

AFFIDAVIT OF AARON JEFFERSON

STATE OF OHIO )  
COUNTY OF Mahoning ) SS:

I, Aaron Jefferson being duly sworn, hereby state as follows:

1. I am currently an inmate at the Ohio State Penitentiary. I entered the population at SOCF about two weeks before the start of the inmate takeover of Southern Ohio Correctional Facility ("SOCF") in April 1993. I was housed in L-6 from before the takeover until the end. I was present during the entire inmate takeover of the prison from April 11, 1993 to April 21, 1993.

2. I am an African-American male and have no current affiliations with any associations or prison gangs. At the time of the inmate takeover, I was a member of the Black Gangster Disciples.

3. I am making this Affidavit to provide my personal knowledge concerning George Skatzes ("George") and his actions and activities during the inmate takeover of SOCF.

**The Death of Officer Vallandingham**

4. On the morning of April 15, 1993, I attended a meeting with some other inmates. We talked about some problems we were having getting the State to meet our demands. The representatives from the State were not taking our demands seriously, and a lot of the inmates were angry. The State was refusing to turn on the electricity and water.

5. ~~The other inmates that were present at the above-referenced meeting were Carlos Sanders, Anthony Lavelle, Jason Robb, Cecil Allen, James Were, Jesse Bocook, and George Skatzes.~~

6. ~~We talked about killing a corrections officer in order to prove that the inmates were~~  
LAVELLE CAME TO ME LATER AND TALKED ABOUT KILLING THE OFFICER. A.S.

serious about their demands.

7. George talked about how we should not kill any guards because it would be a whole new ball game if we did it.

8. We did not make any decision at this meeting as to whether a guard would be killed, nor did we choose any particular guard. We decided to have someone try to continue negotiations and tell the State that if the water and electricity were not turned on by 10:30 a.m. then a corrections officer would be killed. George was asked to get back on the phone and make the demand to the State.

9. After it was decided that George would go back on the phone, it was also decided that another meeting would be held if the 10:30 a.m. deadline passed without any response by the State. <sup>Lavelle A.J.</sup> ~~We~~ discussed that there would be another meeting to decide whether or not to follow through on our threat to kill a corrections officer. <sup>Lavelle A.J.</sup> ~~We~~ would also decide which officer would be killed, who would do the killing, and how it would be done.

10. Sometime later, I heard that Officer Vallandingham had been killed. I was surprised, because <sup>Lavelle A.J.</sup> ~~we~~ held no meeting prior to his death.

11. Sometime before the above-referenced meeting, inmate Anthony Lavelle solicited me to kill Officer Vallandingham, but I refused and told him that we were in enough trouble already. Lavelle threatened me in an attempt to get me to comply with his request to kill Officer Vallandingham, but I did not see him as a threat, and ignored him.

#### **The Death of David Sommers**

12. George did not kill or participate in the killing, or order the murder of David Sommers. I know because on April 21, 1993, I was in L-7 when Sommers was killed. Robert Brookover, Roger Snodgrass and ~~George~~ were also present when Sommers was murdered. George did not beat

A.J.

Sommers with a baseball bat, nor did he stab him. George was not in L-7 when Sommers was killed.

13. Prior to the killing of Sommers, I had no knowledge of any plan to commit this act. Prior to seeing Sommers in L-7 when the incident occurred, I did not know who Sommers was, or what he looked like.

14. In April 1995 or thereabout, I ~~pled guilty to the voluntary manslaughter~~ of David Sommers. *was guilty of Agg. murder A.J.*

#### George Acted as a Peacekeeper Throughout the Inmate Takeover of the SOCF

15. During the riot, I never heard George advocate any violence, nor did I observe him to commit any violent acts.

#### George's Involvement in the Aryan Brotherhood

16. There were many inmates who were obvious members of the Aryan Brotherhood ("AB"). It was never obvious to me that George was a member of the AB.

#### I Was Never contacted by George's Attorneys

17. I was never contacted by George's attorney Jeff Kelleher. I was never called as a witness to George's trial. If I had been called to testify on George's behalf, I would have stated what I know.

Further Affiant sayeth naught

*Aaron Jefferson 230-397*

AARON JEFFERSON

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2003

*Neal E. Zoldan*

Notary Public, State of Ohio

NEAL E. ZOLDAN, Notary Public  
State of Ohio  
My Commission Expires 25 AUG 04