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Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Alvin Ray Quarles

On November 8th 2013, we held a press conference to protest the release from prison of Alvin Ray Quarles a.k.a “The Bolder Than Most” serial rapist. I represent two of his victims, Cynthia Medina and Mary Taylor, who were shocked and very distressed when they learned last year that Quarles was scheduled to be released in November 2013 after serving only half of his sentence.

In February 1989, as a result of a plea deal, Quarles plead guilty to four counts of rape, 6 counts of burglary with intent to commit a felony and two counts of robbery. 48 other charges were dismissed in the plea deal.

Quarles was sentenced to 50 years in prison. At the time, the victims whom I now represent were led to believe by the San Diego District Attorney’s office that there was truth in sentencing and that Quarles would in fact serve 50 years. The victims found some comfort in the sentence in that he would not be released until he was 77 years old.

Then last year one of the victims, Cynthia Medina, heard that some prisoners might be released earlier than the sentences that they had been ordered to serve. Concerned, she decided to check to see if Quarles would be released early. She hoped that he would not.

To her horror, she learned by contacting victims services at the prison, that he would be released on November 16, 2013, after serving only half of his prison term. Mary immediately notified the San Diego D.A.’s office. Later the D.A.’s office indicated to Cynthia that they only become aware of the imminent early release of Quarles after they had read an interview that Cynthia had given to a local newspaper about the early release of Quarles.

The San Diego D.A.’s office then decided to file a petition seeking a civil involuntary commitment of Alvin Ray Quarles. When he was arraigned on the petition, Cynthia, Mary and I went to court in San Diego County. Both victims were able to see Mr. Quarles briefly when he was brought into court.

Later, the court determined that there was probable cause to believe that Quarles is a sexually violent predator and the court scheduled tomorrow July 22, 2014 for a jury trial in this matter.

Both Cynthia and Mary intended to be present for the trial. They both felt that the San Diego D.A.’s office failed to inform them 25 years ago of the true consequences of Quarles’ plea and failed to tell them the truth about the sentence that he would actually serve as a result of that plea. These victims were entitled to truth in sentencing, but they failed to receive it.

Initially, Quarles had been charged with two counts of oral copulation and one count of forcible rape as to Cynthia. He entered a plea to two counts of armed rape.

Also, initially, Quarles faced three counts as to Mary. He was charged with one count of robbery, one count of assault with intent to commit a felony with a knife and one count of solicitation of murder. He entered a plea only to burglary in the first degree.

At the civil commitment trial, all of the past crimes for which he was charged, would have been relevant on the issue of whether or not he is a sexually violent predator. In addition, his present mental state, and whether or not he presently has a qualified mental disorder that predisposes him to commit sexually violent predatory acts would also be relevant. It would have been a battle of the experts, but there was also a possibility that these victims would testify. If that became necessary, then once again Mary and Cynthia would have found the courage to do so. They testified in the criminal case previously and they were and are committed to doing everything they can to win justice in this matter.

Emotionally, they were preparing themselves for the difficult moment when they would once again face Quarles in court and testify about the crimes that he committed against them and what they suffered as a result.

However, that trial will no longer take place tomorrow, since Quarles admitted last week to the petition which alleged that he is still a sexually violent predator. As a result, he will not be set free, but instead, he will be remanded to Coalinga State Hospital where sexually violent predators receive mental health care.

While this is good news for the victims that Quarles will not be released as a free man back into the community at this time, Mary and Cynthia are still concerned.

That it because he still has the right under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6608 or 6605 to bring a petition in the future to be released and argue that he is no longer a sexually violent predator. If the court agrees than he will be released at that time.

Cynthia, Mary and I will be monitoring Mr. Quarles' custody status.

On their behalf, I have requested that they be directly notified if Mr. Quarles files such a petition.

Cynthia and Mary should not have the added burden of checking on his release in order to feel safe. We want them to know that they will be automatically and directly notified if he files such a petition.

Both Cynthia and Mary have been very courageous throughout this ordeal. They deserve to be treated with respect and sensitivity. They should not have to be re-victimized again by a system which has already failed them by failing to tell them the truth about how long he would remain in prison and by failing to automatically inform them of his pending release.

Although it will be difficult, they are committed to testifying at any future hearing if the court permits them to do so, because their goal is not only to protect themselves, but also the community.

I am proud to represent them. They are empowered and determined women who will not stop until they achieve justice in this case.

Attorney Gloria Allred
Representing
Cynthia Medina and Mary Taylor
July 21, 2014