

HE sister of Charles Manson murder victim Sharon Tate has embarked on a do-or-die crusade to keep one of the madman's twisted "family" members from getting out of prison early - and walking the streets a free woman.

Leslie Van Houten (pictured above) has served 30 years for murder and now wants a California judge to release her because she's "rehabilitated" and "deserves" to be let go.

But in an exclusive interview with GLOBE, movie star Tate's furious sister Debra hits back, saying it's "unthinkable to release Van Houten from jail."

"It's unbelievable that a cold-blooded killer like her might be let out of jail and loose into

society. Her freedom would be a slap in the face to my sister and the others who were murdered.

"She claims she deserves to be freed to live her life -

but where is the justice in that? What about the vic-

tims who weren't allowed to live?" Van Houten was convicted in the 1969 stabbing deaths of wealthy Leno and Rosemary LaBianca in their Los Angeles home. At her trial, she testified that she stabbed Rosemary

at least 14 times in the back. Just one day earlier, Manson's evil family had murdered five other people, including Tate, who was just 27 and eight months pregnant. Van Houten, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel.

Charles "Tex" Watson and Manson - who ordered the murders but didn't take part in them - were convicted and condemned to die.

But they were spared from execution when, in 1972, California briefly outlawed the death penalty. They've been in prison ever since.

"Now there's talk about releasing these monsters back into society," fumes Debra. "I cry thinking about it."

San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Bob N. Krug has scheduled a hearing later this month for Van Houten, 52, who was denied parole in June 2000.

While court's in session, Debra vows to be right there - protesting to keep Van Houten behind bars. "I'll do everything in my power," she says, "to see that Van Houten and all those killers remain in jail for the rest of their lives."

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