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## **STATEMENT OF CHRISTINA CARDENAS**

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 I traveled to CCI expecting to have a family visit with my husband and a weekend filled with laughs and love. I not only did not get to visit or see my husband, but instead I was met with hostility by CCI officers, and forced into demeaning, humiliating situations. I was bullied, and treated as though my body, my person, my character, and I myself did not matter. I am married to and in love with an incarcerated man. This is not a crime, and it does not make me a criminal. In the culmination of their repeated attempts to prove me a criminal (I believe to justify their abuse), I was sexually violated.

I am still in shock and I don't believe I have yet come to terms with the full capacity of the sickening nature of the sexual violation that occurred at the hands of officers and a medical doctor. I have experienced and continue to experience a range of emotions from feeling debilitated, frozen, and helpless, to bewilderment and disbelief, to outrage. Why, as an innocent woman, was I left battered and sexually violated? No woman should have to suffer the atrocity of what was inflicted upon me. This is why I am here. My desire is to right this wrong, and shed light on the abuse of power and injustices that are committed on the family members and friends of the incarcerated, who only wish to visit with their loved ones.

Christina Cardenas  
Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred  
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