

CONTEMPTUOUS TWEETS ON [HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/KIMHOCK](https://twitter.com/kimhock)

1. The Attorney-General’s Chambers (“AGC”) has, on 3 June 2014, written to Mr Tan Kim Hock (“Mr Tan”), a pastor with the City Harvest Church, to warn him on account of the following two tweets being posted on his Twitter account located at the website, <https://twitter.com/kimhock>:

Relevant tweets	Details of the tweets
The tweet referring to The Straits Times, posted on 5 May 2014 (“the ST tweet”)	Wow, I'm amazed at the efficiency of ST. They knew it while the court is still going on or do they know earlier ... http://www.straitstimes.com/news/singapore/courts-crime/story/judge-throws-out-application-acquit-city-harvest-church-leaders-20 ...
The tweet referring to the verse in Ecclesiastes 3:16, posted on 6 May 2014 (“the Ecclesiastes tweet”)	Ecclesiastes 3:16 NLT I also noticed that under the sun there is evil in the courtroom. Yes, even the courts of law are corrupt!

2. The ST tweet insinuates that the State Courts of the Republic of Singapore (“the State Courts”) had given The Straits Times preferential and privileged access to information pertaining to whether the accused persons in the ongoing criminal proceedings against a number of leaders of the City Harvest Church (“the City Harvest Trial”) had a case to answer to the charges preferred against them, even before this decision was delivered by the Presiding Judge of the State Courts See Kee Oon (“the Presiding Judge”). The ST tweet thus further insinuates that the State Courts is biased and/or unfair, given that such treatment was not equally accorded to everyone else.

3. The Ecclesiastes tweet insinuates that the “courts of law” in Singapore are “corrupt”, and in particular, that the Court hearing the City Harvest Trial is corrupt.

4. AGC takes the view that the insinuations set out in the two tweets are insinuations which scandalise the Judiciary of the Republic of Singapore. These insinuations are scurrilous, false, and made without any objective basis.

5. According to the official court transcripts, on 5 May 2014, at **2.54pm**, the Presiding Judge had already largely given his substantive decision, and he had stated that “in my view, there is evidence to show that these were sham investments ... [and] were merely disguises for something else”. By **3.10pm**, the Presiding Judge had already ruled that the accused persons in the City Harvest Trial had a case to answer to the charges preferred against them. The Straits Times had only reported this information at **3.15pm**, in its news article (consisting of four short paragraphs), titled “Judge throws out application to acquit City Harvest Church Leaders”.¹ As such, the insinuations in the ST tweet that the Court was being unfair and had given The Straits Times preferential and privileged access to information is baseless and untrue.

6. In addition, Mr Tan has put forward no basis whatsoever for the insinuations in the Ecclesiastes tweet that the “courts of law” in Singapore are “corrupt”, or that the Court hearing the City Harvest Trial is corrupt.

7. While the Ecclesiastes tweet was removed on 9 May 2014, the ST tweet remains on Mr Tan’s Twitter account. In AGC’s letter, Mr Tan has been asked to remove the ST tweet from his Twitter account and publish an apology for the publication of the two tweets on his Twitter account within 7 days from 3 June 2014. Mr Tan has also been warned that publishing such insinuations can amount to contempt of court, and that action may be taken against him.

¹ The Straits Times Website, <<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/singapore/courts-crime/story/judge-throws-out-application-acquit-city-harvest-church-leaders-20>> (accessed 19 May 2014).

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Additional information on Contempt of Court can be found at AGC's website: https://app.agc.gov.sg/Understanding_Legal_Processes.aspx. Please contact AGC's Media Relations Unit for your media queries.

Thank you.