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COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Re: Parole Board hearing for Inmate Thomas Johnson, CDCR #J12838

On May 23, 2017, a Board of Parole Hearing was held at the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Corcoran, CA for convicted torturer Thomas Johnson.

On April 4, 1993, police were dispatched to the emergency room of North Bay Medical Center in Fairfield after a physician reported possible abuse. There, they spoke to Mr. Johnson's wife, who was in the hospital with a broken arm that she said was caused by her husband.

Medical records and photos documented that the victim had suffered numerous bruises, scars, and sores from older injuries. Mrs. Johnson indicated that her husband had inflicted all of these injuries on her. She said that recently he held up a lighter to her neck and burned her for up to five minutes; officers observed a large open burn wound on her neck that was the result of that incident. In another incident, he kicked her in the face repeatedly, causing a black eye and a swollen face. Another time, he doused her leg in gasoline and lit her on fire.

She revealed another incident where he punched her in the head, rupturing her eardrum. In another, he burned her thigh with the tip of a soldering iron. He attacked her in separate incidents with a steak knife and a croquet mallet. He attempted to drown her by holding her head under water in the bathtub for several minutes. He tied her up and hung her by the neck from the rafters in the garage, dangling back and forth until she lost consciousness. All of these incidents took place within a two month period of time from February 1993 through April 4, 1993.

Johnson pled guilty to torture on February 10, 1994, and on March 10, 1994, was sentenced to serve a life sentence with the possibility of parole for that offense.

Johnson has had six prior parole board hearings, the last in 2015 resulted in a three year denial of parole. In 2016, he was granted an expedited review of his parole request.

Deputy District Attorney William Ainsworth opposed release of Thomas Johnson on parole based on the unreasonable risk Johnson would pose to public safety if released. Johnson requested his release and testified at his parole hearing. The parole board denied release, finding that Johnson still represents an unreasonable risk of harm to the community. Johnson will not be eligible for a parole hearing for another three years.