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Today, we are on the agenda of the California State Athletic Commission to appeal a decision by fight officials to stop Christy Martin's last fight against Dakota Stone at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on June 4, 2011. We will argue that a discriminatory double standard, based on gender and sexual stereotyping, played a major role in the decision to terminate the bout, resulting in depriving Christy Martin of her 50th victory in a professional boxing match.

Christy Martin is the Women's Super Welterweight Boxing Champion of the world. She was the first woman athlete in any sport to be featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

Last November, her then husband is alleged to have attempted to murder her by stabbing her, shooting her and pistol whipping her. He

has been arrested and is in custody, awaiting trial in October on a charge of attempted murder.

Despite this horrific experience, Christy was determined to continue to fight and win her 50th victory. After being released from the hospital, she began intensive training and the fight that she had hoped to win finally took place on June 4, 2011 against Dakota Stone.

This was not the first bout between Ms. Martin and Ms. Stone. In fact, Ms. Martin had soundly beaten Ms. Stone on September 9, 2009 and Ms. Martin actually did so with a broken hand. In the June 4, 2011 fight, in the fourth round and with Christy ahead, Ms. Martin suffered an apparent hand injury to her right hand; however, she continued to fight hard for the rest of the round and used her right hand a number of times. She even managed to knock Ms. Stone down with a combination of a left upper cut and a subsequent right to Ms. Stone's jaw. The judges awarded the fourth round to Ms. Martin by a wide margin (30 to 25

points). At the end of the fourth round, the referee and fight doctor went to Ms. Martin's corner. The doctor asked for her right hand and squeezed her glove several times. She did not react visibly and the fight doctor announced her "good" to continue.

Knowing that Ms. Martin was easily winning the fight and aware of her excellent physical condition, her trainer, Miguel Diaz told her to fight left handed from that point forward. Confident that she could easily win the fight left handed and having already beaten Ms. Stone once with a broken hand, Ms. Martin readily agreed to fight left handed. She fought the fifth round left handed, fought well and was clearly able to protect herself. At the end of the fifth round, the judges scorecard showed the score to be Ms. Martin 145 and Ms. Stone 138 points, in short Ms. Martin had a commanding lead.

Between the fifth and sixth rounds, the referee, acting on behalf of the fight doctor, approached Ms. Martin's corner and ordered Christy to

use her right hand. During the sixth and final round, Ms. Martin continued to fight well with her left hand and she continued to outfight her opponent. Ms. Martin moved well, threw short punches, avoided Ms. Stone's punches and was never against the ropes or in a corner.

With around 51 seconds remaining, in the final round, Ms. Martin saw her chance to throw the right handed punch that the referee had instructed her to throw. Since she knew that she was comfortably winning the fight with her left hand, Ms. Martin threw that punch with her right hand for only one reason. She threw it because the officials had told her to throw it and because she did not want to have the fight stopped because of any inferences of her refusal to comply with an official's directive. Ms. Martin was able to land that punch. The impact of the punch caused Ms. Martin a brief moment of pain which caused her to wince. She turned her body in the direction that the punch carried it, turning away from Ms. Stone for a brief instant. Ms. Martin then immediately turned to face Ms. Stone, ready to fight for the remainder

(around 51 seconds) of the fight.

What happened next was shocking. Despite the fact that Ms. Martin was one, clearly winning the fight (ahead 145 points to 138 on the judges' scorecards), two, clearly able to land punches, three, clearly able to maneuver away from Ms. Stone and otherwise protect herself, four, never on the ropes or in a corner, five, not running away from Ms. Stone, six, not clinching Ms. Stone to run out the clock, seven, clearly fit to continue, eight, clearly willing to continue, nine, clearly not in undue pain and ten, only 51 seconds away from outright victory, the referee began waving his hands because the fight doctor had stopped the fight. Ms. Martin certainly would have won, had she been permitted to fight the last 51 seconds of the bout.

While still in the ring, Christy immediately pleaded with officials to be allowed to continue, but her request was denied and her opponent was awarded the win by a TKO.

Today, we are on the agenda of the California State Athletic Commission to ask for a reversal of the decision to stop the fight. We believe that the decision was the product of sexual stereotyping and sex discrimination. It appears to us that officials concluded that because Ms. Martin was a female, who appeared to have a broken right hand, she would be unable to defend herself for the last 51 seconds of the fight that she was winning. It appears that officials acted upon some misguided notion of female lack of toughness or some misguided notion that there was a greater need to protect female fighters than there is to protect male fighters. Had Ms. Martin been a male boxer, history shows that this bout would never have been stopped under the circumstances. History of male fights include the following:

Facts:

- 1) Floyd Mayweather v. Carlos Hernandez - in the 12th round, Mayweather told his corner that both of his hands were hurt. Mayweather won by decision.
- 2) Kermit Cintron v. Jesse Feliciano - Los Angeles, CA (11/2007)

- Cintron broke his hand in the first round of the bout. He continued fighting into the tenth round when the referee stopped the bout because Cintron threw damaging blows to Felicio's head. Cintron won the bout.

3) Joe Calzaghe v. Peter Manfredo - Calzaghe has a history of hand problems and still competed in the match. He won in the third round by knockout.

4) Wladimir Klitschko v. Lamon Brewster - Klitscher fought with a broken left hand for most of the fight. In the seventh round his opponent's trainer stopped the fight.

5) Shane Cameron v. Bob Mirovic - Cameron crushed his knuckle in the second round and could be heard telling his trainer that his hand was broken. He won the bout in the eighth round with a knockout.

6) Brandon Rios v. Miguel Acosta - Rios broke his hand in the eighth round and told his corner about the hand. He continued to fight. He told his corner about his hand again in the ninth round and was told to fight left handed. He won in a tenth round knockout.

7) Kris Hughes v. James Ancliff - Hughes broke his hand in the

second round, went eight more rounds and won by decision.

8) Ty Barnett v. Tyrese Hendrix - Barnett broke his right hand and won in an eight round decision.

9) David Haye v. Nikolai Valuev - Haye broke his hand in the second or third round from blows to the head of Valuev. He went on to win on points, thus gaining the WBA Heavyweight belt.

10) Paul Malignaggi v. Jose Miguel Cotto - Malignaggi hurt his right hand in the sixth round. His left hand was also hurt. He continued to fight with his left hand because the pain was not as bad. He end up breaking his left hand and still won the bout in the tenth round.

11) Paul Malignaggi v. Lovemore N'Dou - Malignaggi broke his hand in the sixth round but fought the remaining six rounds to win in a split decision over N'Dou.

There are many, many more examples which I have provided to the commission of male boxers not only fighting with a broken hand and injuries worse than that, but also winning with those injuries and never having the fight stopped as a result. Although Christy Martin's fight was against another woman, the decision to stop the fight, we contend was an abuse of discretion and was illegal in that it was the product of a sexist double standard. In short, a different standard was applied in deciding to fight that stop than has been applied in the past in fights between male boxers. Christy had a right to be treated as a fighter, not as a female fighter who needed more protection from risk of harm than a male fighter needs. This decision should be reversed. It has wide implications for women in boxing and in many other sports as well. Christy is a true champion and we believe that the commission should reverse the decision on her June 4th fight today.

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representing Christy Martin
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