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## **Statement of Mary Taylor**

25 years ago I was surprised in my home by a man with a knife. I had been out with friends. I walked in to my home and heard my roommate call my name. I went to her room and saw her sitting on her bed wrapped in a towel. Alvin Ray Quarles was standing near her. He had a mask on his face and a butcher knife in his hand.

He pointed the knife at me and told me to undress. I remember being in fear and doing what he ordered me to do, so he would not kill me. I closed my eyes and prayed. Ultimately, my roommate and I were one of some 18 people assaulted by Quarles during his two-year reign of terror.

After it was over, he ran out the door and we called 911. The police came and took me to the hospital where a rape exam was performed. I gave my statement to the police, to the investigators and to the DA's office. When Quarles was caught (just over a month later), I went in and identified him in a police line up and I testified at the preliminary hearing.

Just as we were coming up on the date of the trial, I received word from the DA's office that a plea deal had been made. We were told at the time that this deal was to save us the "trauma" of testifying at a trial. I am not really sure what we were being saved from we had already faced Quarles and testified against him in court.

The Deputy DA at the time, Richard Lewis, invited us, the victims, in to discuss this deal. The deal had already been made. This was an information meeting, not a request for our input or agreement. We were told that in return for a guilty plea, Quarles would be sentenced to 50 years in prison. As a DA's daughter (my dad was an elected DA in Rockland County NY back in the 1960's-70's), I knew to ask the question "*What does 50 years really mean*"? The response I received was "*50 means 50. Trust me. This guy is not getting out of prison until he is in his 70's*".

To my horror this summer I learned that Quarles is scheduled to be released November 16th, at age 51; 25 years ahead of schedule.

It is clear to me now that the statement by the DA's office 25 years ago was a bold faced lie. I have been informed by the current DA's office, that at that time, sex offenders were only required to serve half of their sentence, so according to the DA's office and the California criminal justice system Quarles has now "completed his sentence". In fact, 50 always meant 25, in those days. However, for those of us who were victims, as well as members of our community, we believed that 50 meant 50.

I have been in contact with the current DA's office and everyone I have talked to has been empathetic and helpful, but polite behavior now does not excuse outright dishonesty displayed to victims by this office 25 years ago. Now when I hear of a person being sentenced to prison, I find myself wondering what is the real sentence.

I think if you ask any victim of a sexual assault, they will tell you that the hardest thing they have to deal with is regaining a sense of power and/or control. I worked very hard after this event to re-establish my control. I finished my Master's degree, I volunteered for the SD Police Department Crisis Team (that assists victims and witnesses of crimes), I have worked as educator who has whole-heartedly promoted teaching self-defense to our students. But today, I feel victimized again, by a DA's office that basically sold us, and the community a 'bill of goods', obviously confident in the belief that 25 years later, no one would be paying attention. Well guess what? I am paying attention, and so should our community. Standing up today against this blatant dishonesty, is my attempt to once again regain control. Quarles belongs in prison that was what we were promised, that is what we expected. It is now up to the DA to get it right this time.

Mary Taylor  
November 8, 2013