Elimination of Prison Rape:
The Corrections Perspective

March 23, 2006
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OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS OF COMMISSIONERS

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Good morning. I would like to thank Director Lappin and also Mr. Grayer for being here today -- for permitting us to be here today. It's very gracious on their part to permit us to use this facility.

Before we convene the hearing, we do have two individuals here who can provide you with assistance if you have any questions and that's Ms. Jerry Anderson -- Ms. Anderson, could you please stand -- and Ms. Terraina Yates. So if you have any questions, please direct them to them.

Thank you. We will now convene the third public hearing of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission being held here in Miami Florida in the Federal Detention Facility on the 23rd of March, 2006.

Good morning, again. My name is Reggie Walton and I am a chairman of the commission. I welcome all of you here today, and we thank you for your attendance. This commission was created by an
act of congress of the United States and also
signed into law by the president of the United
States.

The mission of the commission is twofold.

One, we have a mission to study the issue of rape
and report to congress and the executive branch our
findings. We also have the mission to develop
standards for addressing the problem of sexual
assault in our nations prisons, jails, and all
other types of detention facilities.

This hearing is one of the components of the
commission's efforts to fulfill the commission
given to us by congress and the president. Our
first two hearings mainly focused on the nature and
extent of the problem of prison rape from the
perspective of the victims and public interest
groups who provide support and who help or provide
advocate support on behalf of those who are victims
of the prison sexual assault.

At today's hearing, we'll look at the
situation from the perspectives of law enforcement
and the experts. This is an important advantage
because to really understand the problem of
detention facilities sexual assault, I need to hear
from those who manage, supervise and work in our
nations detention centers on a daily basis. As
chairman of the commission, I fully appreciate that
it would be impossible for this commission to
accomplish its mission without your input, so we
thank you for your presence and your participation
in this hearing.

More importantly, the commission understands
that in order to have its efforts actually impact
the problem, it needs a buy in and the cooperation
of the individuals who manage supervise and work in
our nations detention facilities.

One last point I would like to make and that
is to address the apparent belief that some may
have that the commission has already reached
conclusions in reference to this issue and that we
have already decided how it should be addressed.
Nothing of that nature is, in fact, the truth.

We are on a fact finding mission. And I can
assure that we have an open mind and we address
this problem with an open mind and we want to hear from you. That's why we're here. We're here to listen and we are here to learn. So we do thank you for your presentation and I can assure you that your input will have a profound input on your deliberations as we go about the problem of trying to address the mandates that have been given to us by our president and by the congress.

Now, I'd like to introduce myself first and then I'll permit my fellow commissioners to introduce themselves and then we will proceed with the testimony.

As indicated, I am Reggie Walton. I am chairman of the commission. I also serve as a United States District Court judge in the District of Columbia. I formally served as a local judge in the District of Columbia for over 18 years. I also served formerly as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia and also formerly as a Public Defender in the state of Pennsylvania.

At this time I will permit my fellow
commissioners to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Fellner?

COMMISSIONER FELLNER: Hi. I'm Jamie Fellner. I'm a commissioner. My day job, I'm director of the U.S. Program of Human Rights Watch.

COMMISSIONER STRUCKMAN-JOHNSON: I'm Professor Cindy-Struckman-Johnson. I teach at the University of South Dakota. I've been conducting research on prison rapes since early 1990's and to date I have measured the prevalence of prison rape in 14 prison facilities primarily in the mid west.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: Good morning. My name is Brenda Smith. I'm a professor at American University in the law school. I also direct a project in conjunction with the National Institute of Corrections on addressing prison rape.

COMMISSIONER NOLAN: I'm Pat Nolan. I'm with Prison Fellowship. I head up your Criminal Justice Reform on justice fellowship. I was a member of the legislature in California for 15 years and then was also federal inmate 068-33-097 in the federal facilities.
COMMISSIONER PURYEAR: My name is Gus Puryear and I'm a commissioner. And in my day job, I'm the general counsel of the Corrections Corporation of America. I want to thank everybody who's come to testify today and we look forward to hearing from you.

COMMISSIONER AIKEN: My name is James Aiken. My day job is private consultant. And I do wish to extend gratitude for those individuals who have taken time out of their busy schedule to provide us the input today.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: My name is John Kaneb. I'm from the Boston area. I'm in private business. I have long had an interesting an human rights issues, and I am a commissioner.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Our first panel is entitled "Effective management: The Corrections Overview. We have four outstanding distinguished individual who will provide testimony to us. We will hear from Mr. Martin F. Horn from the city of New York. We will also hear from Mr. Timothy Ryan from Orange County, Florida. We will