

Statement of Fatima Loeliger

November 10, 2005

The documentary *Breaking the Silence: Children's Stories* is **not** about my mother.

It's about me. I want to clear up a few facts.

First, I would think my father Scott Loeliger, MD would not want his name in public, since he ought to be worried it would ruin his reputation as a family practitioner (yes, he is a FAMILY practitioner). The producer used another name for me, Amina, in the documentary to protect me and my parents from having our names out there.

However, he brought his own name up by sending information to a reporter and I actually am happy to have my full name used. It is Fatima Busaat Alilire Loeliger.

For the last three years I have been, with interruptions by my father, very happy at my mother's house. I have been excelling in school with a 4.2 GPA and, as the attachment states, a regular in our city newspaper. My father, however, has made this transition increasingly difficult. Instead of nurturing and supporting my development during these tumultuous teen years, he has been the cause of most of the anguish in my life and a continual source of stress and instability for me. Since I turned 13 three years ago, my father has placed me in voluntary foster care twice, called the cops on me five times, stolen 2 cell phones, repeatedly emotionally abused me by making derogatory comments towards my family and I, attempted to admit me to a psychiatric ward, attempted to transport me to a cult program across the country for "emergency therapy", harassed my school, harassed my sports teams, defamed me in my local newspaper, defamed me on the internet, sent a private investigator to track me and photograph me, stalked my friends, and, last but not least, denied me proper health care coverage. This man has accomplished all these things in my life in only three years. Prior to my teenage years, my father has committed such actions as coming to watch me take baths naked while he records our conversations (ages 6 to 8), cut me off from contact with my mother without contact for three years, and made me a prisoner in his own home. I cannot name all that my father has done to me because there are so many things that were I to dwell upon them, I would probably experience severe depression and a nervous breakdown. Yet, even after all this, my father still hounds me in court at the age of 16 and is defaming the accomplishments I have achieved through the PBS documentary, *Breaking the Silence: Children's Stories*. All that I stated on the documentary was true; it was my life and first hand experiences, and nothing more, that I related to the American public. Though my father doesn't like it because it exposes him for who he truly is, it is still unwaveringly valid. All I would like for my last two years before high school is to finally experience a childhood that my father has denied me. Even after all this, the only thing I would ask of my father would be to withdraw from court and allow me this opportunity that he has previously thwarted. Seeing my sacrifices, I, as I assume all logical persons, would not consider this a fanatical request. To the contrary, it is the minimum that I deserve from the man who has wreaked so much damage upon my life. I am old enough to make this decision.

I want to answer a few questions you might have.

1. Did my mother hit me?

No. A couple of times she spanked me on the butt. I talked about that in the documentary

2. Did it upset me?

Yes. It always upsets children to be spanked. But for now it is legal to spank your kid on the butt. My mother was not arrested or prosecuted for anything my father said she did. By the way, my father Scott Fredrick Loeliger is a wealthy doctor who had a lot of friends in our small town system.

3. Was I put in the custody of my father when I was eight?

Yes. My father took me away from my mother when I was eight by using CPS. He took me to a CPS worker and to a therapist friend of his who claimed I told them that my mom abused me. I was very confused at the time because my father kept telling me that my mom was doing things to me. He wanted me to say that my mom was abusing me. I know I never told them that my mom abused me, but I ended up being taken away from her anyhow. I never understood what had happened, and why I couldn't see my mom. Later, when I was 13, I ended up at CPS again, because I didn't want to live with my Dad because of the way he was treating me. This time, when I told CPS worker Jennifer Mitchell and her CPS supervisor that my father was abusing both me and his adopted child they said I was lying and manipulative. Apparently, 8 year olds are more reliable than 13 year olds in processing information. At least they are easier to coach.

4. Did your father have any connections at CPS?

Yes, in Tehama County where he used to live, my father was close friends with the Director of CPS, Randi Gottlieb-Robinson. He has taken me on family vacations with her and her family. Randi helped my father when he had me taken away from my mom when I was 8, and I believe she helped him again when I was 13 and he put me into foster care.

5. Did my father tell me that my mother is a whore and a drug addict?

Yes. He alluded to it frequently. He told me that is why I had been taken away from her. Of course, that was a complete lie. My mother is a very clean woman and has never used drugs.

6. Could I imagine a loving father saying such things about a mother?

Not a loving father. But my father has already shown that my well-being is not his main concern. If he were a loving father he wouldn't have ruined my childhood like he did, and continues to.

7. Did my father refuse to let me see my mother at all for three years?

Yes he said she wasn't healthy for me. He said she could have seen me if she wanted to but she couldn't stay "clean" long enough to make her necessary therapy. He said she was dangerous and unhealthy. Unknown to me, while he was telling me these things, my mom was actually filing for bankruptcy because of her legal bills, and still fighting to get me back.

8. Would a loving father refuse to let his daughter see her mother?

No. A loving father would know how important mother/daughter relationships are in a child's development and would not only sanction a child to see her mother but encourage their relationship.

9. Did my father refuse to listen to me when I said I wanted to see my mother?

Yes. It was taboo to even mention her name in his household. Anytime I showed an interest in seeing my mom, I was treated badly, and was ignored and given the "cold shoulder" as a form of punishment. My father would also say that I wasn't ready to see her and that I didn't know her as well as he did. He said that she bruised me emotionally and that I didn't know it. He said she was a recovering drug addict and was unreliable as a mother because "we know that she abused you".

10. Did my father throw his third wife against the hall wall?

Yes. They were fighting and yelling at each other in front of their adopted son. I came out of my room to see what was going on, and saw that my father, in a rage, had thrown his wife against the hall wall and knocked her down. Fights were routine in their household when I lived with them.

11. Did that scare me to see my father throw his wife against a wall?

It scared me tremendously. He's 6 foot 3 and big. I thought I was next. In fact, I was very afraid of him.

12. Did I refuse to live with my father and his wife because they were rotten to me?

They were more than rotten. They were abusive. They called me horrible names and told me I was "evil" and "worthless". I couldn't handle that I had a healthy loving home with my mother that I couldn't experience because my father was using me to hurt my mother. I was his trophy. He felt he had "won" me in the custody battle. I was crushed and unhappy.

13. Did my father put me into foster care instead of with my mother when I refused to live with him?

I ran away and when the police took me into custody I told them that I wanted to go live with my mom. They called my father and he ordered them to put me in foster care and if they called my mom he would sue them. He told me that I would have to stay in foster care until I was 18 unless I agreed to come back to his house. He told me I would never see my mom, sister or brother again. I was 13 years old at the time. I didn't do anything other than initially running away. I have never threatened or harmed anyone, committed crimes of any sort, or anything else that could justify him putting me in foster care. My only apparent crime was wanting to live with my mom.

14. Did I prefer to live in foster care rather than with him and his wife?

Yes. I had to choose between two evils. At least in foster care I wasn't afraid for my safety. I was always scared in my dad's house. There were times when I thought he might kill me. I knew if he did, he was so well-connected that nothing would probably happen. He could get away with anything in that remote county (Tehama) where he worked in the clinic as a doctor.

15. Did my father promise me I could live with my mother after he got tired of paying for foster care?

He said that if I moved with him for three months and showed all his friends and family how "perfect" and "rehabilitated" his family was that I could go back to my mom. He just wanted to show everyone he got his trophy back. That is all I am to him. A symbol of his controlling superiority.

16. Did my father trick me at the last minute and say I could not live with my mother?

He didn't trick me. He just blatantly broke his promise. He said I didn't deserve to go live with my mom. He said I was "treating him shitty" and I hadn't treated him well enough and his wife didn't like the way I acted.

17. Did I feel betrayed by my father?

Yes. I felt beyond betrayed. It felt like salt in a wound because I trusted him against my better instincts and gave him a second chance to be a good father even though he didn't deserve it. I was the "bigger man" in the relationship. I forgave everything. I was the one who suffered. It was beyond betrayal.

18. Did he finally let me go to my mother's house?

No. I ran away. He refused to keep his promise to allow me to peacefully visit her so he forced me to take drastic measures and endanger myself to travel through unsafe places in order to get to my mom. The District Attorney's office saved me when they let me stay with my mom.

19. Did my father go to the District Attorney's office and pitch such a fit that he had to be removed?

Yes. According to written reports, he threatened to sue the man in charge of finding me and had to be asked to leave multiple times. It scared me to hear of my father losing control like that. He is usually a pathological liar who can always maintain his composure around important people, which is how he has convinced so many people to believe him. It was unsettling to have him lose his composure and made me wonder what he might do next?

20. Did the District Attorney's office write a letter to the judge saying that my father is out of control?

Yes. If I have a guardian angel, it is Rick Gore of the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. He saw the truth of my situation and let me stay with my mom. Without his help, and the help of the late Assistant District Attorney Frank McGuire, I would have ended up on the streets. The reports they wrote about my father finally revealed the truth about him. Every day I wake up and in my heart thank Rick Gore for his help.

21. Did the judge give my mother full custody of me?

Yes. In Yolo County I finally received the help that I needed and competent uncorrupt court officials who listened to me. The focus was finally upon me, rather than on what my father wanted.

22. Did my father invite two people from the cult-like Rachel Foundation when I went to visit him?

Yes. When I went to visit him for a weekend, they were at his house and tried to "interview" me. They hounded me outside my bedroom door for 3 days. I didn't eat or drink or leave my room at all during this time. At the time I didn't know their intentions but it just didn't feel right. I was angry and scared at the same time, but I stood tall and strong.

23. Did they try to get me to go to Maryland to their facility to be "treated"?

Yes. They were based in Maryland and later Texas. My father wanted to send me there to get "emergency" therapy to "cure" me from being alienated from him. My father had already purchased my ticket and had expected to transport me right away, as soon as he got the court's permission. He wanted to send me away from my mom, my sister and brother, my step-dad and all my friends, without even a chance to say goodbye. I felt so betrayed by him that it was like he ripped my heart out and put it in a blender. Somehow I found the strength to say "No more." Even so, I was very scared, and refused to get in a car with my father because I thought he might try to send me to Maryland.

24. Did my father call the police on me?

Yes. When he said that I wouldn't see my mom again I lost it. I was so emotionally shaken that I broke dishes and I broke my door in so he couldn't come after me. He called the cops on me.

25. Did the police take me away in handcuffs?

Yes. They arrested me in handcuffs on a 5150 or suicide watch. I have never felt suicidal in my entire life.

26. Did the police take me to a mental hospital at my father's request?

Yes. I was taken to the hospital in Martinez, CA to the Psychiatric Ward. My father works in the same hospital. When I arrived, my father and the Rachel Foundation people were already there. My father told them I was "psychotic" and pleaded with them to admit me into the psychiatric ward.

27. Did the hospital say I wasn't crazy, just mad, and let me go?

Yes. They couldn't understand why I was there. They told me so. I was next to drug addicts and schizophrenics, some of whom had committed crimes. In fact, some of the hospital staff were upset that my father would want me there, especially when he demanded that I be admitted.

28. When I finally got back to my father's house, did he lock me out in the rain?

Yes. After I was in the psyche ward my dad signed me in for voluntary foster care again. From there, I ran away from the voluntary foster care back to his house. I was going to give in and live with him because I was broken and couldn't fight anymore. I walked in the rain ten blocks uphill to his house and when I got there he wouldn't let me in. I stood outside for 2 hours in the rain and wind crying because I had nowhere else to go (because he refused to let me go to my mom's house). He called the cops on me again and they came and put me under house arrest because my dad said he feared for his family's safety around me. The next morning, I packed my bags and took the train to Davis where I hid with friends. My mom didn't know where I was because I didn't want her to be arrested for kidnapping.

29. Would a loving, protective, father lock his daughter out in the rain at night?

No. It's disgusting. He intentionally left me and watched me from his windows.

30. Did the judge put my father on therapeutic supervised visits?

Yes. We had counseling together.

31. Did my father come regularly to the supervised visits?

No. I tried to schedule visits for every 3rd week, even though I didn't really want to even see him. I thought...let's at least give it a try. He would frequently cancel; one time he canceled 3 months in a row. He only made it consistently on the weeks prior to court appearances. I've always said my Dad is more lawyer than father.

32. What do I want from my father?

I want to be allowed to enjoy the last 1 1/2 years of my childhood before I go off to college and the real world. I want to enjoy my life as a young adult. I want to worry about school, and shopping, and college and movies, and boys....not about court and my father harassing my mom. I want him to stop sending me to court. I want him to help support me financially without complaining about it. I want money for college. I want what all daughters want from a dad. I know I can't expect real love and respect from him, but at least he can fulfill his basic responsibilities required with my conception. He wants to ruin me. It's sad but true. All I want is to be out of court. My name is Fatima Busaat Alilire Loeliger and I am 16 years old. I think that is the least he owes me.