

## **Reaction on Human Rights**

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### *Uncle of Missing Girl Arrested on Sex Charges*

The uncle of a missing 12 year old Vermont girl has been brought up on unrelated sex charges. Michael Jacques, the uncle of 12 year old Brooke Bennett, has pleaded not guilty to charges of aggravated sexual assault and is being held on \$250,000 bail. Jacques, 41, is a registered sex offender who has been accused of assaulting a young girl over a 5 year period. According to Orange County State's Attorney Will Porter, the abuse began when the girl was 9 years old and continued until just a few weeks ago.

Although Jacques has a past history of sexual assault and is reported to have been the last person to see Brooke Bennett before she went missing, the man is not suspected of any involvement in the disappearance. Surveillance at a local convenience store corroborates Jacques' story that he dropped off his niece at the store and they went separate ways. Police are still strongly considering a connection to MySpace in the disappearance of Bennett, who hasn't been seen since last week. Vermont State Police Detective Sgt. William Jenkins referred to an affidavit that stated the unidentified girl told police that she was approached by Jacques when she was 9 or 10 years old. Allegedly, she was contacted by Jacques via telephone and also found a note left under her pillow stating that she had been chosen to participate in a "program for sex" and that Jacques would serve as her "trainer".

The girl, known only as "A.R." in court documents, said she was told there were two other girls enrolled in the program, too. "The first who does it lives and the second gets her throat cut," the girl stated, according to the affidavit. Early Monday morning after Jacques had been arrested on the sexual assault charges, Vermont State Troopers converged upon Jacques' home in Randolph. The troopers were assisted by state police units from Massachusetts and Connecticut and used a helicopter and dogs in the search of Jacques' home and adjoining property.

Jacques and his public defender, L. Brooke Dingedine, appeared before Judge Theresa DiMauro on Monday where the accused pleaded not guilty. Dingedine asked the judge to grant bail to her client. The State's Attorney argued against bail, stating that Jacques has previous convictions for aggravated sexual assault and kidnapping and there is "a threat of prejudicial violence to this particular juvenile complainant." Porter also argued that bail was inappropriate due to the serious nature of the crime. He also pointed out that Jacques had violated his probation. "There's no condition or series of conditions that could guarantee the safety of the juvenile complainant in this case," said Porter. Ms. Dingedine made a strong argument for bail, stating that Jacques has a full-time job, owns his home and adjoining rental property, has strong family ties, and "a family that depends on his income." DiMauro granted the bail, adding a 24-hour curfew with an exception for work.

*By: Buzzle Staff and Agencies*

## *Reaction*

Preservation of human rights is one of the prevailing perennial problems that concern the world up to today. The number of people experiencing deprivation from fair and humane treatment continues to rise and what's most alarming the situation had gotten from bad to worst. An evolution like this discourages our young hope to vision a good and bright tomorrow. A perfect example is the article stated above.

Michael Jacques had been accused of many sex charges and presently indulging to incest. As the article shows, he is a registered sex offender who has been accused of assaulting a young girl over a 5 year period. He even had this so called "Sex Program" and he is this self proclaim instructor. He did not only abuse his niece but also two other innocent girls at the same time. Yet, he is still pleading for bail and absolution from his charges because he has a 24 hour job and the bread winner of his family and has strong family ties with them as his attorney defended him. Fortunate for him they won the case and the court granted him bail yet unfortunate for his niece and other girls who had been his victim.

A threat of prejudicial violence to this particular juvenile complainant would be the next issue here. Jacques may come into revenge to his niece and might harm his victims more severely. The victims is not fully guaranteed of full security because there's a tendency that it would be happen again since the case of Jacques was been released. It's so unfair for those victims of the same issue, because in this article it showed that though how the victims thirst for justice still the justice will not be given.

I'm not favor for this issue, because everyone or most especially the victims of this issue has the right to clash for justice, but unfortunately most of the same case put into trash than to take into action. So, to avoid this kind of issue the parents should take good care of their child and they should not trust anyone though they're related. As the days goes by the word "trust" becomes worthless. What is very important is the dignity of a woman though how the court will bestow the justice but nothing will going to happen because the only thing the woman preserved was already gone. What more if that justice will not be given to the victims? Maybe, those victims of that issue will be weak forever and she will struggle a lot before she can stand again. I hope in this article the government will really give their attention about this issue so that to avoid those prejudice situations and also the court will really hear the voice of those victims of rape.