MARCH 26, 2007

CHAIRMAN WALTON: It's 9:00 o'clock, so we will get started. Good morning to everyone. Thank you for your presence. My name is Reggie Walton. I serve as the Chairman of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission. As my day job, I am a United States District Judge in the District of Columbia.

I will also permit my fellow Commissioners to identify themselves. Starting to our right.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: I am John Kaneb. I am in private business and I'm from Boston, Massachusetts.


COMMISSIONER SMITH: My name is Professor Brenda Smith. I teach at American University Washington College of Law.

COMMISSIONER FELLNER: Good morning. I'm Jamie Fellner. I'm Director of the U.S. Program at Human Rights Watch in New York City.

COMMISSIONER NOLAN: And I'm Pat Nolan, Vice-president of Prison Fellowship. I'm from
Leesburg, Virginia.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Again, I would like to thank you to the seventh public hearing of the Commission. The Commission was created by an Act of Congress in 2003, and it was signed into law by the President. The Commission is tasked with the assessing -- the assessment, I'm sorry, of the nature and prevalence and the factors that contribute to the incidence of sexual assault in detention facilities throughout the United States. The Commission's ultimate responsibility is to produce a report that addresses all aspects of sexual assault in detention facilities and to propose standards designed to address the problem.

Over the next two days of this hearing, the Commission will explore the special challenges that confront police in court lockup facilities, the situation in Native American detention facilities, and the status and efforts to improve and to respond to sexual assault in Texas detention facilities, especially in light of recent events that have had national significance.

We wish to thank everyone who has played a role in assisting in putting this hearing together. We also would like to thank those of you
who will testify as witnesses. We would like to give
a special thanks, obviously, to the University of
Texas and to its law school.

As with our prior hearings, I'm
confident that what we will hear during the next few
days will greatly assist the Commission as we proceed
with our deliberations in assessing what our report
should indicate, and more importantly, what our
standards will recommend.

So, again, we thank you for your
presence and we will proceed with our first panel.

Our first panel will consist of
Ms. Kathy Hall-Martinez, who is associated with Stop
Prison Rape, and she will introduce the videotape of
the survivor witness who will present her testimony by
videotape.

Thank you. Good seeing you again.

MS. HALL-MARTINEZ: Thank you very
much, Judge Walton.

My name is Kathy Hall-Martinez. I am
the Co-Executive Director of Stop Prison Rape. I'm
here today because I want to introduce to you all the
testimony of Ms. Erica Hejnar. We at SPR met her for
the first time just over a month ago at the Survivor
Summit we convened in Los Angeles. She flew to L.A.