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## INFAMOUS CRIMINAL TELLS ALL TO SAVE INNOCENT TEENAGERS

SAN DIEGO, CA. -- This release is to announce the launch of *The Dirty Nasty Truth: 18 True Crime Stories & 10 Life in Prison Stories to Stop Juvenile Delinquency*, a memoir by infamous ex-con John Barrett Hawkins, whose criminal case ignited a media firestorm. The story was covered by The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Vanity Fair magazine, "NBC Nightly News," and "Oprah," among many others. Two books were published. Documentaries were broadcast on "MSNBC" and "A&E Entertainment". Fox produced a TV movie called "If Looks Could Kill – John Hawkins Story."

Bank robbers, jewel thieves, gangbangers and murderers are the protagonists in *The Dirty Nasty Truth*. This book of true crime stories is aimed at teenagers and their parents. Its ulterior motive: to provide insight into the root causes of juvenile delinquency and to inspire teens to make better choices.

The book is based on a youth intervention program called Convicts Reaching Out To People (CROP) that Hawkins participated in while incarcerated at Donovan State Prison in San Diego. CROP was founded on the belief that the most effective way to deter juvenile delinquency is through storytelling. CROP is a public speaking forum, where prison inmates give personal testimonies concerning drug use, gangs, crime, bullying, self-esteem, and life in prison – before large groups of teens – who were brought into the prison by parents, teachers, and police officers. As a member of CROP at Donovan, Hawkins witnessed remarkable turnarounds of teens that were on a path of criminality. He began to study the other convicts' testimonies, and in so doing, discovered a successful formula for deterring juvenile delinquency that he wanted to share with the general public.

"This book can be a useful tool for parents, teachers and law enforcement professionals seeking to deter teens from making poor choices," Says Priscilla Steiner (Director of From The Inside Out, a non-profit organization that facilitates intervention programs for youth offenders in conjunction with the Carlsbad Police Department). In the book's foreword she writes: "The stories provide a non-threatening, non-judgmental platform for adults and kids to talk about important issues including drugs, drinking, shoplifting, bullying, gangs, sex and self-esteem."

In a chapter titled Million-Dollar Murder Conspiracy, Hawkins chronicles his descent from successful entrepreneur (at the age of 25 he owned 22 Just Sweats clothing stores) to convicted felon. He was tried and convicted of conspiracy to commit murder for his role in an insurance fraud that unexpectedly resulted in his accomplices killing a

man. Hawkins faced the unfathomable truth that he was responsible for a homicide. For many years he searched for a way to make amends through service to others. The CROP program provided an opportunity for redemption.

"It was morally self-evident that I should use the story of my crime and all the people I hurt as a means of deterring others from breaking the law," Hawkins said. "The CROP program provided a way for me to make amends. Hopefully, *The Dirty Nasty Truth* will enable me to continue this work now that I am a free man."

*The Dirty Nasty Truth* is a 247-page soft cover book, price \$15.95, available at Amazon.com. Visit the author's website [www.JohnBarrettHawkins.com](http://www.JohnBarrettHawkins.com) to read free sample chapters.