

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good morning. I welcome all of
4 you to the fourth public hearing of the National Prison Rape
5 Elimination Commission. I thank all of you for your
6 presence. This particular hearing is one of our more
7 important hearings; it will focus on the issue of the
8 juvenile population in juvenile detention facilities. I
9 believe it's very important, having previously headed the
10 Family Division in my prior position, and I still believe
11 and want to believe that historically we will continue to
12 believe that the juvenile justice system is designed to
13 rehabilitate juvenile offenders who end up in detention, and
14 I think there's nothing more disruptive to the ability to
15 bring about that rehabilitation than to have a juvenile
16 offender who has been detained sexually assaulted in a
17 detention facility.

18 I also would like to thank Chief Judge Michael
19 Bodine who permitted us to use this facility. He was
20 formerly a member of my court in Washington and now he is
21 the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in this district.

22 I also would like to thank Mr. Gary Winty who is
23 the Circuit Executive for the assistance he's provided to
24 the Commission in conducting this hearing.

25 As is indicated in the booklet you received, the

1 mission of this Commission as mandated by Congress was to --
2 is to conduct a study of the problem of prison sexual
3 assault at all levels and to issue a report to Congress and
4 to the President and to the Justice Department, and to also
5 issue standards that will hopefully have an impact on
6 reducing, if not eliminating, the problem of sexual assault.

7 I am sure that this hearing and the testimony we will
8 receive today will be very essential and helpful in our
9 mission that we will carry out.

10 Before we proceed, I would like to have my fellow
11 Commissioners introduce themselves so that you'll know who
12 we are. I am Reggie Walton; I am Chairman of the
13 Commission. I also serve as the United States District
14 Judge in the District of Columbia.

15 COMMISSIONER SMITH: My name is Brenda Smith and
16 I'm a Professor at American University in the Washington
17 College of Law.

18 COMMISSIONER KANEB: I'm John Kaneb; I'm in
19 private business in the Boston area.

20 COMMISSIONER STRUCKMAN-JOHNSON: I'm Cindy
21 Struckman-Johnson; I'm a Professor of Psychology at the
22 University of South Dakota, and I've done a lot of research
23 in prison rape.

24 COMMISSIONER PURYEAR: My name is Gus Puryear and
25 I'm the General Counsel for Corrections Corporation of

1 America in Nashville, Tennessee.

2 COMMISSIONER AIKEN: I'm James Aiken, former
3 Correctional Administrator and President of James E. Aiken &
4 Associates.

5 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Again, good morning to the four
6 of you. We appreciate, obviously, very much your presence
7 here today. We will take the testimony of two survivors,
8 Ms. Cyryna Pasion and Chino Hardin. Okay. We'll hear from
9 Ms. Pasion first. Thank you for your presence. I'm sorry,
10 I have to place you under oath. I never have to do this at
11 the courthouse; somebody does it for me, so, I always forget
12 it. Would you please stand and raise your right hand? Both
13 of you, please; we'll do it collectively.

14 (Panel Sworn)

15 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you. You may proceed.

16 MS. PASION: I would like to thank the members of
17 the Commission for hearing my testimony today; I believe
18 your work is very important for protecting youth held in
19 correctional facilities. My name is Cyryna Pasion, and I am
20 an 18-year-old transgender girl who was sexually harassed
21 and assaulted, and continuously threatened with rape by
22 other wards while incarcerated at the Hawaii Youth
23 Correctional Facility. The youth corrections officers, or
24 YCO's, and others were aware that this abuse was occurring,
25 and even contributed to it by calling me derogatory names,