

November 27, 2024

The following is a statement from Erin Cassinelli and Michael Kiel Kaiser of Lassiter and Cassinelli, attorneys for Aaron Spencer.

“We have learned today that the Lonoke County Prosecuting Attorney has filed second-degree murder charges, with an enhancement seeking a higher sentence for the use of a firearm, against our client, Aaron Spencer. We are not just disappointed – we are outraged by this decision.

Aaron Spencer is a decorated war hero who protected his country and a loving father whose heroic actions protected his family. He is certainly not a criminal. He did what any father would do – and any trained combat veteran would do – to protect his child from a predator. This predator repeatedly violated his child, and – undeterred by criminal charges and release on a low bond that pales in comparison to what was required of Aaron – kidnapped her in the dark of night to continue his assaults on her. The systemic failures for decades that permitted this man to continue his abuses of women and children for years culminated in his facing a father who finally stopped him. No matter what the prosecuting attorney may do to Aaron, he was able to save his child and prevent this man’s continued acts of sexual violence against the most vulnerable among us – nothing could be more important than that.

While the prosecutor has made clear his intent to send Aaron to prison – even targeting his use of a legally owned firearm and in spite of his past experiences in combat – in this country, it is not the prosecutor who ultimately decides justice, it is the citizens. We believe the citizens of this county and of this state will not allow this injustice, that this community will not allow a father protecting his child from a serial predator to be treated as a criminal.

The repeated traumas Aaron’s family has endured over the last six months are unimaginable. Sadly, the prosecutor’s decision perpetuates these horrors instead of protecting legitimate victims and punishing true criminal offenders. Instead of targeting this heroic father, the prosecutor should be working to figure out how the system failed to protect this innocent victim and instead resulted in her father having to do so.

We appreciate the support of so many who have voiced their outrage over the treatment Aaron, his child, and the rest of his family have suffered. We will stand up and fight for our right to protect ourselves and our children and will not be deterred by this unjust decision. Please keep Aaron and his family in your prayers as they continue to heal from past events while now managing a criminal case. We look forward to Aaron’s day in court and to the end of this family’s nightmare.”

/s/ Erin Cassinelli

/s/ Michael Kaiser

