canada Inc.
7495 Birchmount Rd
Markham, Ontario
L3R 5G2
Sent via email:

Re: The sale and promotion of “murder music” through iTunes.ca

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Egale is Canada’s largest national organization advocating on behalf of the gay and lesbian community. **Stop Murder Music (Canada)**, is an organization that combats calls for violence and murder against the gay and lesbian community by certain dancehall artists. In our capacities as Executive Director and Founder respectively, we are writing to you to express our concern about the availability and sale of homophobic music through iTunes.ca. After reading this letter, I hope that you will agree that iTunes.ca should not be a platform for anti-gay artists to promote hatred with the sale of their music in Canada.

I am afraid that you may be unaware that a number of dancehall artists have openly advocated, encouraged and glorified the violence and murder of gays and lesbians in their music. I have enclosed sample lyrics by a number of recording artists, including Elephant Man, Buju Banton and T.O.K, as examples which are typical of the violence advocated toward gays and lesbians.

Incitement of violence and murder offends Canadian law. I would like to bring to your attention the following provisions:

Sections 318 and 319 of the *Criminal Code* make it criminal offences to advocate killing members of a group, or to publicly incite or promote hatred based on a person’s sexual orientation.

Section 13 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* prohibits Internet communications, particularly via the internet, of messages that expose or that are likely to expose a person to hatred on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Given the calls for violence and murder contained in the attached lyric excerpts, I am sure you can appreciate our profound concern about any involvement by iTunes Canada in its dissemination. We believe that your customers care about Canadian values and law and expect iTunes Canada, to take a leadership role in exercising corporate social responsibility.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns in greater detail and to search for a speedy and cooperative resolution to this matter. We will call your office within the next week to follow-up on this letter and thank-you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Helen Kennedy
Executive Director
Egale Canada
8 Wellington St. East, 3rd Flr
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1C5

Akim Adé Larcher
Founder
Stop Murder Music (Canada)
c/o Egale Canada
8 Wellington St. East, 3rd Flr
Toronto, Ontario
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Elephant Man

Real Name: O'Neil Bryan
Date of Birth: 11 September 1975



Release Date: March 27, 2007
Category: World Music
Main artist: [Elephant Man](#)
Label: Greensleeves
Catalog Number: GRELCD605

Track: Log On

Log on and step pon chi chi man

Log on and step on a queer man

[Log on is a type of dance using the right foot in a stepping motion as if to squash a cockroach - the lyrics boast about crushing queers.]

Dance wi a dance and a bun out a freaky man.

Join our dance and let's burn out the queer man

Step pon him like a old cloth

Step on him like an old cloth

A dance wi a dance and a crush out a bingi man .

Join our dance and let's crush queer men

Do di walk, mek mi see the light and di torch dem fast

Do the walk, quickly let me see the lighter and torch

[Lighter and torch: makeshift aerosol flamethrower weapon]

Buju Banton

Real Name: Mark Myrie
Date of Birth: 15 July 1973



Release date: 11/06/2002
Category: World Music
Performer: Banton, Buju
Label: VP Records
Catalog Number: PH2100

Track: **Boom Bye Bye**

Boom [as in gun sound] goodbye, goodbye
[as in we won't be seeing you again, you're dead]
Inna batty bwoy head
In a queer's head
Rude bwoy no promote no nasty man
Rude boys don't promote no queer men
Dem haffi dead
They have to die
Send fi di matic an
Send for the automatic [gun] and
Di Uzi instead
The Uzi instead
Shoot dem no come if we shot dem
Shoot them, don't come if we shoot them
[as in don't come to help them]
Guy come near we
If a man comes near me
Then his skin must peel
Then his skin must peel
[as in pour acid over him]
Burn him up bad like an old tyre wheel
Burn him up badly, like you would burn an old tyre wheel

TOK

Members: Alex McCalla
Roshawn Clarke
Xavier Davidson
Craig Thompson

Group formed: 1993



Release Date: May 07, 2002
Category: Pop Rock
Artist: Various
Label: Isba
Catalog Number: ISBCD5089

Track: Chi Chi Man

From dem a par inna chi chi man car
Those who get together in queer's car
Blaze di fire mek we bun dem! (Bun dem!!)
Blaze the fire, let's burn them! (Burn them !!)
From dem a drink inna chi chi man bar
Those who drink in queer bar
Blaze di fire mek we dun dem (Dun dem!!)
Blaze the fire, let's kill them! (Kill them!!)

It dem bring it to we, hold on nuff coppa a shot
If they bring it to us, hold on, lots of bullets are going to fly
Coppa shot rise up every calico go rat tat tat
Bullets fly, take up every calico and rat-tat-tat
Rat tat tat every chi chi man dem haffi get flat
Rat-tat-tat, every queer has to die
Get flat! Mi and my niggas ago mek a pack
Die! Me and my niggas will make a pact

Chi chi man fi dead and dat's a fact
Queers must die and that's a fact [gun] [shoot]