

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

YOLANDA ANDERSON, et al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-3298
)	
v.)	SECTION "B"
)	JUDGE LEMELLE
ALPHONSO JACKSON, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	MAGISTRATE 5
)	MAG. CHASEZ

DECLARATION OF HELEN PREJEAN

I, Helen Prejean, declare as follows:

1. I am a native of Louisiana and a long-time resident of New Orleans.
2. I am a Roman Catholic nun, one of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille.
3. I am an advocate for the abolition of death penalty and a death-row spiritual adviser.
4. I am the author of several books based on my ministry to death-row inmates in Louisiana, including "*Dead Man Walking*," which has been made into an Academy Award-winning film and an opera.
5. I founded an organization, *Survive*, that serves to support and advocate for the families and friends of murder victims in New Orleans.
6. I work out of the Death Penalty Discourse Center in New Orleans. I spend a significant amount of my time giving talks across the United States and around the world.
7. As a long-time resident of New Orleans, I have been keenly observing the policies driving the reconstruction of my city. I have been particularly concerned about how many of the less-advantaged residents have yet to be able to return.
8. I attended the public housing resident consultation meeting convened by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) in New Orleans on November 29, 2006.
9. During the HANO resident consultation meeting, I heard the cries of the people who wanted to come home. I was moved by their cries.

10. On Saturday, January 20, 2007, I went to the St. Bernard housing development to stand with the people and to help with the clean up. I live close to St. Bernard, and I wanted to assist my community.
11. I was at the St. Bernard development from 11 am to 12:30 pm. We entered and went in and out of the development without a problem.
12. I brought some food to share with others. I cleaned out part of a ground floor apartment with residents and volunteers.
13. I was struck that this apartment did not nearly have the mold problem of other residences I have seen in New Orleans. The grounds and other buildings in the development looked like they were in good shape.
14. In my mind, to know those homes are sitting there in decent shape when so many need housing is a sin.
15. I understand someone has said that we were destroying property while at St. Bernard. Far from destroying property, we were enhancing the property. We were restoring the property by cleaning the place up.
16. I did not see any vandalism at all. Instead, I saw people picking up trash. There was even a group making a garden in front of their building. There was a great community spirit of people helping each other.
17. I was so moved by the experience that I called other Catholic sisters in New Orleans and encouraged them to help out as well. I asked them to donate cleaning supplies and to help the residents.

I declare under penalty of perjury, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 25, 2007


HELEN PREJEAN