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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ADALBERTO INGLES

W86767

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 27, 2017

DATE OF DECISION: May 29, 2018

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On December 14, 2005, in Suffolk Superior Court, in exchange for his testimony against his co-defendant, Melvin Martinez, Adalberto Ingles pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of 18-year-old Monica Mejia. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was sentenced to 10 to 15 years from and after his life sentence for the aggravated rape of Ms. Mejia.

On the evening of July 16, 2002, Ms. Mejia attended a party on Washington Avenue in Chelsea. Mr. Ingles and his co-defendant, Melvin Martinez, were also there. Ms. Mejia became intoxicated and was distraught over her relationship with her boyfriend. Mr. Martinez offered to take Ms. Mejia to see her boyfriend, and the two left together at approximately 11:30 p.m. Mr. Ingles followed and joined them at a park near the Chelsea Soldiers' Home. Alone with Ms.

Mejia in the park, Mr. Ingles and Mr. Martinez beat her about the head with a large rock. During the course of the beating, Mr. Ingles and Mr. Martinez stripped Ms. Mejia of her clothing and raped her. The two men severely burned parts of her body, by holding burning clothing close to her flesh. Ms. Mejia died as a result of blunt force trauma to her head and thermal injuries. Both Mr. Ingles and Mr. Martinez gave a recorded statement to police officers admitting their participation in the murder and rape of Ms. Mejia.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 27, 2017

Adalberto Ingles, now 38-years-old, appeared before the Board, with the assistance of a court certified Spanish translator, for an initial hearing on June 27, 2017. Mr. Ingles was not represented by counsel and declined to give an opening statement. Mr. Ingles indicated that he had known Ms. Mejia for approximately three months, but that they were not friends. He knew Mr. Martinez for approximately one year. Although Mr. Ingles had pleaded guilty to the second degree murder and aggravated rape of Monica Mejia, he now states that he only takes responsibility for hitting her with a rock. He denies raping her. Mr. Ingles gave his account to the Board of what occurred on the night of the murder. He stated that he was at a party, along with Mr. Martinez and Ms. Mejia, but that he left at around 3:00 a.m. and went to a park. At some point, Mr. Martinez arrived with Ms. Mejia. Mr. Ingles indicated that he stayed on top of the hillside of the park, while Mr. Martinez and Ms. Mejia were in a wooded area at the bottom of the hillside. At one point, he heard Ms. Mejia scream. When he looked down, Mr. Ingles found Mr. Martinez "abusing" Ms. Mejia. Ms. Mejia screamed for Mr. Ingles to help her, but he did not. Instead, he assisted in holding Ms. Mejia down, so that Mr. Martinez could rape her, while he (Mr. Ingles) watched. Mr. Ingles denies taking off Ms. Mejia's clothes, indicating that it was Mr. Martinez that removed her clothing. Mr. Ingles then left to go back up to the park area. When he returned, Mr. Martinez had already hit Ms. Mejia in the head with a rock and that "it was already over." He admitted, however, that he also hit her with a rock.

When asked by the Board as to why Mr. Ingles did not help Ms. Mejia when Mr. Martinez was beating her, he stated that he "did not want to." When asked why he decided to hit Ms. Mejia with the rock, Mr. Ingles said that Mr. Martinez had asked that he hit her too. After the rape, Mr. Ingles stated that Mr. Martinez lit Ms. Mejia's body on fire, and the two left the scene. When asked, Mr. Ingles denied that the purpose of burning her body was to prevent her from being identified. Mr. Ingles then returned home to his apartment and went to sleep. When asked how he could sleep after the murder, Mr. Ingles replied that he was "drunk." Approximately two days after the murder, Mr. Ingles admitted to a friend "Jessica" that he "thought [he] killed someone." On an evening after the murder, Mr. Ingles admitted that he also tried to sexually assault Jessica, but she resisted, and her boyfriend intervened. Mr. Ingles subsequently fled the residence.

During the hearing, Mr. Ingles was evasive and appeared to lack candor. Mr. Ingles indicated to the Board that he told the truth to police in an interview shortly after the murder. However, Mr. Ingles' account given at this parole hearing differed from the statement given to Chelsea police in 2002. In that statement, Mr. Ingles said that he stayed at the party until approximately 11:30 p.m., when he, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Mejia left and went to the park. Mr. Ingles indicated that Ms. Mejia was very intoxicated, and Mr. Martinez helped her walk up to the park. When they arrived at the park, Mr. Martinez began kissing Ms. Mejia and he heard Mr. Martinez tell her that he wanted to have sex. Ms. Mejia did not respond to Mr. Martinez's request, but they walked down the hill into the woods, and he started to take off Ms. Mejia's clothes. Mr. Ingles remained at the top of the hill, but could see what Ms. Mejia and Mr. Martinez were doing. Mr. Ingles heard Ms. Mejia screaming, and Mr. Martinez told him to come

down and grab her. At this parole hearing, Mr. Ingles denied removing Ms. Mejia's clothing. Mr. Ingles had previously admitted to Chelsea police that Ms. Mejia's pants were halfway off when Mr. Martinez assaulted her, and that he (Mr. Ingles) had pulled her pants off completely.

Thus far, aside from English as a Second Language courses, Mr. Ingles has participated in little programming. Mr. Ingles has refused to engage in sex offender treatment while incarcerated. Notwithstanding his denial of raping Ms. Mejia, Mr. Ingles admitted to the Board that he needs to attend sex offender treatment. He claimed that he will participate in sex offender treatment in the future, but that it is not offered at the facility where he is currently housed. When asked by the Board what Mr. Ingles thinks he needs help with, he could not provide a clear answer. In addition to sex offender treatment, the Board suggested that Mr. Ingles needs help with violence issues and victim empathy. Since his incarceration, Mr. Ingles received two disciplinary reports, in 2012, for fighting. Mr. Ingles has been transferred to Lemuel Shattuck Hospital on multiple occasions and, currently, receives dialysis treatments for his kidneys.

The Board considered the testimony of the mother of the victim and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni, both of whom spoke in opposition to parole.

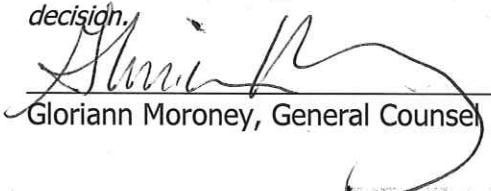
III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Ingles has not yet demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Ingles committed a brutal act of violence in his participation in the rape and murder of Monica Mejia. Mr. Ingles has limited insight into his crime and exhibits no remorse. Mr. Ingles needs to engage in programming to address the causative factors of his actions.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Ingles' institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Ingles' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Ingles' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Adalberto Ingles is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Ingles' next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Ingles to continue working toward his full rehabilitation.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel


Date