

VIOLENT VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

ANTHONY HOLMES

DEFENDANT'S NAME: Jon Burge

CASE NUMBER: 2007R00712

How has this crime affected you and those close to you? Please feel free to discuss your feelings about what has happened and how it has affected your general well-being.. Has the crime affected your relationship with any family members, friends, co-workers, and other people? As a result of this crime, if you or others close to you have sought any type of victim services, such as counseling by either a licensed professional, member of the clergy, or a community-sponsored support group, you may wish to mention this.

Burge electric shocked me and suffocated me and he forced me to confess to a murder I did not do. And, I had to accept that I was in the penitentiary for almost thirty years for something I didn't do.

It has been hard on me and my family. It put them through a lot of changes.

The fact that I did not do what they said I did hurt my family because they had to live with it. Everyone believed what the police said, so I had to deal with what people were saying and so did my family. It caused us all stress.

Being incarcerated prevented me from having a relationship with my children. Janice Connolly, my wife at the time, took the kids with her to Texas right after I was convicted and she divorced me while I did time on the murder. Burge also threatened her and said they were going to take our kids away from her when this happened.

Eventually one of my sons, Anthony, Jr. visited me in 2002 or 20003 and he brought my grandchildren. He is the only one I was able to keep up with. I have eleven children.

The hardest part of being convicted and doing all the time was the effect it had on my family. They were left with no source of income from me and it was really hard on them.

It was also really hard to lose family members while I was incarcerated. I lost my auntie, Juanita Sawyer, before I had the opportunity to get out. She stood by me through my sentencing hearing and my parole hearings. If I had been home it would have been easier for me and my family to deal with the death of my brother, three cousins, two nieces and a nephew.

I adjusted to my surroundings in the penitentiary, and then I had to worry about me. It was scary to go to prison for this. You can easily get killed if people think you are an informant or a stool pigeon. They tried to get me to say things about other people. That hurt.

I tried to get some help throughout the years but no one listened to me because they thought the police were right. When my parole hearings occurred, that is when the Parole Board started to listen and believe me. It took years for someone to even listen to what I had to say.

In the penitentiary and out of the penitentiary, there are no services available. When I was released, I went to St. Leonard's House. I was never able to get any psychological counseling because none was provided to me. I just slipped through the cracks. I got no help.

I have had to help myself. I have survived.

What physical injuries or symptoms have you or others close to you suffered as a result of this crime? You may want to write about how long the injuries lasted, or how long they are expected to last, and if you have sought medical treatment for these injuries. You may also want to discuss what changes you have made in your life as a result of these injuries.

I only had a couple bruises on my arm and a busted lip. But the rest of the injuries were internal from the electricity shot through me with the black box and Burge choking me with the plastic bag. He tried to kill me. It leaves a gnawing, hurting feeling. I can't ever shake it.

I still have nightmares, not as bad as they were, but I still have them. I wake up in a cold sweat. I still fear that I am going to go back to jail for this again. I see myself falling in a deep hole and no one helping me to get out. That is what it feels like. I felt hopeless and helpless when it happened, and when I dream I feel like I am in that room again, screaming for help and no one comes to help me. I keep trying to turn the dream around but it keeps being the same. I can never expect when I will have the dream. I just lay down at night, and then I wake up and the bed is soaked.

I still think I shouldn't have let Burge do that to me, but there was nothing I could do. I keep thinking how I can get out of it, but there was nothing I could do. I remember looking around the room at the other officers and I thought one of them would say that was enough and they never did.

When I talk about it, it is heavy. When I testified at Burge's trial it was hard because I couldn't say what I wanted to say, I had to only answer the questions. They were trying to get me to lie, but they couldn't suffocate me, electric shock

me.

What I wanted to ask Burge was why did you do this? Why would you take a statement that you knew was not true. You were supposed to be the law. I don't understand it. I never will. Worse was Burge enjoyed it. He laughed while he was torturing me.

What really hurt me is that no one really listened to what I had to say. No one believed in me. At the parole board, I was asked why I didn't complain about it. I said I did and everyone told me to get on with it. Here I was telling the truth and then they told me I was liar.

Sad part was all those years while I was hurting Burge was out there having his fun doing the same thing. The sad part is that people still believe Burge did nothing. Finally, he was convicted. That takes a lot of pressure off of me, but I still have to live with what he did to me.

I would try counseling, but I worry it won't help. It does help to talk about, but I didn't for so long because people would always just accuse me of lying.

I still get nervous when I see police. I worry if this can happen again. There is always this inner fear that I will get tied into something I didn't do, and they will tie me up with something. You can never describe that first feeling when they call you or see you. There is nothing I can do. That is why I no longer live in the City. I always have the fear with police – oh boy here they come. I am just a little or a lot paranoid.

Has this crime affected your ability to perform your work, make a living, run a household, go to school or enjoy any other activities you previously performed or enjoyed? If so, please explain how these activities have been affected by this crime.

It hindered me from getting a decent job. It hindered me from going to school. It prevented me from taking care of my family.

Any other hardships suffered as a result of the crime that were not mentioned above.

Let him suffer like we suffered. If it had been one of us, we would get the maximum without batting an eye.

I am glad I got my chance to have my say and I thank the Court for that.