

Contact: Gloria Allred

Phone: 323-653-6530

Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred

Today I am here with another brave accuser of Robert Sylvester Kelly (aka R. Kelly). Lizzette Martinez explained her allegations against R. Kelly when she was featured on Lifetime's documentary, "Surviving R. Kelly." She alleged that she met Mr. Kelly at a mall when she was only 17 years old and that she was victimized by him when she was under the age of 18 and after that as well. The impact on Lizzette of her victimization by Mr. Kelly has been severe, physically and emotionally, and the trauma of his victimization of her continues to this day.

Despite that, Lizzette has been courageous and decided to speak out today. This will be her first public statement since R. Kelly (now defendant Kelly in the criminal case in Chicago) has been arrested and charged with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse against 3 alleged victims who were underage, and one adult.

Lizzette and I are speaking out today, because we are both disturbed by statements made by the defense about the alleged victims.

Steve Greenberg, who is one of the lawyers representing this defendant, has stated that all of the victims are lying. All of the victims are expected to testify under oath at the trial and many, if not all, most likely testified under oath before the Grand Jury.

Other accusers that I represent have met with and provided the facts underlying their allegations to law enforcement in a number of different jurisdictions.

Defendant Kelly has not testified under oath about these allegations and I suspect he will decline to do so at trial. I think that those facts speak for themselves.

In addition, many of the accusers of defendant Kelly have suffered extreme backlash from Kelly's fans. This has been very upsetting to them, but they have persisted and refused to remain silent. They will not cave in to intimidation, threats or personal attacks by those who seem to be influenced by the cult of celebrity. I commend my clients and many other accusers for their courage.

Another defense tactic was revealed by defense attorney, Brian Nix, who is quoted by Rolling Stone as having stated that his client R. Kelly, "believes that the scripted documentary by Lifetime has created collusion between and amongst female friends who have been converted to victims."

My message to R. Kelly is clear. Nobody that I represent has been converted to being a victim by her female friends. The only person who has converted Lizzette to becoming a victim is R. Kelly.

Also, it appears that harming children is a long-standing practice of Mr. Kelly. He reportedly owes \$169,000 to his own children in unpaid court ordered child support. Not only has his failure to pay hurt his own children, but now he is charged with numerous counts of aggravated sexual abuse of other children who were teenagers, as well.

Finally, I am very concerned that law enforcement has reportedly been provided with a second video allegedly showing Mr. Kelly engaging in sexual abuse with a different minor than reportedly appeared on the first tape.

I also represent victims who have not gone public and they are very concerned that they were recorded being sexually abused and they pray that this tape and others will not be provided to the press, and will only be given to law enforcement.

Finally, as I have said previously, other jurisdictions are also investigating Mr. Kelly. I have been in contact with at least 4 other law enforcement agencies and many of my clients have spoken to law enforcement as well.

We will continue to be alert to any violations of our clients' rights and any threats that are made against them.

This time I have every reason to believe that there will be justice for Mr. Kelly and a number of his victims.

Gloria Allred

Attorney-at-Law

Representing numerous accusers of R. Kelly

Including Lizzette Martinez

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