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Today Virginia Valdez was sentenced for the crime that she committed three years ago against her then husband Cesar Valdez.

Previously Ms. Valdez entered a plea to assault with a deadly weapon (ADW) with a scissors which is a “one strike” felony. She was sentenced to 420 hours of community service, three years probation and a ten year restraining order preventing her from contact with Cesar Valdez.

Cesar agreed that Ms. Valdez could enter the plea and receive this punishment, because the criminal case has been dragging on for three years with numerous continuances and Cesar wanted to be able to go on with his life.

Cesar is left with some resentment against the criminal justice system because he feels that if he had been a woman victim of domestic violence that the case would not have been permitted to be delayed for so long and that the punishment for Virginia would have been harsher.

In other words he feels that he has been the victim of a double standard and that domestic violence against men is not taken as seriously as spousal violence against women.

Is there a double standard? Cesar feels that there is and that men are less likely to be believed because of stereotypes about men.

As a feminist I believe that the saying “there is no excuse for abuse” applies equally to men and women. Violence is horrific whether the victims are male or female.

In this case, clearly Cesar was a victim of a crime and his wife is convicted of a violent crime against him. Cesar has been very courageous and has made every effort to conduct himself with patience and with dignity for the last three years. He did nothing to justify such an attack and should never have been a victim of violence by Virginia.

Long marriages are complicated and full of emotional minefields, but violence is never the answer to resolving issues. I am happy that Cesar came to me for support and assistance and I hope that in the future neither men nor women will be victimized by such a violent, unjustified and painful attack by the person they love and whom they had every right to trust.

Gloria Allred  
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Representing Cesar Valdez  
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