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Lili Bernard Statement on Bill Cosby May 1, 2015, NYC

My name is Lili Bernard. I was born in Cuba and immigrated to the United States with my family when I was around three years old. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from City University of New York, and a Master in Fine Arts from Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles I am a wife and a mother of six children, ages 6 to 17.

In the early 1990's, during the last season of The Cosby Show, I guest-starred as the zany and very pregnant Mrs. Minifield.

In preparation for my appearance on The Cosby Show, Bill Cosby mentored me. He told me, "You're one of my kids, Bernard." He praised me, spoke favorably about my Ivy League education, my athleticism, my being able to speak multiple languages and my skills in acting and painting. He lifted me up. I believed him. After all, he was Bill Cosby.

After he had won my complete trust and adoration he drugged me and raped me.

The last contact I had with Bill Cosby was at The Cosby Show studios on my birthday in 1992. His last words to me were, "As far as I'm concerned, Bernard, you're dead. Do you hear me? You're dead, Bernard. You don't exist. I never wanna see your face again. Now get the hell out of here!" I interpreted that as a death threat and feared for my life. I told my talent agents about what I had endured with Bill Cosby. I also told my family, several friends and my pastor.

A few months after my last contact with Bill Cosby, I became highly suicidal. I sought help and was hospitalized. When I was discharged from the hospital in the summer of 1992, I was assigned to a trauma therapist who counseled me intensively -- initially five days a week. The focus of the therapy was what Bill Cosby did to me.

I still suffer panic attacks and night terrors as a result of what Mr. Cosby did to me.

I am coming forward to show my six year old daughter to stand in truth, and to say that I have survived Bill Cosby's drugging and raping me. I stand here to take back my power and to confront the fear that has paralyzed me for so many years.

I would like to thank God, my family and friends, my art collectors Jerry and Tiffany Blackwell for sponsoring my travel, and the detectives in Atlantic City, New Jersey - my progressive home state that has no statute of limitation for rape prosecution. They provided a safe and nurturing environment during the more than five hours that we were with them yesterday. Finally, I want to thank my attorney Gloria Allred for her generosity, compassion and conviction.