



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 19, 2018
Re: Capitol Press Conference
Requesting Parole Reversal

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - California State Senator Cathleen Galgiani and Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager held a press conference at the State Capitol today requesting Governor Brown reverse a grant of parole for convicted double murderer Jeffrey Maria.

Jeffrey Maria, Marty Spears, Ronald Anderson and Darren Lee were all involved in the brutal killings of good Samaritans Philip and Kathryn Ranzo in June of 1979. Kathryn Ranzo was also sexually assaulted during the crime. Each defendant was convicted of double murder and sentenced to life in prison.

On June 6, 2018, Jeffrey Maria was granted parole for the third time in as many years. Each of the two previous grants were overturned by Governor Brown. Last year, the Governor reversed the parole board's decision citing Maria's lack of insight into the crime by minimizing his involvement during his statements at the parole hearing. A transcript of this year's hearing shows that despite the Governor's previous comments, Maria continues to minimize his role.

Relatives of Philip and Kathy Ranzo attended the press conference today, including their son Mark, who was ten years old at the time of the murders, and Philip's sister Sandy. The family have attended 26 parole hearings between all four defendants. Recent changes in the law allow these killers 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 their release.

Today, Senator Galgiani, District Attorney Fladager and the Ranzo family once again asked Governor Brown to reverse this grant of parole. Members of the public are encouraged to do the same by sending letters opposing Maria's release to:

Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>

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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Jeffrey Maria (photo courtesy of California CDCR)

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Pictured at today's press conference in Sacramento: Colleen Ursini (family friend), DA Birgit Fladager, Sandy Ranzo Howell (sister to Philip Ranzo), Mark Ranzo (victim's son), Sen. Cathleen Galgiani, Michael Naranjo (relative) and Maurene Ranzo (relative).

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