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PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION:

Conducted November 20, 2014
At the Federal Law enforcement Training Center
Artesia Family Detention Center
Artesia, New Mexico

RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a 20 year old woman incarcerated in Artesia with her five year old daughter [REDACTED] is her only child. She was born and raised in San Francisco de Menendez in El Salvador. She worked in a factory making socks. More recently she was living in the municipality of San Juan Opico in a house with her sister and the sister's husband. The father of her daughter lives in Maryland in the United States.

She fled El Salvador because her life and the life of her daughter were being threatened by gang members who were demanding sex.

Her sister had offered to let her live with her and her husband. Soon after moving in with them she and her daughter found themselves witnessing his constant abuse of her sister. The husband was an alcoholic and beat her sister in front of them. He did this over and over again. It was a torment. He harangued her when he wasn't beating her. Her daughter told [REDACTED] they should leave. "Why do we have to watch my aunt get beaten like this?" [REDACTED] did not have a way to live on her own. Then the husband began to try and touch her. She would push him away and refuse his overtures. He told her he would tell her sister that she wanted sex with him. He told her her sister would believe him.

This was very difficult for her. she had been raped at 13 years old and when she told her mother her mother did not believe her. This experience six years before was still very much an issue for [REDACTED]. So the husband's threat was reactivating her old trauma. She still refused him. He told her she would have to pay rent. He then began to verbally assault her. He told her she was worthless. He often yelled. Then one night when he was drunk as he often was he came into the room where she and her daughter slept. He got in bed with them and she pushed him away and told her sister what he was trying to do.

The sister got mad at her. Her husband told his wife that [REDACTED] had started it. The sister believed her husband. She told [REDACTED] to leave. Her experiences as a 13 year old were repeating themselves. She begged her sister to believe her. She asked her to get the truth from her husband. The husband finally admitted his role to [REDACTED]'s great relief. Nevertheless the husband finally kicked [REDACTED] and her daughter as well as her sister out of the house.

She felt quite frightened. What would she do? They found temporary shelter. Soon another man with tattoos and fancy clothes was asking her to sleep with him. He was a gang member. she refused him. He kept pressuring her and she kept refusing. He told her she would regret it. He told her there was nothing she could do about it. He knew where her daughter went to school, where she was dropped off. He told her he would get her and that she could not stop him.

She was frantic. She searched for alternatives and decided to come to the US. A friend was in a similar situation. She had been raped and was pregnant from the rape. Her life too was being threatened. The police had held the rapist for a day and then released him. The police would not help. The two of them decided together to come to the US. They asked immigration for help. they took buses together and when they got to the border they crossed the river and turned themselves into immigration hoping to get help. Unfortunately their reception was unfriendly and abusive. They were put in a cold cell for a few days before being transferred to Arizona. Her daughter became very sick and eventually was sent to the hospital. She had a high fever, a cough, a urinary infection, and was getting sicker. She was not admitted but was given a prescription. The immigration officers took the medicine and only sporadically gave her a pill to give her daughter. This was quite distressing. The water tasted bad, it had alot of chlorine in it. The children wouldn't drink it because it burned their throats. [redacted] asked for milk for her daughter. Initially the officers told her milk was only for babies. She eventually was able to get milk for her child. The officials treated them like they were lesser than they. When she first got to Artesia she felt better because they had a bed, were fed regularly and could take showers.

Her daughter was still sick. She couldn't eat and was vomiting. The guards were mean in Artesia. They told them they were bad, dirty. Early on they would be yelled at for turning on a light or not making their beds. This improved eventually. Their bond was set at \$20,000. It was way, way more than she could find any way to pay. They realized that many of the people who came after them were getting lower bonds or at least bonds they could pay and they were subsequently released. This left her trapped. Her daughter asked her many questions about why they couldn't go. When she tried to reassure her daughter the daughter would tell her she was a liar. Her daughter has not been eating anything but chips and cookies.

During the interview [redacted] is quiet and at first just answers questions. As she got into telling us about what happened to her she spoke more rapidly. As she was able to see that her interviewers cared about her state she became quite emotional. Her sensorium and intellect are quite intact. She does not display any psychotic symptoms. Her mood and affect are quite depressed. Her thinking about her future is quite hopeless and pessimistic.

ASSESSMENT:

[redacted] her daughter is getting more aggressive and having fights with other children. This behavior she had never seen her daughter have before this imprisonment. [redacted] is very sad. she doesn't want to do anything. She is upset all the time. She says this with tears flowing down her cheeks. Her head hurts. she is not suicidal as she was when she was raped at 13, but she is very depressed.

Her daughter cries every night. After her daughter goes to sleep she herself weeps every night. She cannot sleep. It is a mixture of awful memories and dread about being trapped in this prison. She eats not at all and then finds herself eating frantically. She demonstrates psychomotor retardation and agitation. She reports feeling exhausted. She feels worthless and hopeless. She feels extremely guilty about what her daughter is having to go through. Sometimes during the interview she is crying so hard she can hardly talk. It feels like her head will explode. All of these are signs of a worsening depression. While [redacted] definitely has longstanding issues this depression is a result of being trapped and imprisoned in the prison in Artesia. She is definitely depressed.

She also meets the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Criterion A requires that she be exposed to death or threats of death, actual or serious injury, actual or threatened sexual violence. She has been threatened with death as has her daughter. She has been raped at 13 years old and again in her recent history she has been threatened with sexual violence and had to repulse an attempted rape. She has watched her sister sustain physical harm and been subjected to it herself. She definitely meets Criterion A

Criterion B is about re-experiencing the trauma.

She has recurrent, intrusive and involuntary memories of the traumas she has had. She has traumatic nightmares.

She has had dissociative episodes I am sure although I had a difficult time explaining them to her in order to ascertain if she had. Oftentimes patients are not aware of dissociation. She did say that not infrequently her mind would be in one place and her body would be in another -clearly dissociation.

The interview was an exposure to reminders of her trauma and she was quite distressed throughout the interview.

She demonstrated physiologic reactivity throughout the interview.

She needs only one item but endorsed and demonstrated all five definitely meeting Criterion B

Criterion C concerns avoidance

She describes efforts to avoid these memories and feelings and does at times succeed. She notes that anything that reminds her of these traumatic experiences she tries to avoid as well.

She meets Criterion C

Criterion D concerns alteration in cognition and affect.

She has some inability to recall some of the trauma but mostly she remembers. She now demonstrates very clearly a belief that she will be trapped and never escape which augments the already dreadful limbo she is in.

She has blamed herself and feels quite guilty about things that she had no control over causing.

She expressed and demonstrated her fear, terror, dread, pain and guilt throughout the

interview.

She has remarkably less interest in usual activities of daily life. This symptom is quite exacerbated by the depression she is suffering from.

She definitely feels alienated from others.

She has affect that is constricted in two ways. She doesn't feel good positive emotions very often if at all. She has a hard time expressing painful feelings in most settings.

She has all seven symptoms in Criterion D, where only two are needed.

Criterion E addresses alterations in arousal and reactivity.

While she says she is not irritable her daughter definitely is and I suspect that this is a reflection of her own anger and irritability.

She denies current self-destructive thoughts. But she did mention that she sometimes wished she were dead.

She has hypervigilance.

She affirms that she has an exaggerated startle response.

She has problems concentrating.

She has profoundly impaired sleep.

She has all five items for Criterion E, needing only two.

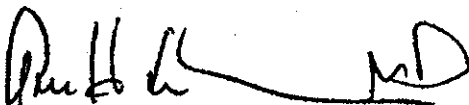
She has had these reactions for over a year. The symptoms have impaired her ability to function and she does not use drugs or alcohol. She thus meets Criteria F, G and H.

██████████ has severe Post Traumatic Stress disorder

SUMMARY: ██████████ is a courageous woman who has fled El Salvador where the safety and life of her daughter and herself were in immediate danger. The anarchy, gang rule and lack of honest and effective policing make these situations more critical. As a result of this she has been through she has significant Post Traumatic Stress disorder.

In addition she has a very troubled child and she herself is in a full blown depressive episode which is worsening because there is not a viable way out. She needs release as soon as possible. Her bond appears to me to be unreasonable and quite destructive to her mental health.

Respectfully submitted,
November 24, 2014



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