

AFFIDAVIT OF ALDEMARO ROMERO

My name is Aldemaro Romero Diaz. I was born on September 11, 1951 in Caracas, Venezuela. I am forty three years old. I currently reside and work in Miami, Florida. My mailing address is The Department of Biology, University of Miami at Coral Gables, Miami, Florida, 33124.

I am a professional biologist with a Ph.D. earned at the University of Miami in 1984. Since that time I have taught at Venezuelan and American universities.

On February 19, 1994, I had to flee Venezuela, my native country, after receiving telephonic death threats at my home against my family and myself. The people making those threats identified themselves as being in "high places" and described my daughters' school schedules.

The reason for those threats was that I, together with Professor Ignacio Agudo, the head of the Venezuelan environmental group, had exposed on video the killing of dolphins off the coast of Venezuela. The video we filmed documenting such killings was shown in November 1993 in news broadcasts on U.S. television stations. As a consequence, the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the Venezuelan General Consulate's office in Miami, Florida, claim to have received over 20,000 letters of protest from the American public.

This outcry by the American public provoked a counter attack by the Venezuelan authorities against Professor Agudo and me, which has included doctoring the original tape, launching a massive media campaign defaming our activities and scientific reputations, anonymous death threats, and the filing of criminal charges. The charges alleged that Professor Agudo and I had violated a Venezuelan statute prohibiting the "killing a dolphin." In addition, Venezuelan authorities have publicly stated that they may try me with "treason to the motherland."

On November 30, 1994, through an intermediary, a person who identified himself as Eduardo Vetencourt, asked to meet with me. Mr. Vetencourt claimed to be the Venezuelan Vice Consul in Miami, and stated that the purpose for such a meeting would be "in order to solve my case." I agreed to meet with me that very day at the Burger King restaurant located on U.S. 1, across the street from the University of Miami, Coral Gables.

The meeting lasted from 5:00 p.m. to approximately 7:00. During the meeting, Mr. Vetencourt did most of the talking. He told me that his real job at the Venezuelan Consulate in Miami was head of Security. He told me he always carried a gun with him. He told me he wanted to resolve my case. He indicated that the way to resolve my case was to surrender myself to the Venezuelan authorities in Miami. Mr. Vetencourt said that the authorities would send a military plane to pick me up and that he himself would make

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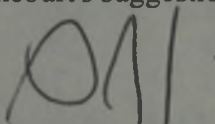
sure that I would receive a "fair trial." When I told him that neither the Venezuelan judiciary nor the prisons in that country offer any guarantee whatsoever, he told me that he could arrange to have my case transferred to a more sympathetic judge. Mr. Vetencourt then said that he would make sure that I was given a special jail cell where my life would not be endangered. He said that I would be given the same cell in which former Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez was imprisoned.

I politely rejected Mr. Vetencourt's offer. He then stated that the Venezuelan authorities had thought of kidnapping me and taking me by force back to Venezuela. However, he indicated, the authorities had "temporarily" discarded that idea because of the bad publicity Venezuela would be subject to in the U.S. Mr. Vetencourt explained that their hesitation to kidnap me was due to research showing that the U.S. could demand my return under international law.

I informed my family, my lawyers and close friends about this incident and they all agreed that I should never surrender myself to the Venezuelan authorities. Soon after the conversation with Mr. Vetencourt, my lawyers tried to contact him in order to meet him, but on every occasion he declined.

However, later developments have led me to believe that the Venezuelan authorities may try to kidnap me after all.

On January 22, 1995, it was widely reported in the Venezuelan press that the Venezuelan government was going to request my extradition from the United States. The activity surrounding Venezuela's purported request for my extradition immediately follows my conversation with Mr. Vetencourt on November 30, 1994, the date when I refused his request to surrender myself to Venezuelan authorities voluntarily. The conversation on November 30, 1994 also included Mr. Vetencourt's suggestion that the authorities had contemplated kidnapping me.

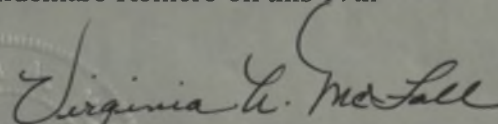


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SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO Before me by the said Aldemaro Romero on this 17th day of February, 1995.



VIRGINIA A. MCFALL
MY COMMISSION # CC273333 EXPIRES
March 19, 1997
BONDED THRU TROY FAIR INSURANCE, INC.



Virginia A. McFall
~~NOTARY PUBLIC~~
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