

## Michael Mehas and *Stolen Boy* are Controversial

The state of California seeks death against the youngest man ever on the FBI's Most Wanted List. But two things stand in their way: Michael Mehas, and his explosive new book: *Stolen Boy*.

Jesse James Hollywood presently resides in a Santa Barbara, California jail on trial for kidnapping and orchestrating the murder of his arch nemesis' fifteen-year-old brother. So why would an author of a novel based on such a horrific crime stand in the way of bringing death to an alleged child killer?

"Because I believe in life," Mehas states simply, "and the killing has got to stop. Two men's lives are still at stake in this case. One's already on death row, and Hollywood now faces death straight on. This is our best chance to keep these guys alive."

Up to this point, Mehas' testimony has been used to help Jesse James Hollywood, but the writer is now worried prosecutors will try to use him to send Hollywood to death row. He believes prosecutors want to know what Hollywood's family and other witnesses told him during his research for his book.

All the information the author accrued over his four years of research and writing could be used to help and hurt both Hollywood's attorneys and the prosecution. The defense wants to challenge much of the evidence in the case and use information gleaned by Mehas to challenge witness testimony.

"I've given Hollywood the basis for his appeal," says Mehas. "If I hadn't gotten involved, I truly believe he would be on death row right now as we speak."

The writer says that the former prosecutor on the case told him that he looked forward to bringing death to Hollywood before retiring. Based on conversations with the victim's family Mehas also believes they have a strong desire to see Hollywood reach his ultimate conclusion.

"But the worst part about the whole thing was the way law enforcement officials used the media to demonize Hollywood during the five years he was on the run," Mehas concludes. "Basically they tried and convicted Jesse in absentia. There's no way he was going to get a fair trial after that.

"Anyone who had read or heard about the case through the media got the wrong impression about what really happened. They believed that Hollywood was just this gangster drug dealer who killed this kid as revenge over a stupid drug debt. Sure, the whole thing was totally stupid. But the media's version was not how it happened at all. People don't understand the true motivations involved. This man does not deserve to die. That's why I had to get *Stolen Boy* out. There was so much more to the story that needed to be told. And I was afraid I was the only one with all the information – and the ability to tell it right."

