

Atty. Gen. Clark Says High Court Rules Not Blocking Police Action

WASHINGTON, April 30 (AP) — Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Sunday that Supreme Court-imposed restrictions on police interrogation and on the use of confessions apparently have not been hampering law enforcement as some people feared they would.

Confessions apparently are being obtained at least as often as before the rulings, he said.

"We had increasing crime long before the Miranda case which has created such controversy, which is only since last June," he said, "and there is ample indication today that the Miranda really hasn't had the effect that its detractors attribute to it in law enforcement."

Clark referred to crimes under police interrogation, among them that of Ernesto A. Miranda, convicted of rape in Phoenix, Ariz.

This case, concerning confession of a crime without prior legal advice, led to the Supreme Court's controversial decision.

The 5-4 decision requires that a suspect be informed of his right to remain silent and to have counsel present; he must be warned that his words may be used against him; he must be provided with counsel by the court if he can't afford to hire it; the prosecution must prove a confession voluntary if given in the absence of counsel; and

questioning must end whenever the suspect wants it to.

Critics contend these rules tie the hands of police.

"Two surveys have indicated that confessions are coming in, after Miranda warning, at about the same rate or perhaps even higher than they were before Miranda," Clark said.

He cited a study of 2,000 cases in New York. Confessions were at issue in 275 of them, Clark said, "with only 22 cases where the defense raised the question of the legality of the confession and only two out of 2,000 where a motion to suppress the confession was actually granted, one in 1,000."

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ENCLOSURE