

June 13, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
Austin, Texas

Dear Governor Abbott and Members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles,

My name is Gina Galaviz Eisenberg, I am a 58-year San Antonian, wife, mother of a ten-year-old daughter, and nine-year-old twin sons. I am the owner/president of a Communications Firm, president of my neighborhood association, active member of Temple Beth-El, and home room mother at Woodridge Elementary. I am also a former Television News Reporter working in Laredo, Dallas-Fort Worth, and my hometown of San Antonio.

Back in 2002, I thought I had the scoop of a lifetime. On a hunch, I conducted a jail house interview in Bandera of a recently convicted teen named Ramiro Gonzales. I thought he might know where a missing teenager named Bridget Townsend might be.

Ramiro was just a boy. He was tiny and respectful to me and my photographer. He answered questions until I asked him about Bridget. He said he didn't know her. I kept telling him to do the right thing so her mother could bury her.

The evening of our interview Ramiro tried to burn down his cell. He told the Sheriff that he wanted to take them to the body, the lady told him to do the right thing. Lawmen found the remains of Bridget Townsend and Ramiro was tried for Capital Murder. I testified in that Medina Country trial. Ramiro was convicted and is now waiting his sentence.

Much has changed since Ramiro went to death row. He has caused no trouble, in fact, his young life is dedicated to helping others with services. He has changed. I have changed.

I now believe that Ramiro should not be defined by the crime he committed. I now know the death penalty will not prevent future murders. It has not stopped child abuse and has not stopped parents from killing their children. It will only stop the person already on death row. I have witnessed a lethal injection alongside with a victim's family. The death of that inmate did not take away their pain. It was a peaceful death.

Ramiro has not let his crime define him. He is making a difference for other inmates. He is providing a service through his ministry to help others who may one day be paroled and walk our streets.

In search of the scoop, I failed to tell the entire story of Ramiro. I failed to report the story on how the system failed him. Child Protective Services did not protect him from a home in which he was unsupervised and where he was vulnerable to relatives who sexually abused him.

Please do not let the State of Texas fail Ramiro again.

I ask for mercy for clemency. I ask that his sentence be commuted to life without parole.

Allow Ramiro the opportunity to be an asset in this world.

Allow Ramiro to help others with a ministry that will change lives.

Forgiveness is the first step for all of us in making the world a better place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Galaviz Eisenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gina Galaviz Eisenberg
San Antonio, Texas