

# False Charges unjustifiable

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The landlady and her agent, who had the gate padlocked so that the occupants were prevented entry to their flat, came up with a shrewd response through their attorney.

First the legal dishonesty (oxymoron?) that "my client does not admit or deny any of the allegations." This was followed by "my client does not know these persons; they have no right of occupancy and are therefore trespassers." Laying a false charge is problematic and may compel the tenant to sue the landlady, especially since conflicting allegations were made to justify the illegal action against the tenant and his companions.

Unknown persons, trespassing, "illegals"- these are loaded words that explode into our traumatised minds in a society grappling with

solutions to combat crime. The attorney then states that since the occupants were trespassers, they committed a criminal offence. It is difficult to make sense of the specious content of the attorney's letter, that these occupants neither was locked out nor occupants of the flat.

Were they locked out? Did they commit a criminal offence or are they "illegals" (foreign nationals) as alleged by the landlady's agent? If an agreement was breached, the law provides a remedy and procedure for its resolution. What is required is to criminalise the illegal actions against tenants by excising this aspect from civil law and incorporating it into criminal legislation. In this way, speedy and effective remedy would be available for the rising "crime" of unlawful actions.