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Today we are here to announce the filing of what may be the first civil lawsuit of its kind on behalf of a child victim of sex trafficking against a buyer of a commercial sex act with that child.

Cristina Fierro, now age 18, was only 16 years old when Rasheed Davis insisted that she have sex for money. When Cristina refused, Davis violently assaulted her by punching her repeatedly and stomping on her face, causing her to suffer a bloody nose and a swollen eye among other injuries. After beating Cristina, Davis forced her to change into a dress and get into a car. Cristina cried hysterically throughout this ordeal and attempted to get help by calling her uncle and his wife and speaking to them to ask for assistance.

Davis drove to the Holiday Inn in Suffern, New York. Upon arrival at the hotel, Davis brought Cristina to Room 160. There he ordered her to have sex with the man inside the room and collect \$300.00 for it.

Cristina, in fear because of the beating she had endured, entered

the room with her face still bloody and heavy bruising still fresh and clearly visible on her face. Inside the room was Lawrence Taylor, former Hall of Fame football star, whom Cristina did not recognize.

She told Mr. Taylor that she had never been paid for sex before and that she didn't want to do it. Cristina was crying and tears were running down her face. Although Cristina alleges that she repeatedly tried to push Taylor off of her Taylor continued until, according to the allegations in Cristina's lawsuit, he was able to force himself inside of her.

When Cristina finally succeeded in separating herself from Taylor, she discovered that the condom Taylor used was stuck inside of her. She ran into the bathroom crying hysterically. Taylor handed her \$300.00 in cash and told her to leave the room.

Davis, waiting outside, took the cash and drove her back to the Bronx in the early hours of May 6, 2010. Cristina again secretly texted her uncle from the car and begged for help.

The police arrested Davis when he arrived at his home and they arrested Taylor while he was in his room at the Holiday Inn.

Lawrence Taylor pled guilty to patronizing a prostitute and sexual misconduct. Cristina and I were appalled that Taylor was permitted to enter such a plea since she was not a prostitute, but was instead a child victim of sex trafficking. Even the District Attorney affirmed to the press after Taylor's sentencing that Cristina was a victim - not a prostitute.

Taylor received a sentence of probation and was required to register as a sex offender on March 22, 2011. On August 10, 2011, Davis pled guilty to sex trafficking. The victim was Cristina. He was sentenced to 7 years in prison.

Today Cristina has filed a lawsuit in Federal Court in New York, Case Number 11CIV. 8573, against Taylor under the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act which permits a child victim of sex trafficking to bring a civil action.

Cristina is also suing Taylor under the Rockland County Administrative Code which establishes a civil cause of action for "any person claiming to be injured by an individual who commits a crime of violence motivated by gender."

Cristina also alleges in her lawsuit that Taylor assaulted and battered her.

She is seeking compensatory and punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial as well as attorney fees and costs.

This lawsuit was filed by New York Attorney Mariann Wang and I will be making a motion with the court to be admitted *Pro Hac Vice* to represent Cristina along with Ms. Wang after Mr. Taylor is served.

This case is important because it is estimated that each year in this country alone thousands of children's bodies are being sold for commercial sex. While criminal prosecution is necessary it is also important for child victims of sex trafficking to know that they can also sue the buyers of their bodies for the damage that these criminal perpetrators have inflicted on them.

In other words, not only can the pimp be sued but also the buyer who purchases a child's body for sexual exploitation may be subject to civil liability.

Suing the buyer can have an impact on the demand for commercial

sex of children. If buyers know that they may be liable for significant awards of damages for the physical and emotional suffering that they cause a child it may make them think twice before they engage in this reprehensible criminal act and civil wrong.

To date Mr. Taylor has not suffered any serious legal consequences. It is time for him to be accountable to Cristina. We look forward to asserting, protecting and vindicating her rights in a court of law.

GLORIA ALLRED
Attorney-At-Law
Representing Cristina Fierro
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