

On November 14, 2013, Zaid Safarini had an initial parole hearing before a Hearing Examiner. This hearing was held in full compliance with applicable law. Although the sentence imposed by Judge Sullivan, three life sentences plus 25 years or a total of 160 years, did not contemplate any release date for Safarini, by law, he was entitled to the initial parole hearing after serving ten years of his sentence. The hearing was scheduled after he requested an initial parole hearing sometime this year.

Several victim-witnesses participated in the initial parole hearing, along with AUSA Gregg Maisel and DOJ Trial Attorney Jennifer Levy. Victim-witness advocates from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism also observed the proceeding.

The Hearing Examiner questioned Safarini and accepted statements and questions from the victim-witnesses that were addressed to Safarini. At the end of the hearing, the Hearing Examiner informed the participants that a recommendation would be made to the Parole Commission based upon what transpired. The Parole Commission has the ultimate responsibility to decide whether parole will be granted, and no final decision is expected for some time. Although the parole hearing is not a public proceeding, it is recorded and the prosecutors have requested a copy of that audio recording. Once the recording is received and transcribed, we intend to make it available to victim-witnesses on a password protected website with limited access. We will advise you when additional information relating to the initial parole hearing is available.

By law, once an inmate has had an initial parole hearing, if parole is not granted as a result of that hearing, the Parole Commission will determine the length of time before the next Parole Reconsideration hearing. The Commission is mandated to provide status hearings to inmates every two years between parole hearings. These hearings are called Statutory Interim hearings. Victim-witnesses are notified of these hearings and allowed to participate in these hearings. The purpose of the Statutory Interim hearing is to provide the Parole Commission with information about how the inmate is doing in prison and what activities the inmate has been involved in during that period. Although victim-witnesses have a right to participate in status hearings, it should be noted that these hearings are not held to determine parole eligibility and a decision granting parole cannot be made at a Statutory Interim hearing. Insofar as the Parole Commission accepts input from victim-witnesses, it is appropriate for victim-witnesses to submit written material to the Commission for its consideration, if victim-witnesses choose to do so. If you would like to be notified directly of future status hearing dates scheduled by the Parole Commission, you should complete and submit a victim notification form. Please contact Ms. Yvonne Bryant or one of her colleagues in the Victim-Witness Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office to obtain further information about completing and submitting this form.

Safarini will be advised of his right to request periodic status hearings and reconsideration of parole after the Parole Commission issues its decision relating to the initial parole hearing held on November 14, 2013.

