

Sub-Committee on Crime/Corrections
Jerry Birmelin, Chairman
State Capital Building Harrisburg, PA

Community Assistant for Prisoners, hereafter referred to as C.A.P. is a community based organization, with a history which spans over two decades. In spite of it's limited financial and human resources, C.A.P. has consistently demonstrated a noteworthy level of commitment and dedication to meeting it's target populations needs. We welcome the opportunity to testify before you today! In reference to the experiments that took place in the Philadelphia County Prisons, sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania, headed Dr. Albert M. Kligman head dermatologist of the Medical Research Department at the University Of Pennsylvania. I'm one of the survivors.

The most horrifying, humiliating, embarrassing and depressing experiences I've had was to allow myself to be used in the human experimentation/medical testing, that was taking place in the Philadelphia County Jails. Horrifying because I knew little concerning the test.

I believed what I was being told, by those who posed as doctors, wearing their long white coats. As a child, I was taught that those who wore white coats/white collars were to help heal the sick and men of God, only to learn in my later years that I must be made aware of the imposters. The embarrassing side of this all was to learn that I was played. Accepting kibbles and bits for the use of my body. While corporate business, the U.S. Government along with the medical community made millions. I'm upset, because, after all these years I woke up to the realization that I was a victim of coercion, manipulation, exploitation and deceit., along with hundreds of others. Some who do not wish to make it known that they took part in the studies, because they have since made major changes in their lives for the best. Either they are ashamed or

afraid to come forth, out of respect for their families or losing their jobs, or in some cases being sent back to prison.

Since the book *Acres of Skin* hit the shelves of book stores across the country, some 30 to 40 men have come forth, not to mention the women that were also used. These men wish to be heard, they want the public to hear directly from them what their life has been like since the experiments and the suffering they have experienced.

They know now that they have been misused and abused. This has been extremely depressing, their only wish now is not to be misrepresented, and to be compensated for their pain and suffering by all parties responsible.

For over thirty years this sort of practice has been conducted by the medical communities, Ivory research as well as corporate business and the like, understanding that the City of Philadelphia/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, were at the time our caretakers. Today, we realize that they were more concerned about dollars/cents than human welfare. Let us examine the results of tests/sorts, lets explore. Men became bald, some developed sores from shampoo studies. Some of the prisoners sweat glands were removed, toxic chemicals placed on their skin, mind altering and hallucinating drugs were being tested. Toothpaste studies leaving men with no teeth or useless teeth. Pill studies from cancer, Std's sperm test, athletic foot test, the list goes on and on. Violating the Hippocratic oath, Medical code of Ethics, and the Nuremberg code. Til this day there has been no known follow up treatment. For too long men/women who participated in these studies have been left with unexplainable illnesses, primary care physicians, til this day do not know what the medical problems are that these men are suffering from, nor do they know how to treat them. Who's footing the bill? What should be done concerning this?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted Two of four freedoms, i.e., Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear, Freedom from Want is economic freedom that involves basic economic rights of individuals, i.e. decent standard of living without which individuals are easy targets for exploitation, abuses, and inhuman treatment. Without Freedom from Want, there is no human dignity. Freedom from Fear served as the basis of the struggle against murder, torture, slavery, and genocide - anywhere in the world.

Human rights consideration was equally central to the trial of the Nazi doctors by the U.S. Military Tribunal, at Nuremberg. (December 1946-August 1947). At that trial, 23 Nazi doctors and scientists, accused of torturous and murderous experiments on concentration camp inmates, were sentenced to death and life imprisonment. The U.S. judges, sitting in judgment of the Nazi doctors rejected the defense argument that the defendants only followed orders by their superiors. "Following orders" were no excuse for harmful, dangerous and inhuman treatment. The judges ruled that "certain basic principles must be observed in order to satisfy moral ethical and legal concepts." The judges articulated a set of 10 research principles, known as the Nuremberg Code, that centers on the human rights of research subjects, the first of which is the right of subject to refuse participation in research, and the 9th is the right of subject to withdraw their participation to an experiment at liberty. The contribution of Nuremberg was to insist that human rights, equality in dignity and human worth of men and women are universal, i.e. they transcend state sovereignty, states laws and practices.

When developed countries conduct research in developing countries where poverty, endemic diseases and low investment in health care are the main features, they violate human rights, because poor and desperate people will consent to anything. They are unable to give free,

voluntary, and understanding informed refusal.

What we want:

- A. Follow up medical treatment at the expense of all parties responsible.
- B. Compensation for pain and suffering.
- C. Financial support toward rehabilitation programs for offender/ex-offenders.
- D. The law makers to introduce a Bill to stop further practices of this sort.

Yours Respectfully,

Community Assistance for Prisoners