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<u>VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT – Sentencing of Caleb Lacey</u> April 9, 2010

by Edit Vanegas

Dear Judge Carter,

I stand before you today as a father and a husband who has lost everything. The morning of February 19, 2009 will forever be in my memory. I replay in my mind my two daughters, Susana and Andrea, screaming for their Daddy to help them and I couldn't get to them. I hear those voices everyday. I felt so helpless knowing there was nothing I could do and knowing how much they were hurting and suffering. It's something I can't get out of my mind. I don't understand why Caleb Lacey would set a fire knowing that the entire family was sleeping. Why?

I miss my daughters so much. They would always teach me English and bake for me. We used to go to church together as a family. We used to do a lot of things together as a family; go shopping, go to the beach, the pool, soccer games. Now it's very difficult for me. When I do anything with my boys we don't feel complete because there are four people missing.

What Caleb Lacey did was cowardly and cruel. If he had a problem with

someone in my family, why didn't he come to me like a man and talk with me? No, he did the cowardly thing and waited until the entire family was asleep and started a fire in the only doorway out of our apartment, trapping us.

My boys are heartbroken without their mother, sisters and brother. They are not the same as they used to be before this happened. They are both in counseling and Eddie is on medication. They were there that night and will never be able to forget. They loved their mother. She used to do everything for them. She would go to their school and talk with their teachers to find out what they should be doing and what they were learning in class. She would read the Bible with them every night and they would pray together. I don't understand why someone would commit such a cruel act. It takes a heartless person to do that. Everyone here knows Caleb Lacey lit that fire. He confessed to it! How would you feel Caleb if someone murdered your entire family? Why did his attorney accuse me when he knew his client confessed to the murder?

My girls always wanted to meet my mother who lives in El Salvador and my mother always wanted them to come see her. I was going to bring my family to El Salvador. Now, she will never get to meet her two granddaughters. My mother has suffered too because of this. She has been physically sick knowing what all of us are going through and what happened to our family.

I have been unable to work since February 19,2009. I wake up every morning and think that I don't want to wake up but I remember Eddie and Leonel and know that I have to get up for them. I can't concentrate on anything except my family and what they went through before they died. I can't stop thinking about how they suffered because of you Caleb Lacey. Your honor, I know nothing can bring back my family and no matter how long he's in prison it will never be long enough but Caleb Lacey deserves to get the maximum sentence allowed by law. He murdered four people!! He took the lives of four innocent people who were kind, gentle, loving and giving people, characteristics that are foreign to someone like Caleb Lacey! Thank you, Judge Carter, for allowing my family to speak today and let you know how important and special my family was.

Edit Vanegas

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

Presented by America Chavez on April 9, 2010

Dear Judge Carter,

It has been over a year since the brutal murders of my sister,

Morena, my nieces, Andrea and Susana and my nephew, Saul, who

were burned alive by a cold blooded killer named Caleb Lacey.

My sister was the most loving and giving person. She would do

anything to help people. She would take homeless people to her

home and give them food and a warm place to stay until they got

on their feet. She was a wonderful sister to me, the best mother.

She would do anything for her children. She would even give her life

for them, like she did. A good daughter, good friend and a good

neighbor. She was an Angel on Earth.

Andrea was a sweet little girl, smart and loving. She wanted to be the best soccer player and she wanted to be a doctor. She had so many dreams. But her life was taken away by an evil being who burned her alive. Caleb Lacey, you are an evil monster.

Susana was so sweet. She loved playing the violin. Now she plays the violin in the presence of God. She used to love making cakes and she would call me to go to her house and eat her cake. I miss them so much. She always helped her twin brother, Leonel, to do his homework. She wanted to be a teacher, but she was also burned by that monster, who has no remorse, no heart towards other innocent lives.

Saul was a good son, brother, nephew, friend and a good father to his baby, Jaiden. He always took care of his little brothers and sisters. He worked in a restaurant and every night he used to bring pizza for his little brother and sisters. February 19, 2009 was the last pizza he brought to his brother and sisters. Saul was a great father but sadly Saul never got to see his son's first birthday. Baby Jaiden was only 10 months old when his father was also burned alive by a devil's disciple.

Ever since February 19, 2009, I have had no peace. I feel empty. I miss them so much. It is still hard for me and my family to believe that they are gone. I miss their smiles. Caleb Lacey - you are a

monster, a cold blooded killer. Because of you my two little nephews, Leonel and Eddie, and my nephew Jose had to suffer so much. They are so scared to go to sleep, thinking they are going to be burned like their mother, sisters and brother. They were forced to grow up too fast. They had to get a lot of therapy. They cry a lot because you killed their mom, their sisters and Saul. They have to endure the worst nightmares. They can't sleep. They will never have their mom to read them a story at night. They won't have a mom to be there when they graduate or get married. Little Jaiden Preza won't have a father to play with him or take him to school. He will never know his father because you, Caleb Lacey, also burned him alive.

Caleb Lacey, you not only took the lives of my sister Morena, Andrea Susana and Saul, on that cold morning of February 19, 2009, you also took a whole family by breaking our hearts. Your senseless greed and cruel act forever affected us. There is no punishment that can make up for our loss.

I used to look forward to the holidays with my family and now there

is a void as the holiday season approaches. The memories of the past come to me and I break down and cry, because without them it will never be the same.

My two nephews had to suffer so much. It is so sad to see them cry and ask for mommy. They go to the grave a lot and talk to their mom, Susana, Andrea and Saul. That is all we have...a cold, damp piece of dirt. Thanks to you Caleb Lacey little Eddie had to be put on medication because he is so traumatized, so scared and Leonel too.

Since they were killed I have suffered many physical problems... headaches, chest pains and I had to quit my job because I couldn't concentrate. My mind is always on my sister, Andrea, Susana and Saul. It is so painful for our family, and so sad for my 3 nephews. They have lost forever the warm, tender loving touch of their mother and little Jaiden has lost the love of his father forever. There are no words to describe the pain we have. I can only wonder about the fear and pain my sister, Susana, Andrea and Saul felt as they were burning, trying to get out of the fire, but they

couldn't. Caleb Lacey, you are so cruel. You knew they were sleeping when you lit the fire. You are a monster and you deserve to stay in jail for the rest of your life and think about what you did to two beautiful innocent girls and to my sister, Morena, and Saul. Caleb Lacey you are so cruel. You waited and waited until Saul came home and then you set the fire. Why did you kill my family? You have no heart or soul. I have no doubt you killed my beautiful family. You confessed to the police. I heard your confession. You are a monster. You are a coward with no remorse. But there is a God and he will deal with you.

Thank you your Honor.

I would like to thank Assistant District Attorney, Michael Canty for all his hard work, Detectives Carl Re, Pete McGinn and Brian Kaminski for a great job and Patti Chave for all her support.

I would like to thank the jury who found Caleb Lacey guilty for killing my family and thank you Judge Carter for allowing me to address the court.

I would like you to sentence Caleb Lacey to the maximum sentence

allowed my law for this horrible crime. Sentencing him to the maximum will give him time to think about what he did to an innocent family.

Thank you for allowing us to speak on behalf of my beautiful sister, Morena, my beautiful nieces, Andrea and Susana and my nephew, Saul.

Thank you your honor.

God Bless You.

America Chavez

Dear Jud BE Carter,

MY Name is Leonel VANEgas, on February 19 2009 CHEBLACEY KILL MY MOTHER, ANDREa Susana, Saul. Ifeel VERY Sad. Cale B Lacer istvery Bad person. I'mtelling You Judge How I feel I feel VERY Sad Because All the memories I had with HEM. I miss All of them Somuch[!! I Remember When my Sister susana Would Defend Me in School, AND when ANDREA Would help Me with MY HomeWork, AND When Me Susana AND ANDRea Would Play SoccerA+ my Aun+ America house Susara And Andrea Would Always Beat me. my sistersusa-Na use to play the violin. She wasvery good Att. Susana Always Wanted to Be I teacher if She was hereright NOW I Believe She Would have Been A Good teacher. if ANDREQ Was here Right Now She would have Been A good Doctorto. MY MoM Would Always Cook Pancakes for me. She Would Also give me my Sisters, and Brother money, to Go. Buy Snack for school. I Also Remember when my mom would pick up at the Busstop. She would Always take meto my soccer GAMES AND BUYED ME food After the Games. I miss MY MOM ANDREa, Saul-Susana, I go to visit them in the comenter ! I Will Always misson them and I Will Always Love them. I feel So Sado please Send cale B to Jail for his Life. Thankyou Judge.

I cryalot every day every second. every minute for them. My Brother Saul I Lovedhim So much he Would always give Me Susana. And readollar Coins to Buy Stuff. he Would Let us use his phone.

When Meand mytwin Sister Susana Wereturning ten Years old She was not therewith me to cele Brate Our Birthday. We always cele Brate our Birthdays together except 2009. She want Be with Meto cele Brate All the Birthdays. Imiss her alot!!!

CaleB LaceY Rilled four INNO Cent People He Described to Be in Prison.

This pain will Never 60 away. I will never forget this. Dear Judge Carter,

My Name is Eddie Vanegas Jr and I am writing this letter because this horrible, No hearted, Non educated and Stupid thinking Caleb lacey Mordered My mom, two sisters, and older brother Saul, and to tell you the truth Judge Carter I miss my Mom!!! So Much!!! Like those times she would send ME to pick up my little brother and little Sister, Susana vanegas at the bus stop. She was only in third grade. Every time we were home my sister andrea would always do her homework. Yes she was so smart, So educated. Man She wanted to be a feacher and Yea I believed in her that she was going to be a teacher. But like again she's gone yea andrea and me had some toughtimes it was not Perfect but all wish was if I Could have it all back. One thing that She loved was playing Soccer with leonel and Susana. Man was Shean amazing little sister I had. I miss her everyday everytime I'm alone everytime Someone mentions my sister Et justs makes me so sad, depressed its just unbelievable, that my two sister's are gone, but it's all Calebs fault that iverything I lover is taken away. Those fines my man made Pankakes every morning and when she was there for my 5th grade graduation I was so happy. Her face s Never going to leave my heart or head neither is iusana, andrea and Saul. Judge Carter I ask you to Dlease send Caleb Lacey for life in Drison for =

Filling one innocent Mother, two innocent girls and of one innocent teenager. He killed 4 innocent people and he deserves to be in a place, which is prison. Thank you Honorable Judge Carter.