DECLARATION OF LARA STEMPLE IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Date: August 9, 2002
Time: 10 a.m.
Before: Hon. Claudia Wilken
ADDITIONAL COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

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I, Lara Stemple, declare the following:

1. I am currently the Executive Director of Stop Prisoner Rape ("SPR"), a non-profit human rights organization based in Los Angeles, California. Stop Prisoner Rape was founded in 1979. 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. SPR seeks to prevent sexual violence against men, women and youth incarcerated in prisons, jails and detention centers. To this end, SPR works to increase awareness inside prisons, as well as in the community, about the dangers of sexual abuse in prison. SPR also provides support and information to victims of prison rape.

3. SPR publishes its information only on the Internet. SPR’s website, http://www.spr.org, is the only method SPR uses to conduct its education, outreach and advocacy activities.

4. SPR recognizes that its principal constituency, the two million individuals incarcerated in the United States, do not have access to email and the Internet in prison. As a result, SPR relies on families and friends of incarcerated individuals who learn about SPR from the Internet and will in turn download our materials and distribute them to prisoners. When we receive requests through the mail from prisoners, we download information from our website to mail to them.

5. The information posted on the SPR website includes: support group information for survivors of prison rape, legal information pertaining
6. These materials serve important rehabilitative functions. Prison rape perpetuates the cycle of violence both inside and outside the prison. Victims of prison rape may experience suppressed rage that manifests itself in many ways, which may include violent and antisocial behavior, the commission of rape on others, and depression and suicide. Learning about how to cope with these feelings and hearing the stories of other survivors helps prisoners to combat these tendencies. SPR also provides information to prison administrators and interested prisoners on how to prevent prison rape by making institutional, social and environmental changes within the prison. SPR’s website makes this information available to those who need it.

7. SPR invests a significant percentage of its funds in developing the website. SPR currently employs three staff members, including myself. One of those three employees, Kimberly McGovern, is a webmaster.

8. SPR publishes its materials on the Internet because it cannot afford to publish its materials in hard-copy form for distribution. Printing costs, including the costs of pamphlets, handouts, and other materials, are prohibitive. Our total annual budget is currently less than $70,000.

9. In addition, the information on SPR’s website comes from a variety of sources and SPR updates this information almost daily as new law is decided, new projects are launched, and news stories break. The
expense of having all materials printed in hard-copy form, and updated on a
regular basis, would severely curtail SPR’s ability to conduct its activities
on such a broad scale. As it stands now, SPR is actively involved in human
rights and prison rights activities across the country.

10. SPR also sometimes conducts its human rights advocacy and
education projects on an international scale. Communicating with other
organizations outside the United States is most efficiently done over the
Internet.

11. Finally, SPR prefers posting its information on the Internet
because the website ensures that constituents, Board of Directors members,
and other interested parties all have the same, up-to-date information. Our
constituents can quickly and inexpensively learn about the most recent
developments by viewing the web site online. They can also be assured of
being “on the same page” with the main SPR office in terms of our
positions on key policy issues.

12. SPR occasionally receives written requests for information.
When we do, we download the requested information from the Internet and
mail it to the person requesting it via the U.S. Postal Service. We have
responded to these requests from prisoners across California.

13. Most often, we receive email and phone requests for
information from families and friends of inmates. We refer them to the SPR
website. In fact, our standard response to any request for information is
“all of SPR’s materials are available on our website.”

14. The policy at Pelican Bay prohibiting materials downloaded
from the Internet seriously hinders SPR’s activities. Our constituency,
prison inmates, is denied access to our materials, not because of what we say, but because of how we say it. In essence, SPR is discriminated against by the prison because it cannot afford to publish its materials in hard-copy form.

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 Los Angeles, California.

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Lara Stemple