

PRESS RELEASE:

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WFAE Launches “She Says”- A Podcast about a Woman Looking for Answers about Her Sexual Assault

Charlotte, N.C. (May 23, 2018) – It can be a difficult and long process to find justice after being sexually assaulted. WFAE’s new investigative podcast, “She Says,” focuses on the story of one woman trying to do just that.

For the past year, award-winning WFAE journalist **Sarah Delia** has followed the story of a woman referred to as **Linda*** who was sexually assaulted by a stranger in Charlotte, N.C. It’s been nearly three years since the assault, and **Linda** is still waiting for answers... even though she believes she’s known the truth the entire time.

“She Says” will reveal **Linda’s** story over the course of the eight-episode weekly podcast series, which launches Thursday, May 31. The podcast will take a look at Linda’s case in a way that it hasn’t been looked at before, featuring conversations with detectives, nurses, forensic scientists and attorneys about how this system works. The podcast also will feature conversations with **Linda** and never-before-heard tape recorded from **Linda’s** interactions with the police.

Linda’s case, which is still ongoing, raises many questions, including: What can be done to improve this system sexual assault survivors must learn to maneuver? And in **Linda’s** case -- the most pressing question which has forced her to stay on this path—when will her perpetrator be brought to justice?

“‘She Says’ reveals the difficult journey that sexual assault survivors face as they seek justice. This podcast gives listeners – who may themselves be survivors of sexual assault – a glimpse into one woman’s struggle navigating the legal system as well as the challenges that law enforcement officials face as they try resolve these cases,” said **Ju-Don Marshall**, WFAE’s chief content officer. “In asking the important questions our community must address around the handling of sexual assault cases and support for survivors, this podcast highlights the important role of WFAE’s nonprofit journalism. Our listener and supports should be proud of this important work. I certainly am.”

You can view the trailer for “She Says” now at WFAE.org/SheSays. Starting May 31, new episodes will be available each Thursday on the website and the WFAE app, as well as through Apple Podcasts, NPR One, Google Play and other sources for podcasts.

*(name has been changed)

(More)

Episode Descriptions:

Episode 1: THE WINDING ROAD

This first episode explores what happened to Linda the night she was attacked and the questions she has. Who was the perpetrator? When will the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) find him? What, if anything, can Linda do to help move her case forward?

Episode 2: RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME

In the case of a sexual assault, the crime scene is the body. SANE nurses describe how they interact with patients and evidence in sexual assault cases. Linda recounts her experience with SANE nurses.

Episode 3: IT'S (NOT) HIM

Two years following the assault with virtually no headway on the case, Linda meets with CMPD and is told the person she has identified is not her assailant, leaving her distressed and confused. However, it turns out that it's more complicated than that.

For interview opportunities, please contact Renee Rallos. Photos and logo are available upon request.

About Sarah Delia

Sarah Delia, an Edward R. Murrow Award-winning journalist, covers criminal justice and the arts for WFAE. She has lived in and told stories from Maine, Indiana, Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina. Delia received her B.A. in English and Art history from James Madison University, where she began her broadcast career at college radio station WXJM. Delia has interned and worked at NPR in Washington D.C., interned and freelanced for WNYC, and attended the Salt Institute for Radio Documentary Studies.

About WFAE

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