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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE, :

Plaintiff, : Case Number

vs. : 010811 PLF

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, :

Defendant. :

-----x

DEPOSITION OF JOSE ACOSTA

Washington D.C.
Thursday, July 7, 2005

REPORTED BY:
BRENDA SMONSKEY

1 Q I'm talking about interlocked flex-cuffs
2 so they are ankle to wrist.

3 A Yes. In some cases they were used at the
4 academy or somewhere else. I don't know where.

5 Q Was ankle to wrist cuffing, that manner of
6 restraint used at the Blue Plains training facility?

7 A I think they were. They were used on some
8 people that were disruptive, trying to break out of
9 the gymnasium. It is not a cellblock. It is a
10 gymnasium.

11 Q Was that the standard way of restraining
12 people?

13 A Short of a cellblock, you have to restrain
14 them, yes. But they were still free to use the
15 facilities, eat and all that stuff.

16 Q Were the arrestees at Blue Plains all
17 restrained in that way, wrist to ankle?

18 A No. Just a handful of the ones that were
19 disruptive, creating problems, trying to instigate,
20 things like that.

21 Q What is the function, the benefit from a
22 law enforcement perspective of applying the wrist to

1 it restrains people and what part of the body is in
2 fact cuffed.

3 Was there discussion that you had with
4 anyone in advance of the April 2000 demonstrations
5 that related to the use of the wrist to ankle manner
6 of restraint?

7 A Not a lot. Only if they were disruptive.
8 There were some prisoners that didn't have any cuffs
9 on at all in the gymnasium. There was a combination
10 of a lot of those things. Very few were done with
11 wrist to ankle, if that's what you are asking.

12 Q I'm asking something a little more
13 specific than that. In advance of these mass
14 arrests, did you have any communications or
15 discussions with anyone in the MPD specifically
16 about using cuffs that connected wrist to ankle?

17 A I don't recall.

18 Q Did you personally come up with that idea
19 to use that manner of restraint?

20 A I don't think so. I don't remember. I
21 don't remember. I really don't.

22 Q Is there any documentation that you saw

1 that relates to this manner of restraint or was it
2 just something that was done as a matter of practice
3 where deemed necessary?

4 A I don't know that there was a lot of
5 discussion. You talk to the agencies about how you
6 restrain prisoners in an open area. That was up to
7 them. Once I left the prisoner control command,
8 that's their part; they deal with it.

9 Q Have you ever discussed with other
10 agencies this manner of restraint, ankle to wrist?

11 A Yes, all the East Coast police. We talk
12 about the manner of restraint, flex-cuffs,
13 restraints.

14 Q In advance of the April 2000
15 demonstrations at any point in advance of your
16 career, had you discussed this method of restraint,
17 wrist to ankle, with other agencies or
18 representatives of other agencies?

19 A I think we did. We went to a lot of
20 meetings and had a lot of conference calls.

21 Q Do you recall any specific meetings where
22 that was discussed?