

THE JUDICIARY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AURORA
CASE NO. 1501 OF 2021

Government of the Republic of Aurora

v

ErnestNg0927

JUDGEMENT

A. Background

1. On 1 April 2021, the Judiciary of the Republic of Aurora received a complaint from the plaintiff. The plaintiff has put forward two charges:
 - (1) Charge A — The defendant is abusing his privileges as architect to disrupt the smooth operation of the Republic of Aurora.
 - (2) Charge B — The defendant is perverting the course of justice by denying that he has placed and ignited TNTs in the City of Cenario.
2. The Republic of Aurora is regulated by statutory laws, case laws, customary laws, and precedents, known as Common Law. In respect to the fact that there are no statutory laws in force regulating actions of players in the Republic of Aurora, the Judiciary shall declare how it will judge in respect of the legal system of the Republic of Aurora.
3. The Common Law system is a body of unwritten laws based on legal precedents established by the courts. These precedents include judgements by the

Complaints and Irregularities Council or other authorities of the Synercraft Network, as they served as the higher court of the Republic of Aurora in the past. The Common Law system also includes judgements from another common law jurisdiction, such as the Watersuno (under the Synercraft Network) or KreemaCraft Network.

B. Details of the Incident

4. On April 1 at 17:31, the defendant sent an image to the public chat group of the Republic of Aurora (“A0”), depicting that his Minecraft client has frozen, he then added “what happened to AU (the Republic of Aurora)? lol” with a laughing emoji. (See **Appendix I**)
5. At 18:25 of the same day, the President of the Republic of Aurora asked the defendant in A0 if he has done something related to entities in the server (again). The defendant denied, afterwards he claimed he is just doing something to amuse himself as it is April Fools’ Day.
6. A participant of A0 suggested that the defendant has placed TNTs in the server, claiming that the defendant has told him beforehand. The defendant later claimed that there were 10 billion blocks of TNTs placed.
7. The defendant said that he is unsatisfied with the President of the Republic of Aurora publicly making fun of him for a spoofy light rail plan, and he said that “you’ve asked for it” in Chinese.
8. While the President of Republic of Aurora warned the defendant for causing significant disruptions to the operation of the server, the defendant told that “saying this kind of stuff on April Fools’ Day would not work” in Chinese, although he later withdrew that remark.

9. The CoreProtect records later reflect that the defendant has indeed placed TNTs in the City of Cenario. (See **Appendix II**)

C. Charge A

10. April Fools' Day is an annual custom on April 1 consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes, which is widely observed in different parts of the world. It does not, however, mean that someone can do whatever they presume as a joke on April Fools' Day regardless of its legality, nor does it imply that actions done on April Fools' Day do not come with them consequences and responsibilities.
11. Article 2, Section 3 of the Executive Order 1 ("EXO1") provides that the provision of the of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR") are applied to the Republic of Aurora. The Judiciary will judge accordingly to the ICCPR.
12. Paragraph 2, Article 19 of ICCPR states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression. Paragraph 3 of the same article, however, states that the exercise of the above right may be subject to certain restrictions, such as for the protection of national security or of public order (*ordre public*), or of public health or morals.^[1]

[1] Article 19 of the ICCPR provides:

- "1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.
2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.
3. The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:
 - (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;
 - (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (*ordre public*), or of public health or morals."

13. The defendant is using his right to freedom of expression by saying that he is unsatisfied with the President of the Republic of Aurora. However, his right to freedom of expression is restrained by the ICCPR when in breach of national security or public order.
14. The actions that the defendant has taken has been proved to disrupt the normal operation of the nation, as well as the rights of others to enjoy the harmonious environment the nation provides. Using WorldEdit is one of the powers of being an architect, by placing a large number of TNTs to interrupt the operation of the nation is an abuse of its power. We therefore judge that Charge A is substantiated.

D. Charge B

15. Perverting the course of justice is a common law offence. The offence consists of an act or conduct which has a tendency and is intended to pervert the course of public justice. For the offence to be established, the defendant must have had the intention to pervert.
16. The defendant has been found on multiple occasions acquiescing to the action of placing TNTs, and has since admitted that he has taken such action in a Discord voice channel. We judge that the defendant does not has the intention to pervert the course of justice.

E. Conclusion

17. The defendant is guilty of abusing his privileges as architect to disrupt the smooth operation of the Republic of Aurora; the defendant is not guilty of perverting the course of justice by denying that he has placed and ignited TNTs in the City of Cenario.

18. The “merits offset demerits” (功過相抵) principle applies on the Republic of Aurora as a custom derived from statutory laws of the Synercraft Network. Observing the contributions and efforts made by the defendant in the Republic of Aurora in the past, we hereby judge that the defendant will be subject to a 7-day temporary ban and a 14-day temporary warning.

19. In the event where the plaintiff or the defendant does not agree on the judgement, appeal can be made within 14 days to the Judiciary for review with the respective case number.

Appendix I



Appendix II

