## Harvey Weinstein victim who testified urges judge to do 'what is right' ahead of sentencing

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- Aspiring actress Tarale Wulff, 43, wrote about her experience as one of the three Molineux witnesses who testified at Weinstein's criminal trial last month
- She urged the judge to not give Weinstein 'special treatment' during sentencing after the disgraced movie mogul asked for a five-year prison sentence
- The 67-year-old faces a maximum of 29 years in prison after being found guilty of criminal sexual act in the first degree and rape in the third degree last month
- Wulff wrote that her alleged assault by Weinstien 'will continue to haunt me and the other survivors for the rest of our lives'
- She said she hopes 'the sentence sends a clear message that times have changed and that more women need to speak out for themselves'

One of Harvey Weinstein's victims who testified at the movie mogul's trial is urging the judge to 'not give him special treatment' during sentencing tomorrow.

In an open letter published on <u>Medium</u>, 43-year-old aspiring actress Tarale Wulff, described her experience as one of three Molineux witnesses who testified at Weinstein's criminal trial last month where she told the jury how Weinstein invited her for an audition then allegedly raped her in his New York apartment and told her 'don't worry, I've had a vasectomy'.

The 67-year-old will be sentenced Wednesday and faces a maximum of 29 years in prison after being found guilty of criminal sexual act in the first degree and rape in the third degree. In court documents filed Monday, Weinstein asked for leniency and only a five-year prison sentence.

Wulff writes: 'My hope is that Judge [James] Burke will hold Weinstein accountable by imposing a prison sentence that reflects what he has done to us and knowing that whatever sentence he renders, it will never undo what has happened.

'Those events will continue to haunt me and the other survivors for the rest of our lives.'

Tarale Wulff took the witness stand at Weinstein's trial last month, claiming he allegedly masturbated in front of her at the Cipriani's club in New York and on a second occasion allegedly raped her at his apartment

The 67-year-old faces a maximum of 29 years in prison after being found guilty of criminal sexual act in the first degree and rape in the third degree last month

Wulff is not permitted by law to give a victim impact statement at tomorrow's hearing, but writes that 'it is important for me, however, that my voice is heard.'

She said during the trial that on one occasion Weinstein masturbated in front of her while she was working as a cocktail waitress at the upscale New York restaurant Cipriani.

Wulff and two other women were so-called 'Molineux' witnesses who testified about the producer's 'prior bad acts' at the trial that has been considered a milestone for the #MeToo movement.

But, Weinstein did not face charges in those cases due to the statue of limitations and other legal issues. Prosecutors used their testimony to bolster their case against the embattled producer.

The charges he faced came from the assault allegations of Mimi Haleyi, who accused him of forcibly performing oral sex on her in 2006, and Jessica Mann, who claims Weinstein raped her in a New York hotel 2013.

The high-profile trial finally came to an end last month, with jurors finding Weinstein guilty on two counts.

'I appreciate the work of the jurors and their ultimately holding Harvey Weinstein responsible,' Wulff wrote. 'I cannot appreciate what it would be like to pass sentence on another person, but I am confident that Judge Burke will do what is right and not give Weinstein any special treatment.'

Wulff writes that she hopes 'the sentence sends a clear message that times have changed and that more women need to speak out for themselves and that men and women need to speak out for others.

'We need to show self-love and empathy to overcome centuries of illogical thinking that has normalized the sexual mistreatment of women. This is hopefully just the beginning. The conversation must continue.'

Wulff also writes about her alleged rape and how it has haunted her for years since.

'After I was raped by Weinstein in 2005, I was confused. Why didn't I scream? Why didn't I fight? I thought I was stronger and I hated myself for being weak. That self-hate turned into shame and guilt.

'Shame that I never should have felt and guilt that was not mine to own. I didn't know that at the time. I didn't realize it for 12 more years.'

'Harvey Weinstein stole a part of my self-worth, treating me like I was nothing and I became fearful and mistrustful, not only of others but of myself. These feelings were unbearable to live with and I pushed back the fear, shame and guilt to move on with my life. That is how I survive.'

Wulff tells of the trauma of testifying and reliving the assault.

'Testifying was surreal,' she says 'Mentally I was nervous and intimidated but in my heart I knew I had my truth and no matter what anyone said to me, I would go home with my truth.'

On Monday Weinstein's defense team asked a judge in court papers to consider a sentence of only five years, far short of the potential 29-year maximum term allowed by law.

The papers argue Weinstein should get credit for supporting various charitable causes during his rise to one of Hollywood's most powerful producers.

On the health front, Weinstein is dealing with heart problems, ramifications of unsuccessful back surgery stemming from a car crash last summer and a condition that requires shots in his eyes so he does not go blind, his lawyers have said.

The disgraced film producer is caged in a dorm-style cell in New York's notorious Rikers Island prison with two other inmates, a source claimed Sunday.

He's currently being treated for a concussion after falling and hitting his head in prison, it has been reported.

His spokesperson Juda Engelmayer told <u>Page Six</u>: 'He's miserable but trying to be optimistic as best he can. He has had a lot of time to think about his life and be humbled, but he thinks it's going to be a long, uphill battle from here.'