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A PROTEST AGAINST PSYCHIATRIC CAUSED DEATHS AT ST. ELIZABETH'S WASHINGTON D.C.

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> *Members of an international psychiatric watchdog group held a demonstration at St. Elizabeth's hospital in South East D.C. in response to the man who died in restraints at St. Elizabeth's Hospital!*

For_Immediate_Release:

January 26, 2007 (Press Release) -- Press Release
For Immediate Release 1/23/2007
Media Contact:
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202-667-0206

A PROTEST AT ST. ELIZABETHS
WASHINGTON ? Members of an international psychiatric watchdog group held a

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demonstration near St. Elizabeth?s hospital in S.E. D.C. in response to the man who died in restraints at St.Elizabeth?s on the 9th of January 2007.

The death occurred on Tuesday afternoon of January 9th. The Washington Post reported that the unidentified man appeared to lose consciousness after hospital staffers restrained him face down. The incident allegedly occurred in an area of the hospital used for classes and therapy.

The 39-year-old man, whose name is being withheld, was pronounced dead at Greater Southeast Hospital. D.C. Department of Mental Health and the Mayor's office have launched their own internal investigation into the matter.

A picket was held at the front gate of the St. Elizabeth?s hospital in support of the deceased patient. Protesters held signs "Murder is Murder", "Investigate restraint deaths", "Restrain Psychiatry" and Psychiatry Kills!.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights, which organized the protest, is very concerned as there have been many other deaths in psychiatric institutions caused by restraint methods. This became such a problem that the U.S. Congress passed a bill requiring training and education in restraint methods and suggested re-evaluation of existing methods.

An investigation by the Hartford Current Newspaper found over 150 children and teenagers have been killed in psychiatric facilities due to restraints. No specific figures exist for the number of adults killed by restraints but this appears to be a growing problem. The Citizens Commission on Human Rights demanded an investigation into policies at St. Elizabeth?s on restraining patients.

Roman Gruzdev, the DC CCHR Director commented, "We demand a criminal investigation of this death, as well as a broad review of training and policies at St. Elizabeth?s. The fact that patients have frequently died while being restrained is well known. Procedures and policies exist to ensure this does not occur. Whether these policies were followed or enforced at St. E's is yet another issue that needs to be investigated. The management of the hospital cannot just plead for more money as they usually do when any problems exist but need to fully investigate and put in mandated federal training regarding restraint of patients. We recommend that criminal charges be seriously considered since these policies are well promoted and known."

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), was established in 1969 by the Church of Scientology to investigate and expose Human Rights Abuses in psychiatric facilities.

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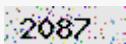**Your email:**   (Please provide a valid email.)

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