

DECLARATION OF NICK ARCABASSO
Federal Registry No. 20890-044

I, Nick Arcabasso, declare:

1. I am currently an inmate in custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons. My Federal Registry Number is 20890-044.
2. During September of 1995, I was transferred from F.C.I. Oakdale, Louisiana, to the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. When I arrived at the Federal Transfer Center, I was assigned to the permanent work cadre unit.
3. On October 20, 1995, I received an incident report for attempting to give another inmate several packs of cigarettes and a stick of deodorant. Because of this incident report, I was sent to the "hole" or Special Housing Unit.
4. After serving almost 30 days in the hole, I was assigned to be an inmate orderly for the Special Housing Unit. While acting as an orderly, I had several opportunities to witness the guards in the Special Housing Unit abusing inmates. It was common to see the Special Housing Unit guards spit in inmates' food, beat handcuffed prisoners, as well as destroy inmates' personal property and mail.
5. I myself was threatened with death while working as an orderly in the Special Housing Unit at the Federal Transfer Center. This threat was made to me in late November or early December of 1995. While walking through the Special Housing Unit, I was asked by a black inmate: "Where is Mark Fuhrman?" "Mark Fuhrman" was a nickname black inmates gave to Officer Rodney De Champlain because he seemed to be especially abusive to them. I told this

inmate that I heard that Rodney De Champlain would be gone from the Special Housing Unit until the FBI was done investigating the recent murder of an inmate by Federal Transfer Center guards.

6. About two or three days later, Officer Rodney De Champlain was back at work in the Special Housing Unit. On his first day back at work, De Champlain and another officer told me they needed help in the supply room. When I entered the supply room, however, I was pushed into a corner by Officer Rodney De Champlain.

7. Officer De Champlain told me at that time that he was aware of my conversations with the black inmate. De Champlain said that if he ever heard his name come out of my mouth again, that I would be "a dead mother fucker."

8. De Champlain went on to tell me that his gang was "bigger and badder" than mine and that with the amount of time I had left, there was nowhere I could hide. De Champlain then admitted to having killed an inmate named Kenneth Michael Trentadue. De Champlain said that he and his friends could also kill me any time they wanted. De Champlain specifically told me that "no one would be able to do shit about it or even care what happened to a piece of shit convict like you; that one day, you will just be found swinging from a bed sheet."

9. As he was leaving, Officer De Champlain told me that he could make things real hard for me or real nice and that if he was convinced I could keep my mouth shut, he would put me in the cell of one of the female prisoners being housed in the Special Housing Unit. De Champlain told me I could pick whichever "stinking slut" I wanted and take her, if I had to. Officer De Champlain also said that if he was not convinced that I could keep my mouth shut, "I will kill your fucking ass just like I killed Trentadue." For several days after that incident,

whenever I would see Officer De Champlain, he would look at me then drag his fingers across his throat in a cutting motion.

10. On the night of January 8, 1996, Officer De Champlain approached me and said that he was a man of his word and that he wanted me to have oral sex from one of the female inmates in the Special Housing Unit. Officer De Champlain took me to the cell door of one of the female inmates in which the food slot or "bean hole" had been left open supposedly for the purpose of my having oral sex with this inmate. This occurred about 8:00 p.m. and De Champlain told me he would leave the food slot open until 10:00 p.m.

11. I talked to the female inmate. She was young, about 19 or 20 years old. The female inmate and I did not engage in oral sex. We just talked until approximately 10:00 p.m., when Officer De Champlain came to lock me in my cell. But when De Champlain asked me how it went; I lied and said, "Thanks."

12. De Champlain told me that I owed him and not to forget that his gang was everywhere.. I left the next day, January 9, 1996, for F.C.I. Bastrop, Texas.

13. In May of 1997, I was brought back to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to testify before the Federal Grand Jury investigating the murder of Kenneth Michael Trentadue. When I returned to Oklahoma City, I was again incarcerated at the Federal Transfer Center. While at the Federal Transfer Center, I noticed an inmate who seemed to spend a lot of time speaking with the guards and just before I was taken from the Federal Transfer Center to go before the Grand Jury, I was approached by this inmate who asked me if I was getting time off of my sentence for my testimony. I told this man that it does not work that way when you testify against the Bureau of

Prisons. This inmate went on to say to me that if he were to go before the Grand Jury and testify that I told him that I planned to lie that he would probably get a reduction in sentence. He then made the comment to me that "at least somebody would get something out of the matter."

14. The foregoing statements are based upon my own personal knowledge and observations. I also declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

Executed on this 9 day of July, 1997, at Bastrop, Texas.

Nick Arcabasso
NICK ARCABASSO