

Guess Who Wasn't Raped Last Year?

By **Alexander Baron** - Jan 2, 2016



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SHARES

If we are to believe people like Lisa Longstaff – **and who does?** – rape is not only a vastly under-reported crime but women seldom if ever make false allegations of rape or sexual assault. The reality is that rape is *not* a vastly under-reported crime, and perhaps as many as half of all reports are false, most gratuitously so. The cases below were all gleaned from the public domain last year. It remains to be seen how many false allegations do not make the international, the national or even the local press, perhaps because the police give most gratuitously false accusers some leeway to reconsider before instigating a full investigation which might have serious consequences.

January 4: Wendy June Howell of Roanoke Rapids files a report of rape against someone she knows. Later, she admits the allegation was false.

January 7: This case from Fairbanks, Alaska, is bizarre and tragic in equal measure. In the small hours, Dominique Vasquez is caught *in flagrante delicto* with Wesley Lord by her lover Abraham Stine. She claimed she was being raped, and Stine beat Lord to death, apparently with a little help from Vasquez, who appears to have been trying to shut him up. They were both charged with **second degree murder**.

January 15: A student at Riverside City College claims to have been attacked in a restroom by a man intent on raping her; she claims she fended off the attacker with a pencil. An investigation, including the view of CCTV footage, leads to her retracting her claim. This false report was made all the more serious because at the time there appears to have been a genuine sexual predator on the loose.

January 24: A student at Purdue University claims to have been raped on campus; the assault is alleged to have been committed by a white male late that night. On January 27, Police Chief John Cox confirmed that this attack never happened.

January 25: Yet another false allegation on an American campus, this time at East Carolina University; the “victim” turned out to be a woman who had engaged in consensual sex.

February 4: A report so dated reveals that in North Carolina, Jelisa Shantel Smith was charged with filing a false rape report and misuse of the 911 system. She claimed that the previous month she had been kidnapped, held for a week, and raped.

March 3: According to the *New Straits Times*, on this date, 22 year old Tan Gan Hui gave false information to the police at the Ang Mo Kio Division headquarters that she had been raped by a friend. Later she admitted they had had consensual sex in his room. She met her victim through Facebook although they had attended the same secondary school. She was given a five day short detention order.

March 22: This is the date teenager Lucy Barmby claimed to have been raped at her home and elsewhere. The following November she appears at Dumbarton Sheriff Court charged with wasting police time. Sentence is deferred until December 15. She is eventually sentenced to carry out 140 hours of unpaid work in the community within six months.

April 26: It is reported by an Indian newspaper that a man *and his family* have been acquitted by a Delhi court on charges of raping, molesting and threatening his wife. They married in February 2013; she did this because she wanted to get rid of him. He was said to have been impotent.

May 5: In Salisbury, Maryland, USA, a woman accuses two men of abducting and raping her. Charges are filed, then her lies unravel, and the charges are dropped. The way this story is reported is a classic of the genre; there is no concern for two innocent men who might have had their lives destroyed, instead there is a lot of guff about how rare false reports are – rare indeed – and how publicising cases like this can have a *chilling effect* on real victims coming forward.

May 19: A woman claims she was raped at around 11.25pm in Lower Paxton Township, Pennsylvania by a man who pushed her to the ground and put his hand over her mouth. Later she admits this incident never happened.

June 7: In Barnsley, South Yorkshire, a 13 year old girl claims to have been raped. The non-offence didn't happen in an underpass near the *Alhambra* theatre. Police spent more than a hundred hours reviewing CCTV and interviewed over twenty witnesses before concluding it never happened.

Late June: In the United States, Samuel North is accused of raping a teenager. The following September, a judge dismisses the case.

July 13: Australian national Kurt Graham is accused of raping a woman in Dallas. The case does not even go to the Grand Jury.

August 12: A 34 year old woman reports being attacked from behind and raped on Back Cove Trail, Portland, Maine. Police step up patrols in the area, but two days later Chief Michael Sauschuck holds an outdoor press conference at which he reveals that no crime had occurred, and that the woman had admitted such.

August 21: According to a report from Pakistan, on this date a maid named Razia Bibi was allegedly raped by Korean national Shane Wan. Later, she withdrew the allegation; Mr Wan was not the first man she had falsely accused!

August 21: This is the date a Somali refugee was not raped on the island of Nauru by two men. In October, after an extensive investigation, the Government confirms this rape never happened.

August 23: In Cambodia, Englishman Nick Laycock is arrested after allegedly raping a tourist. She had sustained injuries to her wrist and back. Later, CCTV reveals her falling over and him helping her up. They had earlier had consensual sex.

August 28: A report so dated from Meerut, India of a bizarre false rape allegation, a conspiracy involving several people. An attempt to frame someone as an act of revenge.

September 1: A report from Fiji says a woman claimed that on this date she had been drugged and raped by her adulterous husband. This could have been a genuine mistake; she was said to have been a heart patient who normally takes sleeping pills, so perhaps she had been visited by the **Old Hag?**

November 7: This is the date Mercedes Irizarry of Stamford, Connecticut told police she was kidnapped and raped by a former boyfriend. An arrest warrant was issued for him, and he was traced to Columbia. Where he had been for the past two years!

November 17: At around 3am, Erica Kingsbury is raped in her home at Bloomington, Indiana by an armed intruder. Or so she told the police. During the investigation, she admits this rape didn't happen.

November 19: Netsai Matereke attends a police station where she claims to have been raped by her employer. When she appears before a Mutare magistrate the following month, she tells him: "Your Worship, we agreed to have sex but he later dumped me. I felt used and I reported the matter to court". She is given a suspended sentence and fined.

November 23: At Exeter Crown Court, Sophie Tucker is given an 18 month sentence suspended for two years, ordered to attend a thinking skills course and pay £200 costs after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice. The unmarried mother of two had lied to her fiancé after having consensual oral sex with his fifty year old boss. The victim was arrested, held for seven hours, and spent 24 days on police bail. She had previously sent him *flirtatious texts* and naked pictures before inviting him to her home. As usual, the judge was more concerned with the chilling effect on genuine rape victims than with the actual victim here.

November 27: A report so dated from Australia tells the story of Lin Fan who was charged with raping his wife. He was found not guilty in two hours. According to his lawyer: “This case has nothing to do with rape and is all to do with immigration fraud.”

December 4: A truly bizarre case, Helen McWhirter is given a 12 month sentence at Aberdeen Sheriff Court after her conviction for wasting police time. She had engaged in a threesome with a married couple at an hotel, exchanged texts with them afterwards telling them how much she had enjoyed it, then when her boyfriend found out, went to the police and claimed she'd been raped.

December 5/6: A 33 year old woman tells police she was raped in Barnsley town centre. She is fined £90 for wasting police time.

December 8: A young woman is not raped by a gang of Asian men in a Sutton Coldfield Park; later that month she receives a fixed penalty notice for making a false allegation.

December 10: It is reported that earlier this week, a warrant was filed at the Greene County Sheriff's Department, Tennessee charging 42 year old Michelle Dawn Romines with filing a false report, a class D felony. She claimed to have been hit in the face and head with a hammer in addition to being raped. She had sought medical treatment, and it was while she was at the hospital this phantom rape was reported. Later, she admitted to lying about it.

December 13: A really odd story from Japan. A teenage girl and her five accomplices robbed a man after accusing him of rape. This appears to have been some sort of bizarre attempt to entrap him.

December 18: The BBC reports the gaoling of fifty year old Teresa Watson who accused a man with whom she worked at Aberdeen International Airport of raping her. She was given an eight month sentence after having previously been convicted of making a false allegation and wasting police time.

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