

Urgent: Critical Background Information Regarding the April 30th Arrest of Isaiah Gonzales (DOB: 9/19/2002)

From Matthew Lawlis <matthew@lawlessmedia.net>

To rhwied@co.colorado.tx.us, justin.lindemann@co.colorado.tx.us, andrew.weido@co.colorado.tx.us, jacob.gorman@co.colorado.tx.us, chris.vanicek@co.colorado.tx.us, tracy.lewis@co.colorado.tx.us, clifford.schindler@co.colorado.tx.us

CC Suzanne_Schutze@cornyn.senate.gov, colpdalley@columbustexas.net, colpdmoulder@columbustexas.net, colpdchief@columbustexas.net, jsalazar@bexar.org, william.mcmanus@sanantonio.gov, SAPDVIC@sanantonio.gov, rangers@dps.texas.gov, Michael_Gerhart@cornyn.senate.gov

Date Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 at 6:30 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matthew Lawlis, and I am a close friend of **Mr. Isaiah Gonzales (DOB: 9/19/2002)**. I am deeply concerned about Isaiah's arrest, which occurred yesterday afternoon in Columbus, TX. I feel compelled to share crucial details about his situation to ensure a fair and humane evaluation of his actions. As one of the few people Isaiah has confided in throughout his ongoing struggles, and the person he chose to call immediately before his arrest, I have firsthand knowledge of the extreme circumstances he has faced.

Background of Abuse and Coercion

Isaiah has been subjected to severe emotional, psychological, and physical abuse by his partner, a registered nurse in San Antonio, TX. This abuse escalated significantly following an incident where his partner's mother, with whom they resided, expelled Isaiah from their home. Without a place to stay and under financial and emotional control by his partner, Isaiah found himself in a precarious and unsafe living situation orchestrated by his partner.

Forced Confinement and Control

Following his expulsion from the home, Isaiah's partner began enforcing more stringent and harmful controls, including forcing Isaiah to hide in the trunk of his Tesla. This vehicle was parked regularly at a hospital parking lot during his partner's work shifts, with Isaiah trapped inside. The confinement in the trunk was not a one-time occurrence but a repeated and prolonged situation where he was left for up to ten hours at a time, across numerous days. Isaiah was psychologically manipulated into believing that staying in the trunk was his best option to avoid total homelessness. His partner's coercive control left him feeling that he had no other safe places to go.

Additional Psychological and Physical Strains

Isaiah faced further psychological torment regarding his basic needs. He would rarely eat, fearing the need to use the restroom while confined in the trunk, which was an impossibility under the circumstances. Moreover, opening the trunk to seek relief or escape would trigger the vehicle's alarm system, causing a loud disturbance and drawing unwanted attention, which Isaiah feared would lead to further repercussions from his partner.

Health Risks and Undiagnosed Heart Condition

The repeated and extended periods of confinement exacerbated Isaiah's undiagnosed heart conditions, placing him under extreme physical distress. This severe stress and poor physical conditions could potentially have life-threatening consequences given his heart issues. Isaiah's partner would sneak him in and out of their residence, demonstrating a clear pattern of control and manipulation, significantly limiting Isaiah's ability to seek help or escape from these abusive circumstances.

Conclusion and Request for Consideration

Given these dire circumstances, Isaiah's decision to drive away in the Tesla was not an act of theft but a desperate attempt to escape a life-threatening situation. I believe Isaiah felt this was a necessary step to ensure his immediate safety. As Isaiah's friend and part of his limited support circle, I urge the authorities to consider the full scope of his abuse and the immediate danger he was in at the time of his actions.

Urgent Request for Judicial Consideration

I respectfully request that the Sheriff's Department relay this critical context to the judge presiding over Isaiah's case before he is seen in court this morning. It is vital that the judge is aware of the circumstances that led to Isaiah's actions to consider them fully during any judicial proceedings.

Isaiah is currently in a vulnerable state, requiring psychological support and medical evaluation to address the trauma and health issues he has experienced. An understanding and compassionate approach to his case will be crucial in facilitating his recovery from this ordeal. I am hopeful for a resolution that considers the severe circumstances under which Isaiah acted and prioritizes his rehabilitation.

Additional Support and Assistance

I have carbon-copied several individuals who may be able to further assist with victim services and support Isaiah through these challenging times. Their involvement is crucial in ensuring that Isaiah receives the comprehensive care and attention he needs during this critical period.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Lawlis

Carbon Copied:

The Texas Rangers

Director of Constituent Services for United States Senator John Cornyn, Suzanne Schutze

Deputy Director of Constituent Services for United States Senator John Cornyn, Michael Gerhart

Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar

City of San Antonio Police Department, Chief William McManus

City of Columbus Police Department, Chief Milton "Skip" Edman

City of Columbus Police Department, Captain Wendy Alley

City of Columbus Police Department, Detective Rusty Moulder

San Antonio Police Department Victims Advocacy Crisis Response Team

Matthew Lawlis

M 210.997.7711

E matt@lawlessmedia.net

W lawlessmedia.net

