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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

15 CHRISTINA ZEPEDA, JACLYN
16 MOHRBACHER, ERIN ELLIS, DOMINIQUE
17 JACKSON, on behalf of themselves and others
18 similarly situated,

No. 18-cv-

19 Plaintiffs,

DECLARATION OF CHRISTINA ZEPEDA
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’
APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER AND MOTION FOR
A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

20 vs.

21 ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE, et
22 al.,

23 Defendants.

24 I, CHRISTINA ZEPEDA, declare as follows:

- 25 1. I am a former pregnant prisoner in Santa Rita Jail and everything stated herein is true of my
26 own knowledge. If called to testify, I can and will testify as set forth below.
27 2. I was arrested and placed into Santa Rita Jail on Sunday, August 13, 2017. At that time, I was
28 pregnant. I was arrested by Alameda County Sheriff’s deputies and before I was even arrested
I told them I was pregnant and requested that I be handcuffed in the front. The sheriff’s
deputies ignored my statement, and handcuffed me in the rear, torqueing my arms. Santa
Rita’s rules and procedures state that pregnant women shall be cuffed only in the front.
Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the rules provided to me by Santa Rita.

- 1 3. When I arrived at Santa Rita, I was already not feeling well from having been handcuffed in
2 the rear, and bounced around in the transport vehicle without a seat belt while handcuffed to
3 the rear.. When I was arrived at Santa Rita Jail, the Jail administered a pregnancy test so they
4 knew immediately that I was pregnant.
- 5 4. Upon arriving at Santa Rita jail, I told them that I was not feeling well. They placed me in a
6 holding cell that was filthy. The walls had human secretions on the walls, there was decaying
7 food in the cell. There was human waste in the cell and in the toilet. The cell looked like it
8 had never been cleaned. I was not sure the toilet worked, and there was no toilet paper.
9 Because the toilet had human waste floating in the toilet and no toilet paper, I couldn't use it,
10 and ended up urinating on my clothes.
- 11 5. When the guards took me out of the holding cell, my clothing was wet.
- 12 6. I continued to not feel well, but I received no medical care. When I was able to speak with
13 someone who said she was a medical personnel, instead of trying to provide care and comfort,
14 she told me that I could have an abortion anytime. The guards were also encouraging me to
15 have an abortion by letting me know that abortions were readily available. Yet, when I
16 requested medical attention, the guards treated me as a pest and a bother. I feel that the
17 guards were trying to coerce me into getting an abortion or suffer a miscarriage.
- 18 7. The next day, I was taken to court. To go to court, we are awoken at 4 am, and required to
19 stand for long periods of time. Then we are loaded onto vans and driven to the courthouse.
20 At the courthouse, the holding cell was very small, and there were more than eight (8) women
21 in the cell. There was only enough seating for three (3) women. I felt ill and wanted to lie
22 down. The only placed to lie down was on the cold, concrete floor. I laid there all day, for
23 more than 8 hours. There was also another woman with me who was pregnant, and the two of
24 us laid on the floor curled in feta positions.
- 25 8. When we were returned to Santa Rita Jail, all the women were then held in another very cold,
26 concrete holding cell in the section called Intake, Transfer, Release or ITR. I was held there
27 for a very long time. Women prisoners are released after the men are released back to their
28 housing units. I believe that it was after 10 pm before we were returned to our housing unit.
It had been an 18 hour day.
9. That night I told the guard that I was having pain, and then took me to a room they called the
infirmary and gave me some Gatorade. There was nothing in the room except the bed, and I

1 was afraid because of the pressure to have an abortion, that the jail staff would sedate me and
2 somehow force an abortion on me. So, I lied and told the guards that I was better so I could
3 be back in the housing unit with other women, with whom I felt safe with.

4 10. During this time, I had been given very little to eat, and only had water and the Gatorade.

5 11. During this entire period, I was not examined by any medical personnel.

6 12. By Thursday, August 17, 2017, I was bleeding very badly, and had to be transported by
7 ambulance to the hospital, where I suffered a miscarriage.

8 13. That very night, they returned me to Santa Rita Jail, and put me in the empty room they called
9 an infirmary. I was very psychologically distraught at the loss of my baby. Even though I
10 was grieving and distraught, I never received any medical attention or counseling or support.

11 14. While I was there, I realized that there were other women who were also pregnant. They
12 include plaintiffs Jaclyn Mohrbacher, Erin Ellis and Paramdeep Kaur.

13 15. I know that both women want to carry their pregnancy to term and do not want an abortion.
14 They both want healthy babies. I am very concerned over their health and the health of their
15 babies. I never saw them receive health care, although I know that as a pretext to providing
16 health care, someone comes three times a day to monitor blood pressure and pulse, and wakes
17 the pregnant women up at 2 am in the morning, to do vital signs monitoring.

18 16. I also know that on a daily basis, breakfast is served between 3:30 and 4 a.m. so Jaclyn
19 Mohrbacher and Erin Ellis, who as pregnant women and need rest, and after being woken up
20 at 2 am to have vital signs checked, are then forced to get up at 4 a.m., if they want to have
21 breakfast. If a pregnant woman skips breakfast, then lunch is at noon. From dinner to lunch
22 is 19 hours, so a pregnant woman who had a hard time getting up at 3:30 am for breakfast, has
23 to go 19 hours without food.

24 17. Another problem with Santa Rita is that where the inmates are, is very dirty. While Santa
25 Rita and the Sheriff like to represent that the jail is very clean, and what the public sees is
26 clean, such as in the lobby, the interior is very dirty. All cleaning is done by prisoners. We
27 are given very little in the way of supplies, and we are only allowed to have the supplies for a
28 very short time. There is no hand soap anywhere, so we can only rinse our hands. While I
was there, we had a very bad infestation of lice. One of the women who was in my Pod,
Paramdeep Kaur, was pregnant, and she had such a bad case of lice, they had to remove her

1 from our housing unit. All of us had to be removed from our housing unit and we all lost all
2 of our stuff, including the stuff that we had paid for.

3 18. While I was in custody, I know that Paramdeep Kaur also lost her baby and had a miscarriage.
4 I believe her miscarriage was shortly after the lice problem became terrible.

5 19. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby
6 while incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail. I think it is fair to say, that it would be very difficult, if
7 not impossible, to carry a pregnancy to term, while incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail because of
8 the treatment one receives. I am very concerned for the babies of Jaclyn and Erin. I believe
9 that staying in Santa Rita with the way they treat women, would jeopardize their health and
perhaps the viability of their babies.

10 20. From my experience, I know that women prisoners in Santa Rita are subjected to more and
11 more frequent strip searches and cavity searches than the men. I know that it is difficult for
12 women, especially pregnant women to undergo these types of searches.

13 21. I have agreed to be a class representative for similarly situated individuals.

14 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Hayward,
California.

15 Dated: Jan. 3, 2018

16
17
18 /s/ Christina Zepeda

CHRISTINA ZEPEDA

19 Under N.D. Cal. Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I attest that I obtained concurrence in the filing of this
20 document from Christina Zepeda on January 3, 2018.

21 By: /s/ Yolanda Huang

22 YOLANDA HUANG
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EXHIBIT A

Successfully saved successfully

Information for Pregnant Inmates

PFN Number: BAR957 Interviewer: Sadri, Maria (08/13/2017 11:48)

**CHRISTINA MARIA
ZEPEDA
#BAR957**

Inmates known to be pregnant or in recovery after delivery shall not be restrained by the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs from behind the body.

Pregnant inmates in labor, during delivery, or in recovery after delivery, shall not be restrained by the wrists, ankles, or both, unless deemed necessary for the safety and security of the inmate, the staff, or the public.

An inmate known to be pregnant or in recovery after delivery shall not be handcuffed in the front of the body unless restraints are deemed necessary for the safety and security of the inmate, the staff, or the public .

Restraints shall be removed when a professional who is currently responsible for the medical care of the inmate during a medical emergency, labor, delivery, after delivery, or recovery determines that the removal of restraints is medically necessary.

While you are in custody within this county jail, and it is confirmed that you are pregnant, the following standards and polices governing pregnant inmates will apply to you:

Facility medical staff will ensure necessary medication and vitamins, as recommended by a doctor, are available to you.

Prenatal and postpartum information, health care information, and childbirth education / infant care will be provided to you by the facility's medical staff.

Medical diets, which are balanced and nutritious, will be authorized by the facility medical staff during the intake process, or after you have been housed.

Pregnant or lactating inmates will be given 8 ounces of milk at each meal and a snack with 8 ounces of milk during the evening. The housing unit deputy will ensure the snack is received by you.

For your protection, you have been provided this information to assist with your pregnancy while in custody. If you have questions, you are encouraged to speak to custody staff, a nurse or other medical professional assigned to this facility.

Inmate Signature:	zepeda christina	08/30/2017
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Signatures



- User Sadri, Maria
- Category Patient
- Date 08/13/2017 11:56