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(Revised 8/13/11)

A Brief Introduction By Jennifer "Baby Girl" Gann

Greetings and welcome! ☺ My name is Jennifer, but friends call me "Baby Girl". I'm a young-looking 41-year-old, Irish & Cherokee, MTF pre-operative transsexual on a regimen of hormone (estrogen) therapy. I'm currently a "Three Strikes" political prisoner at a maximum-security California state prison men's facility.

These blogs/letters/poems, etc. are intended to be posted on-line at the Between the Bars website as a transgender journal, and will include my original artwork, poetry, and writings.

As a transgender woman, it is my sincere hope that people will find what I have to share interesting. I welcome your comments, criticism, feedback, and questions.

I was born October 6, 1969, in Riverside, California, assigned as a biological male, and given the name

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John David Gram by my parents. At age 9 or 10, I moved to Orange County with my mother, step-father, and baby sister. We lived in the West O.C. suburb of Huntington Beach.

In 1988, I was convicted of a gang-related attempted robbery, and was eventually sent to state prison for a parole violation. While in Folsom Prison, I was involved in the September 1991 Food Strike protest, for which I was sent to the Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU). I was abused, assaulted by guards, brutalized, denied basic human rights, and my safety was deliberately jeopardized by having to defend myself in orchestrated gladiator-style fights while the guard shot at us with high-powered assault rifles at close range!

Eventually, I was charged and convicted for multiple assaults and possession of an inmate-manufactured weapon. For these acts of self-defense and lawful resistance against my oppressors, I received a total

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sentence of 105 years-to-life! The weapon possession normally carries a statutory maximum penalty of 2 years, the battery—6 years, and assault with a deadly weapon—6 years. However, under the draconian "three strikes" law, I received three consecutive 25 years-to-life terms, without having received a fair trial or assistance of counsel, as guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment.

I now regret some of the choices and mistakes I've made in the past, but I have never raped or murdered anyone. Nor do I deserve to spend the rest of my life in prison. For the crime of robbery, which I was originally sent to prison for 7 years, I have been imprisoned for 21 years now!

I appreciate the opportunities I've had to educate and rehabilitate myself, but what good is it if I'm never given another chance to become a productive member of human society? So many people are kept in prison unjustifiably. It's simply a waste

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of human life, and public resources.

As a trans-woman, my physical appearance and preferred gender identity is unmistakably femme. I hope to someday undergo sex-reassignment surgery (SRS). At the very least, I am inappropriately housed in a men's facility, around known sexually violent predators (SVP's), where I am forcibly strip-searched by male guards and sexually harassed on a regular basis. I continue to experience the most hateful and vicious forms of sex discrimination!

I would be much better off, safer, and "at home" in a women's facility with my sisters.

I am an Amazon/Lesbian/trans-woman with dreams and hope for the future. I am a revolutionary Amazon Queen! I have a lot of positive things to offer the world for my freedom. I am ambitious, creative, friendly, honest, motivated, original, respectful, sincere, spiritual, and unique.

I am an activist, aspiring artist,

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blogger, college pre-grad student, fashionista, feminist, humanitarian, environmentalist, Jailhouse Lawyer, poet, singer/songwriter, volunteer, worker, and yogini.

I like animals, the beach, cooking, Lady Gaga, Mexican food, people, reading non-fiction, socializing, traveling, and the Wendy Williams show. My dream is to work in the beauty/fashion industry, and/or become a musician, as well as being a full-time activist for native American Indian, women's, and LGBTQ rights, and travel to India.

Finally, I am grateful to my beloved mother, Peggy Ann, and to divine Mother Nature for all that I am and could be — for the joie de vivre.

Viva las Amazónas!

Viva the Revolution!

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