

Rape Case

As we create more laws around rape today, there is still extremely little punishment for the rapist. I looked into the Brock Turner Rape Case. Brock Turner was a swimmer for Stanford. He raped an unconscious woman on the Stanford campus. There are two main sides to the story: the victim's and the rapist's.

The victim of this rape shared her side of this story with the world through a letter to the judge of this case, Aaron Persky. The story of her rape starts by her arriving at a campus fraternity party with her younger sister (AP News). She did not remember what happened after that, later she was told she became unconscious from too much to drink.

Two men saw Brock Turner

raping the unconscious victim, so they came over and Brock ran because he said he was scared. In the victim's letter, she states, "I argue that you were scared because you'd be caught, not because you were scared of two terrifying Swedish grad students." One of men tackled him and the police came after that.

When she becomes conscious again, she is in a stretcher in a hospital hallway. She assumed she has fallen because had spots of dried blood and bandages covering her. A deputy explained to her she had been sexually assaulted. She had felt violated. There were pine needles in her hair and swabs inserted in her vagina. When people

asked her if she was alright, she said she was fine, but inside she felt broken and afraid.

She tried to not think about it, but it affected her everyday life. She did not talk, eat, or sleep. She was not ok. In the letter to the judge, from the rapists father, it stated, it was “20 minutes of action out of 20 years of his life.” The cause of 20 minutes of sexual assault that will affect the victim for the rest of their life.

The rapist, Brock Turner, blamed sexually assault on alcohol alone. He took no responsibility other than alcohol. In his letter he says, how he lost his chance for a Stanford degree, to swim in the olympics, and his

reputation. He did not think about the effect on the victim from his assault.

The judge of his case sentenced him to 6 months in jail even though the average sentence for rape is just above 10 years (RAINN). This is extremely lenient. Perhaps he has been given advantages in the ruling for being a rich, white, male. It is important as we look at cases of rape to recognize where privilege might be playing a position. It is never ok to sexually assault no matter who it is.

We live in a rape culture. If we want to stop rape culture we must not ok with rapes. Our society can do something everyday to stop rape culture. We can start by teaching children not to rape instead of how not to get raped.

Also, we can resist victim-blaming and “slut-shaming”. Lastly, we should not be bystanders, if you are witnessing sexual assault notify a police officer. These are some of the things we can do to prevent rape and begin to end rape culture.