

Christy C. Wiegand
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November 23, 2001

The Honorable Noel Kramer
Judiciary Center
555 Fourth Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Victim Impact Statement of Christy C. Wiegand
United States v. Ingmar Guandaque
Case No. F-4057-01
Sentencing Date: December 11, 2001 at 9:30 AM

Dear Judge Kramer:

My name is Christy Wiegand. I am a twenty-six year old attorney. I moved to Washington, D.C. in October 2000 following my graduation from law school. I decided to move to DC to stay relatively close to my family – my parents live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – and hoping to segue from private practice to government or public interest work. Having never lived in the capital, I was excited about both the professional and cultural opportunities here, as well as the quality of life.

I am quite athletic. I played competitive tennis in high school and was on the varsity rowing team in college. I started jogging during law school, and especially enjoy running outdoors. I am about 5'11" tall, and weigh 175 pounds.

On Sunday, July 1, 2001, I went for a run in Rock Creek Park with my fiance, and I will never forget what happened that day. Being attacked from behind by a man with a knife is the most terrifying thing that has ever happened to me. When my attacker dragged me into the ravine, holding a knife against my throat and covering my mouth, I thought and still think today that he was going to rape me or try to kill me. I feared for my life. What struck me most was that within ten seconds, I was off the jogging path in the woods, struggling to scream and out of sight of any passers by. It happened so fast. I couldn't believe that this was happening when my fiance was only a few minutes ahead of me on the path, and I was terrified that I would not be able to escape, and perhaps not live to see him again or attend my August 18 wedding. My attacker was extremely strong, and with his hand cutting off my air and the knife at my throat I didn't feel I could struggle for very long. Until that day, I never realized how quickly someone with the

advantage of surprise and a weapon can put a person in a position of total isolation and helplessness.

The effects of the attack have stayed with me. The night it happened, in addition to being cut, bruised, and hoarse from screaming, I was shaking violently. In the weeks following, I had great difficulty falling asleep. Every time I closed my eyes, I had graphic visions of him surprising me from behind. My physical cuts and bruises healed in about two weeks. I was extremely grateful to be alive and to be with my fiance and family, but also terrorized by the knowledge that my life could have ended violently in a ravine in Rock Creek Park. For the first few months, I didn't want to be left alone. Even now, five months later, I feel afraid and unsafe, and in places which before would not have made me nervous. For example, even in my own apartment I feel nervous when I open the door to a dark room. Similarly, in elevators, taxi cabs, parking garages, or walking home from the Van Ness Metro station after work, I find myself looking for possible escape routes or weapons with which to defend myself should someone try to threaten me. I am oversensitive to sudden noises behind me. I do not trust men I don't know. I now feel that I cannot go running outside alone, anywhere, ever. I am full of unanswered questions: What made this man pick me? How could he want to make anyone feel what I felt that day? Why did he lower his knife and flee? How much longer could I have fought him off? I struggle to regain my sense of personal safety and independence, and to remember that not everyone has bad intentions.

Not only do I fear for my own safety, but I find myself worrying more about what could happen to the people I love. Every time I see a woman walking alone, or jogging alone, I worry that she may be at risk for an attack. I am deeply angry. I am so grateful to be alive and whole, but I felt violated both physically, and by the effect the attack had on how I view the world around me.

I was deeply affected by Mr. Guandeque's actions, and feel strongly that he should serve the maximum sentence for his offense. Apart from the impact of the attack on me personally, I feel certain that this man will attack other women if he is not incarcerated. He has already admitted to attacking one other woman. He was a bold and practiced attacker, not deterred by the physical size and strength of his target. He followed me quietly at a distance for fifteen minutes, waited until he thought I was fatigued from jogging up a hill, and purposely selected a secluded spot right next to a deep ravine. I fear for other women who may appear to be more vulnerable than I did. I do not want any other woman to endure what I did or worse.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my statement.

Sincerely,

Christy C. Wiegand
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