

Governor Johnson,

We the family of Estevan Vigil would like to make our observations and concerns made known in the matter and subject of a commuted sentence for Janet Vigil. Janet Vigil of Albuquerque was convicted of the murder of Estevan Vigil in June of 1989 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A judge and juror of her peers saw fit to give her a sentence of life, equivalent of 30 years time served before the consideration of parole. We the extended Vigil Family feel that every opportunity and a multitude of defenses were available and afforded Janet Vigil at the time of trial. A plea was entered and she was found guilty. At that time we thought the worst was behind us and that this family would begin a path forward in the healing process. We were sadly mistaken. This attempt is not the first and you are not the first governor, nor the last governor that this matter will come before. Your task is a hard task but one that can be carried out in an impartial manner. You have a uneasy task and responsibility to both parties.

As you or your designee/s review this case you will ultimately have to decide whether justice was served and whether the judicial system did its assigned task. When we heard that there was a consideration for a pardon or commuted sentence we were re-stimulated with grief, disgust and a sense of going through our loss again. How many times must we suffer this tragedy again. As we discussed this matter, it became apparent that this will be an on going situation in our lives and we will pursue every avenue to see that justice is not undone. We will be vigilant and persistent in keeping this particular case in the lime-light. We will not be silent in the matter of the murder of Estevan Vigil.

At this particular time as you review and consider the circumstances and evidence presented in this case we employ you to keep this matter in the judicial system. We explicitly mean that if there is any evidence that Janet Vigil did not get a fair trial or entered the proper plea, give her another trial. This will be our suggestion for the next governor and each time this matter comes up. Considering that she had one of the best defense attorneys(Mr. Leon Taylor) at that time, ,that the state met its burden of proof and that after your meeting with her you certainly were not convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt of her innocence, that at this time a Governors pardon or commuted sentence is out of the question.

With this letter the Vigil Family states their concern over the consideration of this matter. We are against any pardon or commuted sentence and recommend that if any legitimate concerns or circumstances are brought to light that this matter be placed back in the court system were justice can once and again prevail.

Sincerely,

The Vigil Family