

Girl tells how gang held her prisoner : Hearing to decide if Hmong boys will be tried for rape

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DETROIT -- Shouts and death threats were the weapons alleged Hmong **gang** members used to kidnap and hold a 17-year-old Wisconsin **girl** while as many as 20 men and boys raped **her** repeatedly, the **girl** testified Monday.

The ordeal stretched on for 17 days, the **girl** told 36 District Court Judge David Martin Bradfield during a hearing to determine whether the suspects, three from Warren and two from Detroit, will be sent to trial on rape charges.

The hearing was to reconvene this morning.

"I told them I want to go," the **girl** said. "But they won't let me go. They said if I go they're going to try to kill me. I finally did what they say because I know if I didn't, they were just going to beat me up and rape me after all."

The **girl** and three others have told police they left Sheboygan, Wis., voluntarily to visit friends in Detroit, but that their trip turned horribly wrong when they were kidnapped and kept as sex slaves.

During lengthy cross-examination, five defense attorneys stressed the absence of weapons or beatings in the 17-year-old **girl**'s story. She testified that during two weeks of being raped by four or five youths each night, only one person struck **her**, but he was not among the defendants charged. The only injury she described was a bruise on **her** back "because I do it too many times."

The judge questioned **her** on exactly **how** members of a **gang** called 116 used shouting to take **her** from **her** friends and force **her** into a car on Sept. 18.

"You're telling me any time anybody yells at you," the judge said, raising his voice to demonstrate, "that's a threat? These are serious charges, young lady, and you have to bring some evidence to this court."

The **girl** said the intimidation began as soon as she entered the house and saw a **girl** who "looked crazy and all messed up" being **held** in a closet.

Different boys kept watch over **her**, she said, even watching **her** go to the bathroom. Then on Oct. 5, when **her** captors fell asleep, she testified, she ran out of the house and sought help from a Detroit police officer who happened to be patrolling nearby.

Three other **girls** , ages 14, 15 and 16, are scheduled to testify.

The suspects in the case include Ladsamee Lee, 20, and Van Yee Leng Chang, 17, both of Warren.

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