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by Jjki Ttrfg

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Ronald Bell and Kristel Maestas 2009 case

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Ronald Bell and Kristel Maestas 2009 case

The nature of the case is the appeal of kidnapping and murder of the teen who was convicted. The case involved teens Bell and his girlfriend Maestas, both at the age of seventeen and sixteen, respectively. The two-plus another friend of them Lincks were involved in the kidnapping and murder of Air Force veteran Cordell Richards in 1999. Although the case was previously ruled that both Bell and Maestas would be convicted for first-degree murder and serve to jail for life, Linck was able to beg no contest to charges of manslaughter and false imprisonment in return to testifying against them. Similarly, Bell and Maestas appealed that they were young when the event happened, and they are now reformed hence be considered and come out from prison.

Maestas was Bell's girlfriend, and therefore, they could have been influenced by the harassment Richard was doing to Maestas. According to Maestas, when talking with the police, she said that Richard was harassing her and once asked Maestas to have sex. However, there are claims that Richard harassed both Links and Maestas. Primarily, the primary influence is because of the love between the teens that resulted in them taking action. Moreover, another influence might be because of peer pressure, both Maestas and Bell were in their teen life, and they are faced with many challenges during this time (van Hoorn et al., 2016). They do not know the consequences of what could happen due to their actions and do what they think is right for them and not the law. Finally, the teens could have been involved in drug abuse which resulted in the kidnap and murder of Cordell Richards. When the Teens realized that Richard was a police officer and knew very well that they are involved in drugs, then he became a threat to the teens; thus, the only way was eliminating him.

A juvenile can be rehabilitated after committing such crimes because majority of them are in their stages of adolescence which is accompanied by many challenges. For instance, there are challenges of behavior changes and thus leading them to do things that are not right. For example, in the case of Bell and Maestas, they are involved in love activities. Love is always accompanied by jealousy and when Bell is told that Richard is sexually harassing Maestas, he is willing to do anything for her even if it involves killing. Similarly, teens are also involved in emotional changes that anything can make them happy, mad, or excited. However, all the changes in behavior and emotional changes can be rehabilitated and make them reform through and hence be responsible members of the society (Weston, 2016).

I disagree with the 2012 Supreme Court ruling since the court favored one side because of a person testifying against others. Renee Lincks was involved in the act of kidnapping and murder together with Ronald Bell and Kristel Maestas. Therefore, all three deserved to be convicted in the same way. Moreover, the pleading of Lincks on no contest to charges of manslaughter and false imprisonment after testifying against Bell and Maestas and being released after serving 12 years in a medium-security prison indicates unfairness to in judgment of the supreme court.

I disagree with the re-sentencing ruling of 2019 because from the time when Bell and Maestas were taken to prison they must have changed their behaviors and understand what they did was wrong. I think the main aim of prison is to correct behaviors of individuals, thus the teens should have been subjected to parole. Parole would ensure their behaviors are observed and when satisfied they can be released to live with other society members. Re-sentencing would lead to no effect on the convicted individual's lives unless they are practicing the same unethical behaviors.

References

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