

Samuel Valenzuela III is a US citizen of Hispanic and Native American origin, born in the year 1977. In his childhood he had been living on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico for some years. Later the state Nevada became home of him and a part of his family. In March 1994 he lived there with his mother and sister in an apartment. On the 16th of March his family and he were looking after a two-year-old child called Alyssa, daughter of Charity, a neighbor who had asked them to look after her child for some hours.

Around 10 pm Charity returned and picked the girl up, who was peacefully asleep at that point of time. About 45 minutes later she called Samuel and begged him to drive her with her child to the hospital nearby.

The doctor in charge detected that the girl had a fresh, heavily bleeding wound in her anus. The timeframe showed that the injury must have happened while the girl was already back in her mother's care.

As agreed with Charity Samuel drove back to the hospital after about an hour to pick Charity and Alyssa up. His sister came with him. When they arrived they saw Charity standing in the middle of five or six police officers who brought Samuel to the police station for a rape kit examination and blood draw. Although none of the several tests pointed at him as an offender, although all the examinations were without a result, Samuel was questioned for hours.

It came to light that Charity had claimed that Alyssa had said Samuel would have hurt her. Later Alyssa was questioned by several people but at no point of time she confirmed her mother's assertion.

No traces of blood or other evidences for a wound were found in the apartment of Samuel's family, and in Charity's apartment they found no evidences that Samuel had been there.

During the medical examination of Alyssa no DANN-evidences or other evidences for a rape were found, obviously the wound was caused by a tool.

Charity is member of a rich and very influential family while Samuel is from a lower-income background. During the determinations was Samuel in investigative custody. Months later he came to court and got a public defender at his side because his family didn't have the money for an attorney. The public defender did nothing to help Samuel during the trial, he did not point at the several inconsistencies which would have shown that Samuel can't have done it.

So finally Samuel was found guilty although he had neither a motive nor an opportunity to do this crime. He was completely surprised by the verdict of guilty because he knew he was innocent and that nearly nothing spoke for his guilt.

Convicted for having caused substantial harm with a sexual motivation to a less than 16 years old victim, Samuel started his life sentence at Ely State prison. It is said that this prison is one of the most brutal high security prisons in the USA, accommodating many violent dangerous criminals. It is said that the living conditions and the interaction between prisoners and correctional officers are extremely dire.

Discredited as a child abuser Samuel had to defend himself against physical attacks again and again and was injured several times over the years.

Samuel's public defender didn't inform him about the chance for an appeal after the verdict, so Samuel missed this chance. His first parole hearing was at the end of the year 2003, the next were in 2006 and 2009, but every time parole was denied.

When he tried to stay completely away from conflicts and fights and stopped defending himself whenever he was attacked to avoid to attract negative attention by violent behavior, he was at the mercy of the other prisoners, who used this by increasing the brutality and amount of their attacks against him.

After an extremely brutal assault he was brought to the infirmary with grievous bodily harm. At this point of time Samuel had already spent 17 years at Ely State prison.

Some months later Samuel was transferred to another prison with better living conditions.

Today Samuel is 35 years old. In case that his next parole hearing in three years fails he may have to wait another three years until his next parole hearing. But if he gets out on parole he will hardly have the chance for a humane life in freedom.

Physically and psychologically scarred he has neither money nor education nor work experience. Apart from that he would have to live under the statutory restrictions designed for people living on parole as well as those designed for registered sexual offenders.

For example Samuel won't be allowed to choose his residence freely, could not raise a family and would have to live under constant social condemnation. Furthermore he would often become a suspect whenever a crime happens in his environment, so that another wrongful conviction might happen to him.

For 18 years it has been his biggest wish to clear his reputation by proving his innocence officially, but he still doesn't have the money for a good attorney.

By the help of an attorney or paralegal he might be able to formulate a petition which leads to a reconsideration of his case. Earlier attempts have failed because Samuel doesn't have the judicial knowledge for finding the right formulations on his own.

As soon as a reconsideration of his case is approved the state will give financial help and will offer him a legal counsel to help him, but until this point is reached Samuel gets no support by the government at all.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Samuel needs an attorney to formulate a petition by which a reconsideration of his case becomes possible. Only by this he can hope for financial support and a legal counsel by the state. But still the needed money is missing so that Samuel is dependent on donations.

DONATIONS