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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“SAN ANTONIO FOUR” **NEW EVIDENCE ESTABLISHES INNOCENCE**

October 22, 2013: Today, attorneys Mike Ware of Fort Worth and Keith Hampton of Austin, filed writs of habeas corpus requesting the release from prison of Elizabeth Ramirez, Cassandra Rivera, Kristie Mayhugh, and Anna Vasquez, who have become known as the “San Antonio Four”. This legal action is backed by the Innocence Project of Texas and asserts that all four women were wrongly convicted in trials held in 1997 and 1998, and that new evidence establishes their complete innocence.

Ware said, “Today’s filings take these women one step closer to freedom,” but that the process could take a year or longer. “I hope to reach an agreement with the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office for their release on bail, pending the final outcome of the case, before the end of the year.”

One of the four, Anna Vasquez, was released from prison on parole last November. Since her release on parole, Ware said that “she has worked, she has had no violations, and she has publicly advocated for the release of the other three. She has also passed a polygraph examination ordered by the parole department, which strongly supports her claim of innocence.”

One of the two alleged victims, now in her twenties, has recently come forward and confirmed that the crimes she and her sister accused the four women of, never occurred. The writs are also among the first filed invoking the new “junk science” bill supported by the Innocence Project of Texas and passed in the 2013 Texas Legislature.

In addition to other new evidence of innocence, all four women have recently passed polygraph tests establishing their innocence. The tests were administered by a highly respected polygraph examiner, who is often used by both law enforcement and prosecutors throughout the State of Texas.

All four women have also submitted to psycho-sexual evaluations which have established that none of them are pedophiles and none of them are predisposed to committing any sex offense. “In other words, not only did they not commit this offense, they would not have committed this offense,” Ware said.

All four women have maintained their complete innocence from the time they first became aware of the accusations. They all turned down very favorable plea-bargains because they refused to plead guilty when they were innocent. Elizabeth Ramirez received a 37 and a half year sentence and will not be eligible for parole for several more years. The other three have experienced delays in their parole because they have refused to "admit" to crimes they did not commit.

I have had lengthy discussions with the District Attorney's office for over a year. The District Attorney's office had dealt with me honestly and in good faith.

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