

# **Conversations with Survivors of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars: A Multimedia Presentation**



**National Sexual Assault  
Conference  
September 1, 2010  
Los Angeles, CA**

**Lead Presenter:**

**Christine Kregg, Just Detention International**

**Co-Presenters:**

**Troy Erik Isaac**

**Frank Mendoza**

# Workshop Outline

- Introductions
- *Portraits of Courage*
- Survivor Accounts
  - Frank Mendoza
  - Troy Eric Isaac
- Roundtable Discussion



**JDI is a non-profit human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse against adults and children in all forms of detention.**

JDI's three core goals are:

- to hold government officials accountable for prisoner rape;
- to change ill-informed public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars;
- to ensure that survivors of this kind of abuse get the help they need.

# Portraits of Courage



*Portraits of Courage* is a multimedia project that combines professional photographs of survivors of sexual abuse behind bars, their written testimonies, and audio interviews. It powerfully conveys the courage and hope of survivors who have refused to be silenced by the sexual abuse they endured while incarcerated.

Portraits were taken by photographer James Stenson.

# Garrett's Story



*Photography by James Stenson*

A corrections officer raped Garrett while he was an inmate at a Texas state prison. Today, Garrett runs a prison pen pal service and recently testified before the Texas Legislature at a hearing on a state law aimed at addressing sexual violence in Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities. He is a member of Just Detention International's Board of Directors and Survivor Council.

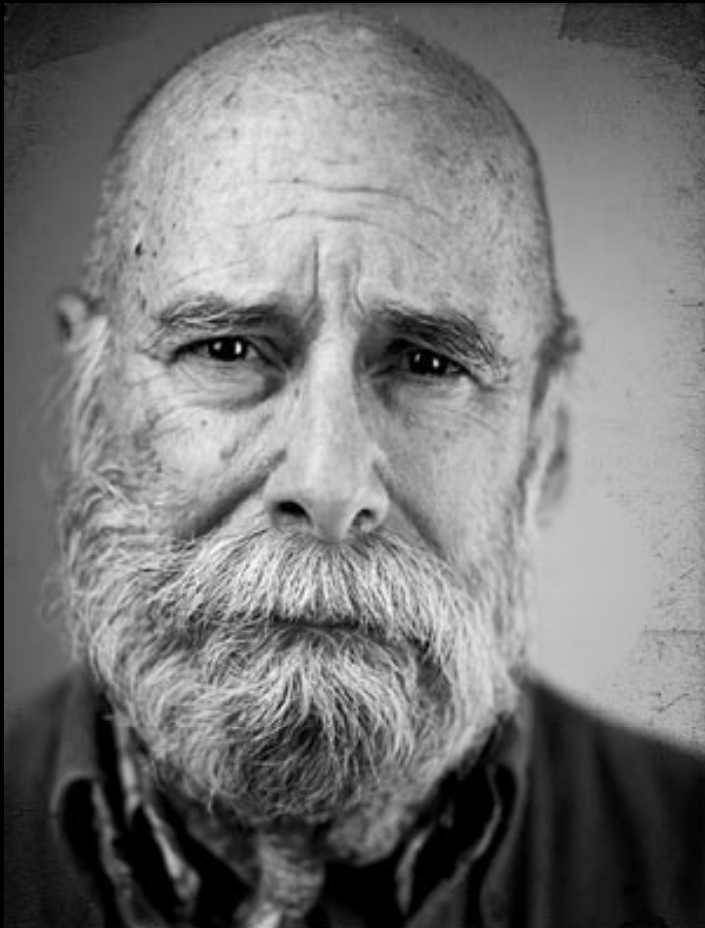
# Erica's Story



*Photography by James Stenson*

After being wrongfully arrested and taken to a Philadelphia lock-up, Erica and her female friend were forced to perform sex acts on one another by a police officer. Although she faced tremendous barriers in her efforts to hold the Philadelphia Police Department accountable, a recent independent investigation substantiated her allegations.

# Tom's Story



*Photography by James Stenson*

Jailed for an act of civil disobedience in 1974, Tom was locked in an overcrowded cell where he was beaten and raped for 24 hours. The inmates attacked him after guards told them Tom was a child molester and promised special privileges for “teaching him a lesson.” Despite suffering long-term emotional and mental trauma, Tom later became a leader in the fight against prisoner rape, including serving as President of Just Detention International.

# Cecilia's Story



*Photography by James Stenson*

Cecilia, a transgender woman, was raped while she was held over the weekend in a San Francisco jail. Her story is similar to many transgender women, who are at extreme risk for sexual violence behind bars, as they are usually placed in men's facilities based on their birth gender or genitalia. She now is a nationally recognized activist defending transgender people's right to be free of violence and abuse and serves on JDI's Board of Directors and Survivor Council.

# Frank and Troy's Accounts



*Photography by James Stenson*



# Roundtable Discussion with:

- Charles Contreras, California Correctional Institution
- Maurice Dunlop, California Correctional Institution
- Debora Heaps, Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center
- Troy Eric Isaac
- Christine Kregg, Just Detention International
- Linda McFarlane, Just Detention International
- Frank Mendoza
- Karin Stone, Women's Center High Desert
- And other experts

# Contact Information

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