

FCI DUBLIN STATEMENT

As a person who has always felt strongly about my faith and values, you fear hell and the consequences of hell. But then I started my sentence at FCI Dublin, CA, and hell had a new meaning altogether.

Within days upon my arrival at FCI Dublin, CA, I discovered that some of the correction officers (CO's) in the kitchen were having sexual relations with some of the female inmates. I immediately reported it to Mr. Fracker (CO in the kitchen) and he walked me over to Mr. Putnum's (head of SIS) office. Mr. Putnum wanted me to "get him evidence". Over the next few weeks, I started working for Mr. Putnum and Mr. Garcia (then associate warden) as a Confidential Informant. The drug K2 ("spice" or synthetic marijuana) was running rampant at FCI Dublin and they could not find how it entered the facility. I discovered it entered through paperwork and photographs. Thus, a nationwide ban was placed on inmates receiving actual mail and photographs. All mail was copied in the mailroom and photographs and books had to enter from 3rd party vendors.

I started writing letters to complain about the sexual abuse to Congressmen, Senators etc., whomever I could find information on. These efforts were halted in the mailroom and never made it outside. It became so bad that while I was cellmates with Mary Reed and Desiree Ybarra in B unit, they were instructed to have sex with each other during the count at midnight so that CO Chavez could watch them and pay them with a big can of pineapple from the kitchen. Mr. Chavez, told me that if I did not want to join in, I could put toilet paper in my ears and turn my back. I did not want to be around this type of behavior and it was absolutely disgusting having to lay there and hear everything that was going on. This went on for a long time. Finally, I went to Ms. Sharma and said to her I cannot take it anymore and she said she had a room available next to her office that no one wanted to occupy because it was right under the security camera, if I wanted it, I could take it. Ms. Minor, the counselor in B unit moved "girlfriends" in the same room together and thought this was easier to deal with than the fighting amongst inmates. I was stunned because during orientation, we were told that there is no consensual sex amongst inmates, or girlfriends, or any contact with CO's. Yet, here our counselor moved girlfriends in the same room to avoid detection and fights, and those he did not agree with it, had no say, or we were being labeled by the officers.

Katrina Danforth was then transferred to FCI Dublin. She and I were cellmates in FDC Seatac and we became cellmates in FCI Dublin again after she became my medical companion. I knew her from before, so when I started noticing a change in her behavior almost immediately of her coming to the facility, I asked her about it. More specifically, Danforth was not a morning person but she would wake up and put on her full uniform just to go get breakfast and then throw it in the trash. At first, she didn't want to elaborate on what was going on but finally she told me that Mr. Garcia was asking her to come to mainline in the morning so that he could tell her what time his rounds would take place and she had to be naked for him and put lotion on her legs. I was extremely upset over this. Danforth is like a daughter to me. I explained to her that this is not acceptable and she should not allow him to take advantage of her like this but she said that she was afraid what would happen if she refused. CO Chavez later told Danforth that if she could "do it for [Garcia] [she] can do it for [him]," referring to the sexual encounters Danforth had to live through from Mr. Garcia. They stated they read her PSI and discovered that she was a high-profile porn star and should be use to the attention by now. When I discussed this with her, she said she had not done porn in over 10 years. But we were powerless.

Since I had a close relationship with Mr. Garcia and Putnum, I went to speak to Mr. Garcia myself and I told him that I am aware of the things he was doing and I asked him to stop but noticed that he just changed his techniques. I went to him again and I expressed to him my feelings of disgust that he is requesting her to do these things and that I would not stand for it. In the meantime, I heard that he was doing similar things with Melissa, another inmate in B unit. I told him that I am going to make every effort to report the abuse and get this information out to whoever would listen and do something about it. I went to Mr. Stanfield, my case manager, and he referred me to Ms. Korth, the unit manager. Mr. Garcia said that no one would believe me, that I was a convicted felon now with a tainted past. That he is a powerful man and that he and Mr. Putnum are playing poker together so it would never go anywhere. I was scared that my daughter, who is young and beautiful and in FCI Waseca at the time, was being exposed to the same sexual misconduct and I would want someone to stand up for her if this was

happening at that facility too. I was not going to back down. Since December 2019 I was keeping records and talking to other female inmates who were being used for sex by CO's. I quickly discovered that most all of the officers at FCI Dublin were involved with inmates. Many of them immigrants.

My daughter was released in March 2021 and so I told her on the phone in our language, Afrikaans, what was going on, and I told her that I have been keeping calendars and notes since December 2019. We decided then that I would get the information to her through my medical records and that she would find out from her parole officer what we can do and did research to see where we can send the information to. She also got Agent Brett Treadwell from the Boise Homeland Security involved. Since I received Compassionate Release in April 2020 and was not yet released, they used that as the basis of their investigation. Mrs. Stephanie Milliken contacted agent Treadwell's supervisor in Boise, ID to get him to back off from the case. She never released me but instead contacted ICE to come and put an ICE detainer on me so that I couldn't go home. Mr. Garcia then tried to use this to his advantage, even pushing so far as to make several promises to me that if I would stop pursuing this conduct between him and Danforth, he would remove my ICE Detainer and let me go home. He said he was a powerful man, that he had a lot of connections and could make calls to have my ICE detainer dropped. He even said he could drive me down to ICE and go advocate on my behalf since I worked for him as a CI. He made similar efforts towards other women who respected me, promising them that if they could get me to drop my efforts, that he would let them go home. These women are available to testify too.

Additionally, I worked on other inmate's legal papers and I built up a lot of confidentiality with them. I was considered a Jail House Lawyer. Through this process I was made aware of more inmates that were being sexually abused and exploited. I discovered that CO Russ Klinger was having video visits with Andrea Reyes Leon (an inmate), and she told me about her sexual encounters with him. That they had sex in the "containers," where maintenance stores extra supplies while having another inmate as a lookout, that they would get married and he put money on her books. I got CO Klinger's "fake name" and reported it to Mr. Putnum to pull the records. By this time, I had about 25-30 women who were being sexually exploited by guards in various positions. Mr. Garcia told me that he was going to clean up the prison from the sexual abuse but kept trying to get me to say that Danforth was being abused by CO Ornellas, which was not true. Mr. Ornellas actually came to me one day and said that he was leaving the compound that day to not return. He said he could not with a good conscience stay there and hear the things the other CO's say they were going to do to me while conspiring in the break room, that they were going to kill me, and not get involved. He quit and left. I was now completely on my own.

My efforts inside Dublin were going nowhere. One day the people from Regional was there. I told Katrina Danforth that I was going to walk up to them and tell them what was going on. Which I did. They (Mr. Pino) walked me over to Mr. Putnum's office and again, nothing happened. For months we struggled to get the information out, all the while getting more women to come forward with what was going on with them and collecting various other forms of evidence of everything that was going on at FCI Dublin in addition to the sexual exploitation of women who could do nothing to defend against it.

During lunch one day I saw that we were preparing for a PREA Auditors visit. I took the contact information from the flyer and sent it to my daughter with the information. The next thing I heard, the PREA Auditors were there and asked to speak to me. When I went in, the lady said they received a disturbing package from me and I asked the lady where she got it from. She took it out of her briefcase and said Boise, Idaho. I knew my daughter's efforts had finally made it to someone. While I was waiting to speak to them, Ms. Minor, the counselor of B unit walked by and saw me sitting there. She came up and told Ms. Hernandez that I am going to "burn" them, they should get me out of the line. Ms. Hernandez said they could not, that the auditors selected me from a list. I told them everything. Then two ladies came to see me from the OIG's office in Burbank, CA (Deena and Jennifer), and the case was busted open. The next people that came were Katherine Barclay and her partner from the FBI in Oakland. A full-scale investigation started with Mr. Garcia and Ross Klinger, and I was able to name 8 other officers along with multiple other inmates involved. I have given and continue to give any and all evidence that I collected while incarcerated at FCI Dublin.

The day Mr. Garcia's offices were raided and he was walked off, Ms. Korth called me to her office and said that if I wanted their help to go home faster, that I needed to help them. I had to retrack the statements about Mr. Garcia and the other officers. I told her I could help her to clean her office but other than that, I would offer no help. I don't know to this day how she found out that I was the whistleblower because I thought that the FBI was keeping it all a secret, but Ms. Korth started retaliating against me. She told the rest of our unit that I was the "snitch" and that their recreational privileges had been suspended because of me. More specifically, everyone was standing by the door waiting for the next move to go to rec while I was in the day room. Ms. Korth came out and told everyone that rec will not be happening for our unit, and she pointed at me and told everyone that it was because of me and that I was the snitch. The other inmates were enraged and I have never felt fear like I have in that moment. Lisa Brooks came right at me and said that snitches get stitches and started yelling in my face, to the point where another inmate came and pushed her off of me into the door. Ms. Korth simply smiled and went back into her office.

For weeks I slept with locks on my fingers out of fear of what the inmates would do to me. Then the rest of the guards started their retaliation. CO Ramos, Salsedo and Lewis, started calling me names on the yard like "fat ass", "the snitch and her bitch", saying that I was jealous because they wouldn't touch me, that I was gay and jealous that Danforth was chosen over me and that I was jealous because we were in a relationship. I cannot even put in to words the language they used towards me. In January 2021, they moved me and Danforth to C unit, the medical unit, even though I told them countless times I cannot be moved there because I am immunodeficient. I ended up contracting MRSA and TB. At one point I had 13 baseball size boils where Danforth had to change my bandages because staff refused to. Ms. Korth then separated Danforth from me, who was my medical companion at the time, and said she was not allowed at our unit anymore when she worked for maintenance. Countless times, the guard for maintenance would have to bring the team to the unit and Ms. Korth would come out yelling at her or the guard to get her away from "her bitch." I was assigned a new medical companion, Annette Chavez. They would lock my bedroom door and completely destroy it inside while I was on the phone with my husband or daughter, or at a video visit, and tell me that I had to clean it up within 30 minutes or be taken to the SHU. They would rip up photos of my family, my children and grandchildren. They kept my mail and photos from me. They would even just lock my door while I was on the phone, for hours, where I would need to stand outside and wait for them to come open it with my inability to stand or sit for long periods of time. Eventually I had to have my cellmate Gabby stay in the room while Chaves, my medical companion, walked me to my call and came back so that they couldn't lock me out. Mr. Venegas wouldn't even let me do my video visits with my family. He said I had to pay him in \$1 stamps or I have to have Andrea sit naked on her bed during count with her private parts open if I wanted to see my family. Mr. Lichenberger even told me that my family needed to western union him \$50 if I wanted to get my prescriptions. He said he read my PSI and my crime was money, and that my family must have the money to pay him. He used to stand outside the kitchen and called "ICE!", round up all the people that looked foreign and then point at me and yelled "Robbertse! You are getting deported with all the Mexicans."

Then in August 2021 right after Mr. Putnum finished his shift, I was taken to the SHU for no reason and with no explanation. They placed me with a woman that was openly racists, Precious Russell. She threatened to beat me, grabbed me by the hair when I was asking for help, and told me she was going to kill me. I sat on the toilet, having not slept and keeping an eye on her, and was able to pass a note to the medical officers. Mr. Putnum came at around 11pm the Saturday night and I called out from him. He asked me what I was doing there and I told him how they put me here after he left and that Precious wants to kill me. He had the guard at the time, Mr. Ramos, roll up my bed and put me in a cell by myself. I was released from the SHU the Monday, after the FBI instructed Mr. Putnum to make sure I am safe at all times. I believe that they placed me in the SHU out of retaliation and they specifically put me with Precious because everyone knew of her violent tendencies and how she feels towards white people. She came from another facility where she beat another woman almost to death with a broom. At the facility before that she completely disfigured another woman with a chair. They were hoping she would hurt me. Coming back to my unit I found out that the CO's improperly confiscated all my belongings, threw it in the trash and made a show of it in front of the other inmates and said that this is what happens when you step out of line, before pouring mackerel oil all over my things. I never got my stuff back nor did I get a confiscation form (they are supposed to fill them out if stuff is ever taken from an inmate.)

I refused to stop. I was collecting more names of female inmates that suffered sexual abuse and then retaliation because of me and reporting it. On the Friday after I got out of the SHU, my medical companion, Chavez, was taken to the SHU. They lied and put a note on her door that she could not get any food until Monday because she was on a medical leave. Monday, they told her she had to watch who she was friends with and released her. She is willing to testify.

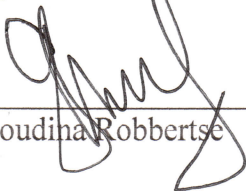
On October 16th, 2021 while on a video visit with my daughter, I suffered a massive stroke. My doctor here thinks it was from all the stress and fear from the retaliation going on. Chavez helped me to my room where I lost all bodily functions. I was paralyzed from my mouth down to my toes. She called for the guard, ran to the office but he was gone. She looked for him for over an hour meanwhile I knew in my bones that I was going to die. When Mr. Plier finally came, he stood in the door and said that I don't understand how things work in prison, that I have interfered in their business and now he was going to interfere with mine. He said that I was going to die here and that BOP will keep my body until my sentence was done because he refuses to call medical for me, for an ambulance. I had a feeling cross over my body and I knew I wasn't going to make it. I was not going to be able to see these monsters and these victims get justice. I would never see my family again. I knew in that moment that the guards were going to make sure of it. If not by their hands, then the hands of other violent inmates. My medical companion was in outrage over this. He simply told her to mind her business if she did not want to suffer the same fate.

Mr. Garcia promised Chavez 8 months off of her sentence if she could keep me from continuing with my story of sexual abuse. I told her he had no power to reduce sentences. Any one and anybody associated with me, suffered retaliation with me. I knew that I would never make it out alive. Since my stroke, I have suffered weakness on my left side, I veer to my left, and struggle to maintain an upright position for more than a few minutes. I have cognitive issues; my memory and speech having suffered the worst. I have been diagnosed with severe PTSD. I struggle through anxiety attacks from re-experiencing everything that happened to me especially while trying to make sure the court has everything they need. I suffer through nightmares, struggle to sleep because of it, depression, and have a hard time coming to terms with the effects the major stroke had on my life. I can hardly remember what my grandchildren's birthdays are. I have good days and bad days but on those bad days, I cannot even tell you how to spell my own last name. I went from being the main breadwinner for my family to not being able to even walk by myself without assistance.

They never took me for any form of medical care until November 19th, 2021, more than a month after my stroke. Where I found out that my vision changed to being nearsighted in one eye and far sighted in the other as well as having suffered hearing loss but I never received the results of that MRI. My life is forever changed and I am nothing like the person that went into that hell of a prison. A place where I was supposed to atone for my mistakes and be safe. I am not proud of what I had done to get there but I will never be the type of person that can stand by and allow anyone to suffer that kind of torment. My memory, my knowledge, and the way my mind works was always something I was proud of. Something that won me awards in the business industry. I may not have been sexually assaulted, but what those guard took from me, what they did to me, was a violation in its own. They robbed me of myself, my dignity and my humanity. I sit here and write this statement so that you know what happened, so that you can read word for word the hell that was FCI Dublin. But know that the suffering has followed me. I have received multiple death threats, one as recent as June 2024, and I am in constant fear and paranoia for my safety and that of my family. It is unbearable to live with. Dublin took my mind, my body, and my life. But I would do it all over again because this is justice for those women and for any other who would not or could not speak up. This was why I had to go through what I went through and that gives me peace. I have several people who are willing to testify and speak up, along with a box full of evidence. I meticulously kept records because I knew from the CO's statements that my felony would count against me, and that no one would probably believe me. So, I gathered statements, had witnesses sign it, mailed stuff home for safekeeping and continued the efforts. I think once I realized that I was not going to leave Dublin alive, I worked harder and I will continue to fight for permanent change because no person should ever have to go through that. It is so hard for people that has never been to prison to understand how the dynamics work there. You are literally powerless. My

biggest question remains how FCI Dublin passed PREA audits year after year, even while these investigations were ongoing, the warden was walked off, indicted and later sentenced, along with other CO's and many more are still being investigated. Yet, FCI Dublin passed PREA audits with flying colors. The system is broken and corrupt, and this is our opportunity to change it for the better. Not to award criminals with luxuries but to keep them safe while they pay their debt to society and make sure they return to their families better than when they went to a prison or jail. I have lived and worked in the US for almost 28 years, my husband and most of our children are US Citizens, and all my grandchildren are US Citizens. We came here to be free and to work hard at giving our children a better future, but the justice system destroyed my vision and dream of America the Great.

I declare under Penalty of Perjury that the aforementioned is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Signed September 12, 2024.



Gloudina Robbertse