

OUT IN THE NIGHT, 75:03, English transcript, 05.21.14

DISPATCH VO:
Police Operator 1512

CALLER VO:
Yea, we need an Ambulance over here on uh, 6th avenue and 1st street. A man
stabbed on the ground bleeding

DISPATCH VO:
What's this, Manhattan or Brooklyn?

CALLER VO:
Manhattan

POLICE OFFICER VO:
[inaudible]

DISPATCH: 10, 4

UNKNOWN VOICE VO: [Inaudible] Unverified. Officers fighting with gangs, bloods
and crips on the street level

POLICE OFFICER VO:
It's gonna be approximately five female blacks. Central.

DISPATCH VO:
Police operator 1398, Where is the emergency?

UNKNOWN VOICE VO:
There's [stutters] there's a gentleman that was stabbed [inaudible] by [inaudible]
girls

DISPATCH VO:
Caller, you the patient?

CALLER VO:

No, man's on the floor he's been stabbed.

DISPATCH VO:

Okay, is the patient breathing?

CALLER VO: Yes

DISPATCH VO: Awake? Is he Awake? Hello?

O'REILLY VO: They were a pack of lesbians who jumped this guy and almost killed him.

WABC Local anchor VO: He was attacked by a group of women yesterday in Manhattan. Police say the man made a comment, allegedly, to one of the women.

LAURA VO: He was attacked because he was a straight man. Just a real nasty gang assault.

PATREESE VO: What was this fight about? Why did we even have this fight?

MOLLIE VO: The media doesn't tell the whole story. It's called gay bashing, but they won't call it that.

RENATA VO: He started calling us dyke bitches, lesbian bitches. I'll fuck you straight. If we wouldn't have defended ourselves, one of us would be dead.

RENATA VO: I'm not pleading guilty, because I don't feel like I was guilty of anything. Let the people judge it.

RENATA VO: We all clicked with each other. These are my friends. This is my family. Patreese and Venice grew up with each other. They knew each other since they were two years old. Me and Terrain, we're like siblings. We argue like we're siblings. You

know. It's like a real bond that we have. We've always loved one another. We was there for one another. It was like we family you know.
My mom's out. Me and my mother came out around the same time. When she told me she was gay, I said 'yeah, me too.' You know, so. That's all, that's the only person. And my brother's, like they're fine with it. They call me their 'brister' you know, their brother slash sister. You know they fine with it, they ok with it. As long as I'm happy, they happy for me. It doesn't, it doesn't change.

BLAIR VO: How old were you when you came out?

RENATA: I was 20.

BLAIR VO: And how about you Terrain?

RENATA: Hmm. She was, like, four.

[TERRAIN laughs]

ANTHONY: It's definitely a tight knit neighborhood. Mainly everybody that lives out here, been here. You understand what I'm saying? Like our grand mothers and great-grandmothers bought these houses twenty, thirty, forty years ago before we was all mainly born. Went to the same school. Played in the fire hydrant. Stuff like that. They're still here and we're still here.

VENICE: Say Hi. This is my little cousin Iben. I know this house has been here forever. This house has been here forever. We used to play right here. In this house together with our friends who grew up in this house.

ANTHONY: It's not a bad neighborhood to grow up in but it's impoverished. You got, you got drugs, you got gangs, you got violence all in this area.

PATREESE: That's good?

DANIEL VO: Yeah, let me see.

PATREESE: It's a lot of bums that like to rob people. I done been robbed on one occasion. And where I live at, I try my best to take precautions.

ANTHONY: Patreese is the baby girl, you know how um, a litter of um, dogs, or whatever, come out, they would have the runt be the smallest one? We all like, got size and weight on us, so we was like, what happened to her, like, did we eat all the food from her or something, like I don't know, like.

TANISHA: With her being gay. What I think is everybody should just mind their own business. [laughs] And leave whoever, if that's what you choose to do, that's what you choose to do.

RENATA: In East Orange or Newark or whatever – the hood where we from –

TERRAIN: Ummm, mmm.

RENATA: We ain't from the hood? We from the hood. You know what I'm saying – we can't go downtown Newark with our dildos on. You know what I'm saying? And you see the print through our pants without somebody like, "Yo. Seen that? You seen that?" Or, you f'n dyke. Blah blah blah.

Being gay, actually in none of our families it's really an issue. But in Newark, people aren't really cool with it.

PATREESE:

There's no calling the police, because they never come. Only time they come is somebody done got shot and they dead. I was eleven years old and my brother got shot by a cop. A fight broke out and my brother was an innocent bystander. A cop, he pulls out a gun and turn around and shoots my brother in his chest. He died. And he was only seventeen. Officer just went on about his business and still getting paid.

DELL: So I guess a lot of trust in the police out-- they'll be your friend and protect and serve, that, it wasn't happening. You know with them, and Patreese seen a lot of this, so I guess it took away a lot of trust and it affected her negatively.

PATREESE: From that day on, it was like I'm never calling 9-1-1 ever again.

[Music]

RENATA: Hi.

MARILYN : Hey.

RENATA: Let me be a gentle dyke. Hi Marie.

MARILYN: Thank you.

RENATA: Ain't nobody going to open my mother fucking door?

RENATA VO: I like to go to the Village because it's nothing but gay people. It's a safe haven for us. It's a place we can go to, to be around people who are of our same sexual orientation.

PATREESE: Hit up on a few chicks. Do what you do. That's the only reason we go out there. Who know...Go to the club. Get a few numbers, and that's it, and go home.

RENATA: You got old Chinese gay people, like people I never thought would be gay. Wow. Like, I didn't even know they had gayness out in like 1920. You got people that like 80 years old that's gay! You know, you go to New York it's normal, like nobody's gonna look at you, any different.

TERRAIN: That's, that's not true. That's what happened to us.

RENATA: Well, we thought that we wouldn't have a problem if we went to New York, just be ourselves, but.

That night we didn't really have a destination. We was really just coming to the Village to have fun. ...

Came out here to have fun, look at girls, be gay.

There was seven of us in total. We was walking right here. He was sitting on the fire hydrant and we didn't notice him.

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO:

Well, I had some DVD's and stuff on me like that. There's a little theater. It's called the IFC, the Independent Film Center, that a lot of independent filmmakers go. I just decided to go hang out under the IFC and promote my movie. They looked feminine. One was slightly pretty so I said hi to her.

PATREESE: He said let me get some of that. And I thought he wanted somebody's Pepsi. So I told my girlfriend, I said, 'he wants your Pepsi, give it to him.' He said, I don't want that and he pointed at my lower area and he said I want that. I said, I laughed at him and said mister I'm gay.

RENATA VO: He stood up from the fire hydrant and started calling us dyke bitches, lesbian bitches, I'll fuck you straight.

PATREESE: Basically you said you would rape us when you said "I will stick my, you know, in your ass, like." ... You want me to say that? No, when he said, like, "I will stick my dick in your ass." You know. What would you have said if we was straight? Would you still would have asked that, that basically said that you would rape us?

RENATA VO: From the time I was nine years old on up, my mother's husband used to rape me. With him approaching me in the manner that he was approaching, and saying the things that he was saying, basically you're saying that you're going to rape me.

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: Another girl came. ... She had ... a wife beater on, which is like a tank top. What the guy's wear.... I told her she looks like a man, because in my eyes, she did appear to be like a man. So I said that. And they were ... yelling at me. She was disrespecting me as a man ... so I called her an elephant

RENATA VO: That's when he started walking towards us, we standing right here to cross the street. He comes up towards us, shouting a lot of, like, obscene things.

PATREESE: We was just waitin' for the light to change and next thing you know, as soon as we about to walk again, he spits and throw a cigarette.

RENATA VO: We walking backwards to protect ourselves. Make sure he doesn't run up on us. But he was coming for us. That was clear as day.

VENICE: No means no, just take no.

RENATA: Then he swung on me. I started swinging back. We started fighting.

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: I remember being surrounded with hands in my face. And after, I, I, they started to hit me. I went up into the defensive position. And then I just had my hands up in the air in defense of their blows.

RENATA: He grabbed me down to the ground and he's choking me. I felt like I was basically fighting for my life.

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: Somebody told me I was stabbed. And as soon as he said that I felt it, you know, I didn't feel it before, like I'm feelin' it now. Like I couldn't really breathe.... I was like hollerin' and screaming. I felt like I was gonna die.

CALLER VO: Yea, we need an ambulance over here on uh, 6th avenue and 1st street. There was a gentleman that was stabbed by [unintelligible] girls.

DISPATCH VO: Officer in uniform in transit. 680 Sergeant advise.

O'HARE VO: We were doing patrol. Radio call came over saying that there was a stabbing.

DISPATCH VO: No description on the perp.

O'HARE: In the West Village for a 10-13 which is a police officer needs assistance immediately.

POLICE VO: Looking for male black with green shirt with a light color. There was possibly five females.

O'HARE VO: We did see a male laying on the ground.

DISPATCH VO: West Third and Sixth Avenue. 10-4.

O'HARE: And I was following them. They were actually high fiving each other like 'we fucked this guy up.' Before I even. That's why I kind of knew I had the right people.

RENATA VO: In our mugshots, we was like laughing and joking and smiling and posing for different pictures of whatever because it still didn't seem real to us. I was scared but I was laughing and joking and basically trying to comfort the rest of the girls. We asked where we was going and they said we was going to Rikers. So I kind of panicked because I was thinking we're going to be in this island, on a jail, on water. Nobody's going to know we there. That's when it just hit us. It was like, oh shit, like we in jail.

PATREESE VO: We didn't know what we was getting ourselves into. We didn't know what was the outcome of it. It was just...me personally I can only speak for myself, I know I was just scared.

TERRAIN: They call it a bull pen. Where they hold you. We were all sleeping on the floor like a domino effect on each other. And then we had to go through the medical procedures. Drug tests. And urine samples and stuff like that.

RENATA: Every minute of it seemed like a hour, so you know it was like a long drawn out process and it was real scary. Well the only family that I had at that time that I was in touch with was my girlfriend. And my son, he was five years old then. When I had him, I had it set in my head that I wasn't going to allow him to grow up the way I grew up. I was a parent and he was my number one priority so I kind of shouldered him and protected him from any type of stress. You know I say, here my son is probably stressed out. He's probably wondering where I am. Why I left. I was on Rikers for nine months or something like that.

SUSAN: I was one of Renata Hill's lawyers in the criminal case along with Lori Cohen. The District Attorney in this case made very strong certain decisions. They sought all these women to remain in custody while the case was pending and seeking draconian sentences. They were told they you're facing 25 years in prison if you fight this case and go to trial, or you can plead guilty and you can get out today. Three of them, essentially were coerced by circumstances to plead guilty to a violent felony.

PATREESE: I claimed self-defense. If you're standing there, and you're just watching a man beat on one of your friends, then he turn around and hit you, you have a right to defend yourself.

RENATA: They said that in order for me to take that deal, I had to plead guilty and I didn't feel like I was guilty so I said I'm not going to take it because I'm not going to say that I'm guilty. I felt so confident. I'm not pleading guilty because I don't feel like I was guilty of anything. I defended myself. Let the people judge it.

WABC Local anchor: A twenty eight year old man is recovering this morning after he was attacked by a group of seven women yesterday in Manhattan. Police say the man made a comment, allegedly, to one of the women before they attacked him in the West Village. The man was hit several times and then stabbed in the stomach with a steak knife.

LAURA: The headline writers had a very good time. We went at this full bore. I will lay claim to 'Seething Sapphic Septet, the accuracy of which I, I uh, I still stand by. I don't think it was a stretch to say that they were out for blood.

KIMMA: At that point I knew it was going to be a gay thing. But of course you being a woman, then being black, and then the nerve of you to be gay. Terrain called and she was so apologetic. Oh, I'm so sorry for embarrassing you. And I'm like, embarrassing who? I'm like, I don't care who sees it. And anyone who's going to judge, then we're not interested in them. My concern is you.

LAURA: The prosecutor began, this is a case about a vicious and unprovoked attack by these defendants and three other women. An attack in which he was stabbed, beaten and punched, and uh, in an unprovoked manner. She painted a picture in which, an almost bewildered man was almost beset upon, by a group of women for no reason. It was an interesting opening. Judge McLaughlin is a very tough judge. He sits in a courtroom that is fed primarily by gang cases. But these are real gangs. These are the traditional gangs. Gun and drug gangs. Criminal enterprises. It's unfortunate that the word gang is the same word that would describe a racket that deals drugs and sells guns.

O'HARE: We weren't labeling them a gang because we thought they were the Bloods or Crips or anything else. By the law if it's three or more people are involved in beating someone, it's a gang assault.

O'REILLY REPORT: Here in New York City, a group of lesbians attacked a guy last August. In Tennessee authorities say a lesbian gang called GTO, Gays Taking Over, are involved in raping young girls. And in Philadelphia, a lesbian gang called DTO, Dykes Taking Over, are allegedly terrorizing people as well.

This is a lower socio economic crew, alright, who identify themselves as lesbian or gay. And they ban together, just like some of the ethnic gangs do, to do harm? I mean they just want to hurt people?

SUSAN: One of the jurors, was frightened by the possibility of serving on this jury. He had sent his wife out of town, because he was afraid for her safety.

RENATA: A gang member? No, I'm not a gang member. I've never been a gang member.

LORI: There are some charges where just the name of the charge evokes such an emotional response that it's difficult to get below that to what the crime actually needs. You know, the elements of the crime. So people kept hearing gang assault. Gang assault. And it really brings up an image in your head that doesn't really apply here. We watched that video thousands of times. It was in evidence for the jury so they could watch it themselves, which I believe they did.

SUSAN: You see him in the surveillance tape. He clearly was coming after them in an aggressive manner.

LORI VO: The gentleman with the backpack right here in the upper left quadrant, that's you, correct?

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: Yes

LORI VO: And the young woman on the ground, that's one of the women with whom you were fighting?

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: I don't know what that is actually. I don't know if it's a lady on the ground. I mean, I don't know.

LORI VO: That's your arm? Can you see where your hand is?

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: It was kind of dark.

LORI VO: It's not around the neck of the woman on the ground?

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: I don't think so.

PATREESE: Yes I did pull my knife out, and I did because... [audible sigh] you couldn't tell me that my best friend was about to die. I carry a knife for one real reason. Cuz my brothers told me to, like, Pooh, you're real small, you know, you done been in a lot of situations where we was never around so how you gonna defend yourself. All I really wanted to do is scare him, not really hurt him.

LORI: After the "alleged" place where Patreese stabbed him, he's walking upright, he's waving his arms.

ACTOR READING TESTIMONY VO: Well I don't know if I went up the street, I know they were taunting me. There was no audio on the videotape.

RENATA VO: I really didn't feel safe walking away so I came back. And I positioned myself to swing with all my might.

O'HARE: If Ms. Hill wasn't there that this never would have happened. ... She riled up the rest of them and then kept this thing goin' on longer than it should have.

LAURA: The most fascinating witness that the jury never got to see was the mysterious man in the pink shirt.

PATREESE: One guy was telling him, why don't you fight us? You're fighting girls, like, for no reason, why don't you fight us?

PATREESE: Next thing I know he picked him up and threw him on his head.

LORI: The other guys, they jumped in to defend these women, they didn't jump in to defend him.

O'HARE: The male in the pink shirt. Initially we thought maybe somebody just mistook it, maybe mistook a male for a female. Later on, we did see a male with a pink shirt in the video and we did, for probably three, four weeks, keep an eye on that exact area... and stopped, questioned, and frisked several people. ... We couldn't find anyone.

LAURA: At that point, myself and other members of the press were already getting a fuller picture of Dwayne Buckle and his views on, uh, the right of men to ogle women and, and shout out things to them as they walk by. He also had, had posted to this website that same-sex relationships were a part of the hidden agenda of Satan. It was with a big grain of salt, that we sat there in the courtroom listening to him describe himself as not gay, anti-gay, not a homophobe.

LORI: Prosecutors who have a case where the action helps explain the defense don't want the jurors to think about motive or reason. They just want the jurors to concentrate on that the "victim" was stabbed. Well why was he stabbed? What did he do before he was stabbed?

LAURA: He was quite impressively injured. Injuries to his abdomen were very serious. His liver and his stomach had been lacerated.

RENATA VO: I had a bruise on my eye. I had a busted lip. "Nicey" had choke marks on her neck. Chanese had 15 dreadlocks pulled from her scalp and it was bleeding.

LORI: I have no, no reservations that they were acting in self-defense the entire time.

SUSAN: Same with me.

KIMMA: When they were gonna read the verdict it was just like, you would have thought it was a movie. Like all the gangsters were all there at one time, like the Gambinos, and the Al Capone's, because the walls were literally lined up with court officers and they were all around the girls. At one point, I couldn't even see Terrain. When I saw that, I knew it wasn't gonna to be favorable.

DELL: When I did get a chance, finally, to talk to her, she was just mommy I'm so scared I'm so scared and I-- if I had the chance that all I could is just put my arms around her and try to soothe her. Um. But of course, you know, I couldn't do that.

TANISHA: it was like horrifying. It was the same as just like, when I lost Dana, when Dana got killed. It was like, happening all over again

RENATA:

To this day it irks me because he made a statement saying we need to learn the nursery rhyme "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt you."

Well, when I got sentenced, the judge said he was sentencing me to eight years because I testified falsely. And my lawyer actually had to stand up and say, "Your honor, she never testified." And he was like, "Oh yeah, but she played an aggressive role."

I remember screaming in court when they said "Eight years." Like, "My son! My son! I'm not gonna see my son til he thirteen"

MOLLIE HILL: The media doesn't tell the whole story. They didn't tell how my daughter was attacked, how she was choked. It's called gay bashin', but they won't call it that, they call it everything but that. But it's called gay bashin' and my daughter is in jail for eight years for defendin' herself.

DELL: Something inside me just [stutters] kept sayin', you know, just, Patreese, they gonna hit Patreese, they gonna hit her, with [stutters] a lot of years and... Especially after, I believe it was Renata, after they said she had 8 years, I says, 'oh wow, then I know Patreese got more than 8.'

STEVEN: I don't know. Sometimes we sit back and say well, if things happen for a reason. You know and all of that but um, sometimes things happen beyond your control. It don't be always about the reason, it be who would be in control of that reason. So.

ANTHONY: I see now, with me telling her to, carry a knife and protect herself, it's like look where it got her, it got her out of eight to eleven years of her life. Like, not because I wanted to hurt her, but I wanted her to be protected.

TANISHA: I can't.
[cries]

DELL: This is Patreese here, at two years old, I believe or a year and a half. And this is Patreese's actual biological mother. I'm Patreese's aunt. But since my sister had passed, I took Patreese when she was two years old.

[SONG begins in background]

DELL VO: I'm the actual only mother that she knows. It's like any minute now Patreese will come runnin' down the stairs. I always tell her to slow down, seem like when she get to the last two or three steps, it seem like she would jump off the stairs and, you know, it's not here anymore.

GIRLS: [inaudible]

GIRL: Mommy, I didn't get no checks today.

TANISHA VO: That's not good.

TANISHA: [inaudible]

[honks]

[inaudible]

TANISHA VO: Allright, here we go

GIRLS VO: Mommy, I love you.

TANISHA: I love you too babe.

TANISHA: My girls will be anywhere between 6 and 7 by the time she comes home. That's taken a lot from her, that's taken a lot from them, its taken a lot from me, and the rest of her family.

GIRL VO: What is that?

TANISHA VO: You know whose house this is.

TANISHA: Whose house is this?

GIRL VO: This Auntie Sookie's house. Y'all going to this house?

TANISHA: No. You going inside.

GIRL: What's wrong with us, I will see [inaudible]

TANISHA: I go to see her every other weekend. I take my kids with me...
I want them to know who she is. I didn't want her to just come home and be a stranger to her nieces. Everything that I took her, they took it.

KIMMA: I had gotten Terrain one time, some sugary Fruit Loop straws. I took it up there and they said 'no.'

TANISHA: It's been really stressful. The commute, sending them packages, trying to make sure she has clothes. Normally when I shop for her to get clothes, I check the kid's section first because she's so [makes a small shape with her hands] little

KIMMA:
I don't know if I like these.

TANISHA: I like those better.

TANISHA: Oh it's on sale.

TANISHA: And it has to be refrigerated. Where does it say?

KIMMA: Right there.

TANISHA: So, she can have it.

KIMMA: Hi mom, just walked in and I am feeding the cat and going to jump in the shower and get it all together. So I'll call you when I'm lotioning up. Ok, ok, love you.

[SONG]

KIMMA VO: Every other Friday after work. Catch the train at Brick Church to go to 59th St to catch the prison buses.

[SONG: There and Back Again]

KIMMA VO: I try to hold my head up and I try to be strong and she's crying "Mommy" and I'm like we're gonna get through this. But, um, it was extremely devastating.

TERRAIN: The buzzin' of the doors opening and closing. The door slamming...You can hear the click in the locks. You hear it in your sleep. I was very scared and all I could do was cry for my mother.

KIMMA: She would tell me stories about what's going on, and then she stopped telling me the stories. Like, so I'm like where are the stories or is it just like a way of life now, so like there's nothing to talk about.

TERRAIN VO: Once you're upstate you are considered state property. So once you do anything, even so much as touch yourself the wrong way, you will be penalized for it.

PATREESE: When we came in, we was in a facility where women not going nowhere and they gotta spend the rest of they lives there so- it was like, I didn't know how to cope with that. I would say I was really out of it for like my first year. Yeah, it's like I have nothing else to look forward to but going home. Which is a long time from now. I'm just existing right now. I don't really think I'm dealing with it.

RENATA: Such a gentle man.

I miss boxers, wearing boxers. These panties is killing me. Seriously. You're not allowed to have boxers in here. You're not allowed to have female boxers. You're not allowed to have, you're not allowed, jeez, let me just tell you this – you're not allowed to wear shorts as boxers. Okay? I got locked straight from a visit for having shorts on underneath my green pants – wearing them as boxers. But it's my son. Nothin' else I miss more than my son.

T.J.: Once we got on the bus, I felt very tired because it was standing like all day. Just waiting for a bus. I don't know how a bus can take forever. ...I hugged her.

RENATA VO: It hurts to see him, to know that I can't leave. Like a part of me was like, I would have rather just not see him up here. And just wait until I go him to see him, because once I get that, that close to him, it's like I don't want to know how it feels again to be away from him like that. I explained it to him, when I come home, we gonna be together, and nothing is ever going be able to separate us. I'll never put myself in that situation again.

T.J.: It was hard to leave from there.

RENATA VO: We come in here and we don't want people to know the wrong that was done to us. My mother was a heroin addict when I was younger. I went through a lot, I was angry, but this case actually brung me and my mother closer together. When I called home somebody answered her phone and they was crying and it was her wife. So I'm like, why you crying. You scarin' me. And she was like I'm sorry to tell you, your mother just passed away. My mother just passed away? I'm like, my mother ain't pass away, put my mother on the phone. And she was like, I'm sorry, your mother's dead. This is not happening to me while I'm in here. I wasn't dealing with it well. And so I started cutting up every time I got depressed.

I ended up hallucinating, and my son and my mother came into my cell and they said that I can leave. So my son is holding my hand and my mother is walkin' out the door, and my son goes to walk out the door and when I'm holding his hand and I go to walk out the door, I run into the door, like head first. And that's when I realized that it really wasn't happening. And then I just got hysterical.

[SONG in background]

RENATA VO: They sent me to mental health and then that's when I was diagnosed with PTSD and I was put on meds for it.
I was ashamed to tell my story about how I was raped. And how I was abused.
Because of how other people would look at me.
Me being nine years old there was no way I could defend myself against this man. He ended up getting five years for it. Five years and I get eight years.

[SONG lyrics I DON'T WALK ALONE]

REVA: The only people who have been considered the villains in this case were the seven women who were attacked and followed. Cases like Trayvon Martin, Cece McDonald, like Marissa Alexander. They all paint this picture that if you're a black person you don't have the right to defend yourself. That it's legitimate for people to intimidate you. It creates this environment where you are on guard because everyone around you perceives you as a threat before they know anything about you.

SUSAN VO: The law does set forth a certain standard in cases where there is a claim of self-defense but that doesn't address the trauma that women, that black women, that differently gendered people experience on the street all the time. And what effect that cumulatively has.

RENATA VO: I feel like I'm more of a target than anything. The way they made us out to be in the newspapers. It was 'A Wolfpack of Lesbians', 'Lesbian Gang', 'Lesbian Killers Gone Wild'. And... nuh uh

KAREN VO: Male supremacy hurts everybody. It hurts women of course most directly. But quite frankly I think this young man was completely hurt by it as well. Because he got involved with it because he had to prove something. He had to take it to this next step but this can't be the result.

NBC News Anchor Sue Simmons VO: Police are not ruling out bias in the murder of a gay New Jersey teenager and tonight, cops are still looking for two suspects in the stabbing death of the 15 year old from Newark. Friends of Sakia Gunn paid their respects at a makeshift memorial. The teen was killed ... at a Newark bus stop after Gunn and her friends apparently rebuffed advances by the two men.

YOUNG WOMAN: He took her life because he wouldn't give her the time of day. It's not even that serious. If you seen this girl she was only little. She was so skinny. How can you stab a girl that little?

RENATA: That night when we was getting attacked, my number one concern was, like, the whole Sakia Gunn thing and how she revealed that she was a lesbian. As I understood it from her cousin, they was at Broad Street and Market. Two guys in a truck rolled past and one of them tried to talk to her and she told him that she was gay and he jumped out of the car. He stabbed her multiple times. And she died in her cousin's arms.

PATREESE: Actually, I met her like a week before she passed away. Nobody could believe it like, something so petty. Somebody really stoop that low to really hurt somebody because they didn't want to talk to them. That night, yeah, it popped up in my head. I was like, oh my god. Is we repeating history? We gotta be repeating history.

GLO: It's really about the system of policing that allow and sanction the police to make it basically [laughs] an arrestable offence to be queer, to be of color, laughs You're guilty just by having an identity.

DES: And that's why FIERCE has been involved. It's something that our members have gone through, but it's also something that people of color are going through all the time.

ALEXIS: I am shocked that Renata ever got convicted. All that was established at this case was that she threw a couple of punches. That's not felony conduct, that's misdemeanor conduct.

PROTESTERS: Free Patreese! Free Patreese! Now! Free Patreese! Now! Free Patreese! Now! Free Patreese! Now! Free Patreese! Now! Free Patreese! Now! Free Patreese! Now!

PROTESTERS: Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata! Hands off Renata!

KIMMA: When you got to appeals, it's nothing like the regular court system. And you actually only argue or state your case, maybe ten, twelve minutes. And I was really shocked, there's like so much at stake. How do you not go on all day and fight the case. June 3rd, I got up, and as I stood up, I couldn't catch my breath. And then I collected myself and I knew something had happened. ... Terrain's attorney had called. And she said, we won our appeal. Your baby is coming home. And again, the non-emotional person that I am, screaming and hollering and praising God.

ALEXIS: With Terrain's case, the appellate court looked at the evidence and it just said there's nothing at all that's even ambiguous or controversial, so therefore we're just dismissing this indictment. But, at the end of the day, she did two years in prison.

KIMMA: Hi, Baby, Hi.

[shrieks and hugs]

TERRAIN: Take me away from my family, the nerve of you. But I got one better, I'm ma still pray for you. Young, only nineteen at the time, took me away from my world, still in my prime. Now I have three and a half years to do, yea they convicted me with time but the moral of the story is I never did the crime.

[clapping]

[clapping]

ANGELA DAVIS: Imagine, something like what happened two years ago, in Greenwich Village, to Terrain and her friends. Well suppose the seven young women had been white, and the assailant had been black.

AUDIENCE VO: Ah ha, it wouldn't have even happened

ANGELA DAVIS: And suppose the young white women, had decided that they did not want to take this anymore, that they were going to resist. And I say this because, there is no institutional mode of resisting homophobic street attacks. There is no place to turn. You either assent to the homophobia of everyday culture. You either pretend that this is something that you're supposed to smile about and move on. Or you figure out a way just to make a statement, to speak out, to resist.

[crowd cheering]

San Francisco VO: This is one of the NJ4 who we are truly blessed to have with us.

San Francisco Organizer VO: No Justice, No Peace, Free Patreese! No Justice, No Peace, Free Patreese! No Justice, No Peace, Free Patreese!

ALEXIS: There were two critical issues in the case and both pertained to the instructions that the judge who presided over this trial gave to the jury. What a

judge has to do is instruct the jury on the law. What does it mean to be an accessory to a crime like gang assault. What the judge in this case did instead was sort of use this very elaborate metaphor about an orchestra.

ALEXIS VO: He stated, "Everybody is dressed in tuxedos. The conductor is wailing away with a baton for the whole performance. Perhaps there is a soloist slumbering in the back, whether the thing is a cymbal where he's gonna make a racket, or a triangle where he's gonna make a ting. The tinger and the slammer are in the orchestra even though their performance is so far outweighed by everything everybody else does. So a jury doesn't have to decide whether a person who supposedly is involved, is one percent involved, whether its 50/50, it doesn't matter. You're either pregnant or you're not, you're either involved or you're not." That actually doesn't describe accessorial liability at all.

The judge truly gave an erroneous and a misleading and just confusing instruction about what it means to be an, an accessory. So what the appellate division did in Renata's case was it said, it could cut either way. We are not actually 100 percent sure what happened that night. But what we are sure of is that the judge did not give proper instructions to the jury in that case and that might have compromised this verdict, so we have to start again.

[RENATA laughs]

RENATA: Some bullshit...

Now I look like I belong in society

YEA. ... yea. Oh I look like I'm a human being now I'm not an inmate

SISTER BARBARA: [laughing] we were fine until we got to the bridge. Candice, this is Renata

CANDICE: You're comin' in?

RENATA: Yea

CANDICE: I'm Candice, nice to meet you.

SISTER BARBARA: [inaudible] very people friendly. We didn't put a bed in here for your son 'cause I think that's going to take a while and it's going to be a little tight if

we do that. But, we'll, we'll work it out, okay? It's not the Ritz, but it beats the shelter.

RENATA: It beats Albion and Bedford also. [smiling] Thank you.

SISTER BARBARA VO: You're welcome.

RENATA V.O: When I first came home and I called my son they said I wasn't allowed to speak to him or see him. And that's when I got the information that I didn't have custody anymore, which I didn't know. Then it was that fear of "what if I don't get him back."

[TV commercial in the background "All for \$19.99. So don't wander around. You can call 1-800-742-0413 to order my best fish friend"]

T.J.: Me and my mom are close. She told me that um, she's gonna be there for a little while. I couldn't, um, stay with her or see her, but she um, she told me, that um, to don't be sad because she's always there.

[RENATA: whistles, laughs]

[Chatting amongst themselves]

RICKY: What's in here?

RENATA: If y'all had a few more corner stores, I would, you know...

RICKY: Anything good?
[inaudible]

[laughing]

RENATA VO: My big brother is five years older than me. We don't see each other that much. Since my mother passed away, it seemed like it brought us closer together, seems like it always works like that.

RENATA: I need to put a sheet or something so I can lay back. [hits into the tree]
Yea, you seen that. The polo, yea. Woah. There you go.

RICKY: Yea, right back into the tree. Woah. [laughing]

RENATA VO: He has my mother's ashes, he's gonna let me bring her ashes back down with me. This is what her brother bought, right? This?

RICKY: Yeah

RENATA: Does it open?

RICKY: No

RICKY: he's like, well, I came to your house and I seen your mom was in a cardboard box, so I bought that for you, to put your mom in.

RENATA: Wow

RENATA VO:
You light these candles all the time?

RICKY VO:
Every holiday. Every birthday. Every mother's day.

[Renata and Ricky hug]

[inaudible]

RENATA: Listen to the song that's playing.

[laughs]

I feel like we should kiss now.

RICKY: I'm not kissing you.

FEMALE VOICE: I'll kiss you

RENATA: Thank you boo. Somebody cares.

RICKY: You look like extra ugly right now.

RENATA: And it's worse cause I cry with glasses on. I wasn't crying.

[laughs]

VENICE VO: They said 'Brown pack up, you're going home.' ... I didn't ask no more questions, I just left.

VENICE : [inaudible] go inside here. Maybe, come over here.

MAN: Yeah, come on, come on in. How do you like the place?

VENICE : Nice, you changed a lot. Hi. Um.

[hugs Man]

VENICE: Huh, man, it's a lot, it's emotional but, it's a lot I just want my best friend to come home. Patreese, I want her to come home, like now. I want her to come home now.

PATREESE: I was relieved when everybody was released. But, they can count they time on one hand and I, I'm still countin' on two, like. I felt like it wasn't fair in a way. Like, I could own up to what I could have done or what I did or my part in it. But I still feel like I don't deserve this much time at the end of the day.

Dispatcher VO: They want to know if it's gang activity?

NYPD Officer VO: Uh, not at this time.

Dispatcher VO: Okay.

NYPD Officer VO: It wasn't a 13, it wasn't an 85.

Dispatcher VO: It wasn't any of those things?

NYPD Officer VO: None of those things at all.

Dispatcher VO: Not even close?

Officer VO: Not even close.

NYPD Officer VO: It's like a tiny little pen knife or something he got cut with.

Dispatcher VO: Oh...

NYPD Officer VO: There's not even blood on the scene.

Dispatcher VO: Oh okay.
[laughs]

NYPD Officer VO:
It's all nonsense.

Dispatcher VO: All nonsense. I figured.

NYPD Officer VO: Always.

NYPD Officer VO: Okay, bye bye.

Dispatcher VO: Alright.

[beep]

KAREN: I first found out about the case through the news. I read an article and was horrified about the lesbian wolf-pack. There was something about the way that they were being talked about that, the kind of primal, animal thing. You can't help but take it personally. I'm, you know, I'm a black woman, I'm a lesbian, and it instantly felt wrong. We've all been sexually harassed on the street. As black women, we're never really believed that we could have feelings about that. Or that we don't want that. I wanted to take the case on and represent her on appeal. The statute that she was convicted under was a gang assault. One of the requirements of that statute says that the person who is on trial has to have injured somebody, um, and, and cause serious physical injury.

I was able to go through the record very carefully and it was not clear to me that any of the things were true for him. My argument was that serious physical injury hadn't actually occurred. He got his stomach sutured, and during surgery they found and repaired a hernia. The hospital reports note that he was never in imminent danger.

PATREESE VO: He had a wound but it wasn't as serious as they said it was. The DA, she made it seem like it was a life- threatening situation and it wasn't.

KAREN: When we got our actual opinion back, they rejected every single legal argument I made, but they still decreased her sentence, from 11 to 8 years. The court ruled that they were going to lessen her sentence in the interest of justice, that's kind of an interesting turn of phrase. Whatever happened in that trial court, they knew was wrong.

PATREESE: It made me feel safe to carry a knife on me, but when I get out, I'm not gonna carry no weapon because, because a weapon caused me to be in this situation. Nobody's really safe. That's just something you have to deal with, I don't feel safe in here so I'm learning how to deal with not feeling safe in here. Now that I'm here, it's like my outlook on life is totally totally different. I have anxiety attacks if I feel like somebody's walking too fast. Or somebody's behind me, I'm stopping and looking and I wasn't like that. I don't even know how home is right now, how Newark is. Is it still the same way? Deadly, you know? Is bodies still droppin'? I don't know.

DELL: You know, all I heard was the, you know, the sh, the shots, there was about five or six shots fired. I, I didn't run to the window right away, I waited for the, for them to finish. [laughs] And then I, um, I got up and I seen that my window here, these holes here, and on my door, here, down at the bottom. And ... that's the hole right there in the screen is for the door, went straight through. This it's time for me to leave this neighborhood. [laughs] Time for me to definitely leave this neighborhood.

[SONG- Yonder Come Day]

RENATA: When I got custody back of my son, I felt alive, He slept with me the first two months every single night, he'd just jump up "Mom!" He just talkin' in his sleep, jumped up and talking and then I be like "T.J., go to sleep," like, push his head back down. "Go to sleep, what's wrong with you?" And I would just listen to him. But it was a big fear of him feeling like that he was going to roll over and I wasn't going to be there, so I just let him, you know, get out of that process on his own and now, he sleeps in his own room. I can't pay him to spend a night with me. Me and my son share a bond that I didn't have with my mom. Now I'm living for her. She messed up but I'm correctin' it with my own life, and for my son.

T.J.: It was, it was blank to be in my nice warm bed when it was so cold outside. It was. OH! Doesn't comforting mean comfortable?

RENATA: Yep.

T.J.: Oh.

RENATA: I met Marilyn a couple of months after I came home, from prison.

See That? That's for Marilyn

We're both going to give it to her at the same time, alright.

T.J.: I want to go get it and it was like a Valentines Bear. I want to give her with my money.

RENATA: Dude, you trying to snatch my girls. Yo. You trying to snatch my girl. I'm telling you, you better back up homie.

[SONG: Yonder Come Day begins]

RENATA VO: We're building a family together, working on a home together. And one day I'm going to ask her to marry me.

I don't need no permission

[SONG: Bedford Bedtime Stories Part 1]

PATREESE: As the sun go down, and it's time for count, on the noise. Nothing but silence. Lights out. And this is where the tears begin. As my tears drop, each one full of hope and wishes.

[SONG]

[laughing]

PATREESE: I love you.

PATREESE: I'm ready to go

[END]