UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

FRANK CLEMENT                                No. C 00-1860 CW

Plaintiff,                                    DECLARATION OF SHEILAH

vs.                                          GLOVER IN OPPOSITION TO

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF                      DEFENDANTS’ MOTION FOR
CORRECTIONS, et al.,                          SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Defendants.                                  Date: August 9, 2002

                                    Time: 10 a.m.
                                    Before: Hon. Claudia Wilken
ADDITIONAL COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

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I, Sheilah Glover, declare the following:

1. I am a resident of Mill Valley, California since 1997 and have been living in the Bay Area since 1973. Since approximately 1995, I have been corresponding on a regular basis with Larry Stiner, also known as Watani, who is incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. I submit this Declaration in support of plaintiff Frank Clement’s Opposition to Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment. Unless otherwise indicated, if called upon to do so, I could competently testify of my own personal knowledge to the facts set forth herein.

2. I first met Larry Stiner on July 5, 1994 when I was called for jury service in a case in which he was the defendant. Although I was quickly excused from jury service, I became very interested in Mr. Stiner’s case and history.

3. In the 1970s, Mr. Stiner escaped from prison, and traveled to Surinam where he settled down and had six children. He lived there for many years, but when times became tough economically, he decided to turn himself in to American authorities in the hopes that they would allow his children to come to the United States to get an education. The American Embassy in Surinam took Mr. Stiner into custody and promised him that his family would be brought to the United States. That promise was not fulfilled. When I met him in 1994, Mr. Stiner was on trial for his escape from prison.

4. Mr. Stiner was convicted and sent to San Quentin. In a newspaper article about the case, he said that if people wanted to help, they could send books to his children in Surinam. So I did. Then, at Christmas time, I called a friend who heads the Art Department at San Quentin to obtain Mr. Stiner’s prison number so that I could send him a Christmas card.

5. Mr. Stiner wrote me a letter back, thanking me for sending books to his children. We began a correspondence for about 6 months. He introduced himself as
Watani and we developed a friendship. He obviously was intelligent and kind and had a
great sense of humor.

6. I decided to visit him in September of 1995. Since then I have visited him
an average of once every 4-5 weeks. I have introduced him to my partner, Elaine Belle, and
she now visits him independently several times a month. We have taken an active
involvement in the welfare of his children in Surinam, sending money to the eldest on a
regular basis to help take care of the younger children. Now the younger children are in a
Christian foster home, and we send money every month for their housing.

7. Watani is well-liked by everyone, his reports from the counselors are
excellent, he is an A student, but his case is unusual, and in this current environment it
seems unlikely that he will be released anytime soon. He must try to maintain his
relationship with his family and plan for their long-term welfare from hundreds of miles
away.

8. The woman who watches over Watani’s children in Surinam, Kesje de
Miranda, sends me four to five email letters every month with questions, concerns and news
about the children. I download the emails and send them in a letter to Watani. If the letters
were sent from Surinam to California, they would take at least a month to arrive. When
they email me, it only takes a few days from the time they send the email until the time Mr.
Stiner receives it at San Quentin. On several occasions, San Quentin prison staff have
refused to forward these emails to Watani due to the prison’s ban on Internet-generated
materials.

9. On one occasion, Watani’s eldest daughter, Kishana, wrote him a real heart
to heart email when she was considering running away. She emailed the letter to me and I
attempted to send it on to Watani by enclosing it in a letter to him. This letter was kept by
prison mailroom staff and mailed back to me. The lag time before Watani got the contents of the letter was over a month.

10. In my experience, it is especially vital for Watani to be able to receive email from his children and their caretakers in Surinam. We have had to make a number of hasty decisions about their welfare, and it has all been done through email and a few phone calls. It is unfortunate for him not to be included in this loop of communication, because he desperately cares about his children, but I can’t always take the time to rewrite and mail the letters to him.

11. I would have to say, also, there have been times when I have sent letters containing a number of emails to Watani and they have gone through the mailroom and right up to him. In my opinion, the regulation is arbitrarily enforced.

12. For Watani, the only meaningful way to participate in decisions concerning his children’s welfare in Surinam is for him to receive information regarding parental decisions through email. Surinam is a poor country, and mail takes forever. The telephone is unreliable and expensive. Being able to receive email from the childrens’ caretaker has been invaluable. For me to have to retype the letters, when they are sometimes coming every few days, is time-consuming and tedious. It is my hope that email communication can be seen as key to his responsibilities as a father and not at all as a danger to the prison.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this ___ day of June, 2002, at Mill Valley, California.

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Sheilah Glover