

INTERVIEW WITH

Q=Sgt. Leon

Q1=Man

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Q: This is Sergeant (Herman) Leon. What's your name, sir? Can you tell me your name, sir?

Q1: Is it okay if I look at your wristband? Okay. I take that as an okay. Go ahead and spin a little bit for me, please. That way it's just more comfortable for you.

Q: All right. , uh, sir, you're not in trouble. We're, uh, investigators from the Sheriff's office, and we're here to talk about what happened with Mr. (Tyree). Are you familiar with Mr. (Tyree)? , would you just not like to make a comment? D- would you like to talk to us, ?

Q1: Are you willing to just tell us what cell you're in so we can mark you off and that you go back?

Q: would you at least tell us what cell you're in so we can just be done with your interview?

Q1: Is there a reason you don't want to talk to us? Would you at least give us that courtesy?

Q: , the reason we're here is we want to talk about your - your safety within this dorm, and how you're doing, and how you're being treated. That's the only reason we're here.

Q1: Do you have any complaints you'd like to share with us, or concerns you have? I mean, I see you're sitting there with your legs crossed and your eyes closed, and you're kind of being indifferent. All right. Would you prefer just to go back to your cell?

43

44 A: Yes.

45

46 Q1: Yes. Okay. Can you at least - would you answer just one question, which is  
47 not, I think, a threatening type question? It's really just - are you doing okay in  
48 there? Would you prefer then just go back to your cell, like you said?

49

50 A: Yes.

51

52 Q1: Okay. How about if we check to see? Uh, even though you're not willing to  
53 talk, I'd like to say one thing, and hopefully you're aware, but if - if you have  
54 any concern...

55

56 A: I would just like to go back to my cell.

57

58 Q1: Oh, I understand that. Uh, just in- indulge me...

59

60 A: I j- go ahead - I don't feel like killing myself. I don't feel like hurting myself. I  
61 ain't heard or said - did nothing.

62

63 Q1: Um, that...

64

65 A: All I know is alarm went off...

66

67 Q1: Uh-huh.

68

69 A: ...going - going off right now, and I ain't heard or said - did nothing.

70

71 Q1: I get it.

72

73 A: Uh, that's all I'm concerned about.

74

75 Q1: I get it. And like my partner said, we're just here to make sure that  
76 everything's okay as far as the atmosphere in the dorm. That there's been no  
77 mistreatment of you or anyone else. That's all we're here for. We're not here to  
78 accuse you of anything. We're not here to make your life even more difficult.  
79 We're just here to make sure that you're getting the respect that you deserve  
80 for being in there, and so is everyone else. That's - hopefully, that's fair  
81 enough to you. Um, and we don't have any hidden agenda. Uh, we're not here  
82 to ask you about what happened to Mr. (Tyree). We're here really just to say  
83 how are things in there? How would you describe the tone? Are you having  
84 any...

85  
86 A: Things that's going on is, it shook - it sh- it shook the officers up to the point  
87 where - it shook the officers up to the point where they had to basically  
88 change shifts or cha- change - uh - change people - change the employees all  
89 the way around to a point where it had caused the inm- the in- both of the  
90 inmate - or all inmates to come out during the program from fir- uh - one - at a  
91 time, uh, tier-wise or floor-wise.  
92  
93 Q1: So if I understand it right then they're letting out, like, the lower tier...  
94  
95 A: They're all doing - they're all doing (unintelligible)...  
96  
97 Q1: They're tiering up with the (unintelligible).  
98  
99 A: ...somewhat.  
100  
101 Q1: Yeah. Yeah.  
102  
103 A: I - I - yeah - it's some - I would say it's someone - one in particular officer  
104 ended up passing me extra food this morning from, um, my neighbor. I don't  
105 know who he is or what he - uh - I think - all I know is he's just not compliant.  
106 The new guy, um - uh - that's next to me from that cell, that same cell, the  
107 dude Ty- T-...  
108  
109 Q1: Yeah.  
110  
111 A: ...(Tyree). There was another guy that was in there before him. He had no  
112 problems eating or anything. So I don't know why they moved dude, but, I  
113 mean, he's a big stress factor for me. So I'll do the best I can to d- to just  
114 eat, sleep and just, you know...  
115  
116 Q1: Yeah.  
117  
118 A: Don't do nothing. I had to get rid of all towels, all appliances, so for  
119 showering and stuff...  
120  
121 Q: Uh-huh.  
122  
123 A: ...so I mean, it's - it's - it's, um, it's just my responsibility and that's all.  
124  
125 Q1: Yeah. Are you coping okay?  
126

127 A: Um - uh - my probation officer is driving me off - off - uh - I - uh - she's  
128 driving in - in a way where I can st- uh - I don't - I - I just want to go to my  
129 little rehab program. That's all I want to do.  
130  
131 Q1: Yeah. Okay. All right. So oth- other than, uh, this change in - in how they let  
132 you guys out, any other complaints you have over any type of treatment that  
133 you've been receiving since Mr. (Tyree) died?  
134  
135 A: Uh, my program is - is to eat, sleep, and shit.  
136  
137 Q1: Okay.  
138  
139 A: Just try to (unintelligible)...  
140  
141 Q1: And - and...  
142  
143 A: There's no - there's no (unintelligible)...  
144  
145 Q1: Yeah. Yeah. Okay.  
146  
147 A: I mean, after that incident, after what that (unintelligible)...  
148  
149 Q: Yeah. Sure.  
150  
151 Q1: Yeah.  
152  
153 A: That's all I want.  
154  
155 Q1: Okay.  
156  
157 A: I mean, I really got to the point where I wanted to go to a whole different  
158 dorm...  
159  
160 Q1: Uh-huh.  
161  
162 A: But, I mean, police have been - they - they do what they can. All they can do  
163 is do what (unintelligible).  
164  
165 Q1: Yeah. Okay. No. Exactly.  
166

167 A: I mean - I mean r-, pr- frankly, you know, I'm - I - I'm a rock bottomer, you  
168 know. I lost my house and job all in one day. And, uh, I'm just fortunate  
169 enough - I'm on SSI. Did I get that - or I get SSI, you know. Um, that's all.

170  
171 Q1: Okay.

172  
173 A: I mean, that - that hit me in a way that it's, like, you know, all I want to do is  
174 just - just stay focused in my surroundings at all given time.

175  
176 Q: Okay.

177  
178 Q1: How have the officers been towards everyone in the dorm, since - since Mr.  
179 (Tyree)?

180  
181 A: Um, stressed out.

182  
183 Q1: Has any of that stress been taken out on you guys?

184  
185 A: Um, not - not - I ha- uh - I have no authority to say anything about the next  
186 man. I mean, if they - if I noticed si- signs of stress, or at least they put it out  
187 on me...

188  
189 Q1: Okay.

190  
191 A: That does not mean they might not think a negative thought about me.

192  
193 Q1: Yeah. Well, I guess, uh, let me ask you a kind of a more direct question if I  
194 may. Uh, have - has anyone come around and basically, uh, pressured you in  
195 any way or told you not to say anything further to - to people like Sergeant  
196 (Cortez) and I that come around as detectives and - and are probing and asking  
197 questions. Has anybody told you, don't talk to them, stay quiet, change your  
198 story, whatever, anything (unintelligible).

199  
200 A: No, I haven't been told anything, you know...

201  
202 Q: Okay.

203  
204 A: Nobody ever told me anything like that. All they told me, I mean, all my  
205 parents have taught me, you know, they said, pay attention, follow directions  
206 (unintelligible) that you might need.

207  
208 Q: Okay.

209

210 A: I ain't got really - I ain't do the arithmetic. They said pay attention  
211 (unintelligible) time.

212

213 Q: Okay.

214

215 A: Do all that I can do. But when it gets down to it, man, all I can do is just lay  
216 my ass down to sleep, maybe st- sit at - stand up, but watch a little TV or  
217 whatever. Take my little meds, you know. Drink a lot of..

218

219 Q: Okay.

220

221 A: I can't even drink a lot of water. Gets to a point you be drinking too much  
222 water at nighttime and, you know, and, uh, you flushing the toilet at the wrong  
223 time...

224

225 Q: Okay.

226

227 A: When somebody's trying to sleep. Same thing during the day...

228

229 Q: Okay.

230

231 A: You know what I'm saying. I have to - you know, I'm - I'm that careful, right.

232

233 Q: I get it.

234

235 A: Okay. All right.

236

237 Q: I get it.

238

239 A: Can we hurry up? I (unintelligible).

240

241 Q: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. No. No. No. Absolutely. We appreciate you talking to us...

242

243 A: You guys need to go and...

244

245 Q: Yeah.

246

247 A: Take care of whatever it is. But like I said, it - sometimes it's, you know, the  
248 best thing for me to do is to just...

249

250 Q: Yeah.

251  
252 A: It's the part where I just say, hey (unintelligible).  
253  
254 Q: Yeah.  
255  
256 A: Did not (unintelligible).  
257  
258 Q: Okay.  
259  
260 Q1: Okay. Do you know how to reach out in case, um, you want to make a  
261 complaint or - or whatnot? Do you know, uh, how the different ways you can  
262 do that?  
263  
264 A: Yeah, fill out an R- MA request form...  
265  
266 Q1: Yeah.  
267  
268 A: And just - that's MA request form.  
269  
270 Q1: Yeah.  
271  
272 A: Oh, uh, so far as, uh, a complaint form.  
273  
274 Q1: There's an MA grievance form that you can also fill out...  
275  
276 A: (Unintelligible) so that's called grievance, uh, gr-...  
277  
278 Q1: Yeah.  
279  
280 A: What w- there was - I - what was those used to be called in prison, um...  
281  
282 Q1: Oh, uh...  
283  
284 A: I never did like those guys...  
285  
286 Q1: Was it a 115...  
287  
288 A: Or 115...  
289  
290 Q1: Is something like a 115?  
291  
292 A: Yeah. 1- 1-...

293  
294 Q1: Something like that?  
295  
296 A: No, you get a one fif- you get...  
297  
298 Q: You get a 115.  
299  
300 A: No. No. If I was to do a physical altercation - no - no - 115 would be - let's say  
301 altering state property.  
302  
303 Q. Uh-huh.  
304  
305 Q1: Okay.  
306  
307 A. Then you get a w- I can get a 115 to someone in that area. That's with that -  
308 that area, but a 115 so far is, uh - uh, the question that you're trying to get at...  
309  
310 Q: Well, I just wanted to make sure that you know...  
311  
312 A: Oh - oh - oh...  
313  
314 Q: Like, if - like, if for some reason you have - you have something that you wish  
315 to complain about...  
316  
317 A: Yeah.  
318  
319 Q: ...you....  
320  
321 A: A 115 - you just ask for a 115.  
322  
323 Q: Well (unintelligible)...  
324  
325 A: ...or no, you guys (unintelligible) card of - of - of - kind of 115 or something  
326 like that if you wanted to...  
327  
328 Q: Well, that's prison. We just call it an MA grievance, and just ask for an MA  
329 grievance form, right?  
330  
331 A: MA grievance?  
332  
333 Q1: Yeah.  
334



335 Q: You know that - your - you know about the request form?  
336  
337 A: That's all I needed...  
338  
339 Q: Okay.  
340  
341 A: Everyone that need - needed, you know, is just an MA request...  
342  
343 Q: Yeah.  
344  
345 A: ...form for a little crime for, uh...  
346  
347 Q1: Or you gonna talk to a supervisor 'cause you - you know...  
348  
349 A: There ain't no supervi- I don't need - I don't know nothing about that. I don't  
350 see none on that on any of that paperwork.  
351  
352 Q: No, no, no. But you can - there's - you can write that in. But better yet, you  
353 know how the sergeants go into the housing unit, into 6B, and they check on  
354 the officers. They'll go in, like, once a shift. You know who the sergeant is,  
355 the guy the with the stripes on his sleeves or the woman...  
356  
357 A: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.  
358  
359 Q1: When they go in, you know you're free to talk to them if they're available,  
360 right?  
361  
362 A: Hey. I'm not that type of (unintelligible).  
363  
364 Q: It's your choice.  
365  
366 Q1: It's your choice. I'm just, uh, giving you the different options.  
367  
368 A: Uh...  
369  
370 Q1: You don't have to do any of them. And then, of course, by the phones, there's  
371 a phone number to Internal Affairs that you can always call, and they'll take  
372 your collect call. I just want to make sure you're aware of those. That's all. Is  
373 that fair enough? Okay. Are you - are you through - are you - you ready to go  
374 back?  
375  
376 A: Yes.

377  
378 Q1: Okay,  
379  
380 Q: All right, we appreciate you talking to us.  
381  
382 A: All right.  
383  
384 Q1: Thank you.  
385  
386 Q1: Thank you for your time, sir.  
387  
388 A: Hey. Um, regardless - regardless of that guy that did die...  
389  
390 Q1: Uh-huh.  
391  
392 A: I was part of the verbal altercation. I mean, did you - did...  
393  
394 Q: Uh-huh.  
395  
396 A: The o- the officer, the Oriental officer just put me and him - I - I verbally  
397 assaulted - I was part of the, uh - verb- verbally assaulted the man that - that  
398 died, you know. And that's just because, I mean, I don't know - the - after - the  
399 next day after that - that morning, there was feces and food from - from - I  
400 don't know. Dude was there for, like, six hours, and all I can - that all that  
401 would be going through my mind is - is, like, why did he end up having the  
402 feces all over the place in the first place, you know.  
403  
404 Q1: Yeah.  
405  
406 A: I can understand the checking game and everything, but, I mean...  
407  
408 Q1: Uh-huh.  
409  
410 A: ...uh, when you shit all over yourself, and you end up dying all at the same  
411 time and have the same Oriental guy giving CPR, it's, like, I - I got to the  
412 point where I was, like, I don't know. I don't know if I'm just gonna lay  
413 down...  
414  
415 Q1: Yeah.  
416  
417 A: And whoever cover it up and do whatever. But I did see dude's glasses, and  
418 then it reminded me of, uh - I had - I had - I - my - I had a pair - a pair - a pair

419 (unintelligible). I'm just glad I got a pair of my glasses from somebody else.  
420 That's (unintelligible)...

421

422 Q: Yeah. You have a pair of glasses on like I do...

423

424 A: So it's just (unintelligible) just 'cause I need to read off the TV.

425

426 Q: Yeah.

427

428 A: You know what I mean.

429

430 Q: Yeah. So...

431

432 A: Um, well, yeah. Like I said, I'm going to let you guys go. I don't know  
433 nothing.

434

435 Q: Okay.

436

437 Q1: Okay.

438

439 Q: No problem.

440

441 Q1: All right. So just to be clear though, you got in a verbal altercation with Mr.  
442 (Tyree) that died or with the officer? 'Cause I wasn't quite sure.

443

444 A: Uh, I diversialized that - that situation. Um, but like I said, I - I don't want to -  
445 I don't want to - to tell things of other folks. Okay.

446

447 Q1: Okay. All right. (unintelligible).

448

449 Q: Sure.

450

451 Q1: Yeah. Yeah.

452

453 Q: And, oh, last thing, what was your cell? What cell were you in?

454

455 A: I'm in 41.

456

457 Q: 41.

458

459 Q1: 41.

460

461 Q: Okay. Thank you. All right.

462

463 A: On the first floor.

464

465 Q: First floor. Okay.

466

467 A: Okay.

468

469 Q: Very good, Thank you for your time, sir.

470

471 Q1: We appreciate that.

472

473 A: Hey.

474

475

476 This transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate  
477 transcription.

478 Signed \_\_\_\_\_