To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Joseph M Cappiw, and I am serving two life sentences and I am currently housed at the Lovelock correctional center. I am a member of the Pagan community, and since my incarceration, I have had to fight with the N.D.O.C. many times over my religious practice even after there had been settlement agreements made in court regarding our religious rights numerous times.

The harassment, discrimination and the hate towards the Pagan Community by the Nevada Department of Corrections and its staff continues. The staff here at L.C.C. have as of recent made ~~the~~ threats towards myself and harassed the Pagan Community as follows:

on 5/7/11 all plants on pagan grounds cut down to 18" inches, on 6/4/11 I was told by Lt. Olivious to pull all catnip on the solitary area, on 7/26/11 a memo was issued stating (1) No normally edible/drinkable plant/herb (ie. any mint including catnip, hibiscus, rosemary) is allowed to grow.

on 5/29/11 I was called to the property room to pick-up my herb order, at this time I was told by sgt. Doonwing that if my cell was searched and any of the herbs were found that he would write me up and make sure that I went to write 4A and/or 4B. The actions of sgt. Doonwing, in my ~~of~~ opinion are a personal attack on my religion/religous practice, as the personal religious inventory form AR 810 allows us to have 2 OZ's of each approved herb in our religious box (not the group box).

On 8/12/11 I received a letter from an attorney that had been opened prior to me receiving it, I notified the attorney of the fact and he notified the prison and on 9/13/11 I was called to the pagan grounds along with other grounds keepers and told to stay there as S&E was on their way to the grounds to inspected the group property boxes. prison staff present during the so called inspection were Chaplain ~~Tracy~~ Garcia, L.T. ward, and 4 other C/O's. we were told that we can no longer have news paper, magazines, or paper bags as the

Pagan grounds, (all of which are used to start our rituel fires) as was stated to Chaplain Garcia, that it would be near impossible to ~~sta~~ start a wood fire with just a match, and he stated that we are only allowed to burn wood.

After the search of the solitary area I was told by G-1 which is the gun tower that over looks the pagan grounds that I had to return to my housing unit for legal mail and that I was to go right now and to leave all of the solitary property as is (out) until I got back. when I got to my housing unit the law library supervisor Mrs. Fiel waiting for me she stated that she was told to come see me by the warden about my open legal mail, she ask me if the mail was open when I received it and I told her yes that it was, at this time she advised me that she did not recall the mail being open but that if it was it was done in error and apologized and assured me that it would not happen again.

I do not believe that the warden being

contacted by the attorney about my legal mail and the pagan grounds being searched are a mere coincidence I believe that it was just further harassment or just plain old retalation and I fear that there is more to come.

Sincerely

Joseph M. Caprino
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