

Convicted by the Media

by Suzy Hopkins

Laci Peterson was reported missing by her husband Scott Peterson in the local paper.

Relatives of Laci hold a news conference to demand Scott tell authorities everything he knows about the case.

Laci's family told authorities he had been involved with another woman as shown in the local paper.

When the other woman is contacted by a TV station she confirms she had a romantic relationship with Scott.

Scott's mother tells The Associated Press her family believes kidnappers abducted Laci with intentions of holding her captive until she delivered the baby.

The local newspaper states a search warrant was issued to search the Peterson's home where they remove possible evidence.

The local paper says the local police have officially declared the case a homicide.

The local TV station said a female body and a male fetus were found washed ashore in Richmond, California. They were later identified as Laci and her unborn son.

National TV said police in San Diego arrest Scott who is found carrying a large amount of cash and his brother's passport.

The local news says Scott pleads not guilty to charges of murdering of murdering his wife and unborn son.

The local paper announces the county DA will seek the death penalty against Scott Peterson A YEAR AND A HALF BEFORE THE TRIAL.

The national news states that Scott's lawyers have a theory that a "satanic cult kidnapped and murdered Laci and that they are searching for a man named Donnie as the possible killer and claim the man may be linked to a mysterious brown van spotted in the area of the Petersons' house on the day Scott reported Laci missing.

The local TV shows the Judge denies a request to issue a gag order on lawyers involved in the case.

The national news states Scott's defense attorneys claim he turned down an offer by the County DA to exchange a promise not to seek the death penalty for a confession.

The national news says Scott admitted – then denied- involvement in his wife's disappearance in a wiretapped telephone conversation with his then girlfriend.

The national news has telephone logs showing Scott called his girlfriend hundreds of times after his wife's disappearance contradicting prior claims that she had pursued him.

A preliminary hearing is held ten months after Scott reported his wife missing and five months after Laci's body was found.

He was convicted of a double murder only on circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial means incidental, inferred, anecdotal, possible and presumptive.

The unfortunate relentless local and national coverage by the media portrayed Scott as an untrustworthy sneaky person. That didn't prove he was a murderer. The media had convicted him before the trial even started.