



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 6, 2018
Re: Jeffrey Maria
Convicted Murderer granted Parole

For More Information Contact:

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Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jeffrey Maria has been granted parole for the third time in three years, the two previous grants having been overturned by Governor Brown. Prosecutor Elizabeth DeJong attended the June 6th, 2018 Board of Parole Hearings held at the California state prison in Vacaville.

Last year, Governor Brown overturned Maria's grant of parole for the second time, citing Maria's lack of insight into the crime by minimizing his involvement during the hearing. A transcript of this year's hearing shows that despite the Governor's comments, Maria has not changed anything from his previous story to the parole board.

Jeffrey Maria, Marty Spears, Ronald Anderson and Darren Lee were all involved in the brutal killing of Philip and Kathryn Ranzo in June of 1979. Kathryn Ranzo was also sexually assaulted during the violent home invasion. They were all convicted of double murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Despite being repeatedly denied parole, recent changes in the law allow Maria and co-defendants to accelerate their parole hearings so that they occur once every year instead of no sooner than every three years. Each time, surviving Ranzo family members and next of kin suffer the repeated emotional pain of having to travel to various prisons to speak out against parole for each killer.

Inmate Marty Spears also had his grant of parole reversed last year by Governor Brown. Like Maria, Spears has also been able to accelerate his parole hearing to July 24, 2018, instead of waiting the minimum three years.

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The District Attorney's Office is once again contacting Governor Brown and asking him to reverse this grant of parole. Members of the public are encouraged to do the same by sending letters opposing Maria's release to:

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

When writing, reference the following:

RE: Board of Parole Decision for Jeffrey Maria, CDC#C17317.

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