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## EXHIBIT F.

**STATEMENT MADE BY MISS DONALDINA CAMERON, MATRON OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHINESE RESCUE HOME TO UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, HART H. NORTH, AT SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., SEPTEMBER 2, 1898.**

[Questions asked by Commissioner North and answered by Miss Cameron.]

- Q. What is your full name?—A. Donaldina Cameron.
- Q. What is your occupation, Miss Cameron?—A. Assistant superintendent of the Chinese Mission Home.
- Q. How long have you been connected with the Chinese rescue work?—A. For over 3 years.
- Q. In this city and county?—A. Yes.
- Q. In connection with your work, have you ever come in contact with so-called Chinese highbinder tongs or societies, and their members and their workings?—A. I have come in contact with various members of them.
- Q. In what connection have you met them?—A. In connection with the rescuing of slave girls.
- Q. Can you tell us what their connection with these slave girls is?—A. In one way they buy and sell the girls themselves. That is their principal means of support in a great many cases; in fact, their only means of support is in trading in these girls.
- Q. They are the slave owners, are they not?—A. They are slave owners, and they have gone further and threatened, both the missionaries and the Chinese who have assisted in rescuing these girls, with death.
- Q. As I understand it, there are two kinds of slave girls—those who are called domestic slaves and who are menials and servants, and those who are placed in the brothels?—A. Yes.
- Q. Do the highbinders deal in both kinds?—A. That I am not positive of, but I think they deal principally in putting them in houses of prostitution.
- Q. What class of girls have you principally in this house?—A. We have both classes. We have a great many little ones also.
- Q. The domestic slaves I suppose are placed from the houses of the highbinders in the families of Chinese?—A. Mostly so I think, but I could not state that positively.
- Q. Do these highbinders own the houses of ill fame themselves, or are they merely employed as guards; or what is their connection?—A. I think in some cases they own the houses themselves.
- Q. But invariably they are guarding the houses?—A. Yes; and they are employed by the keepers of the houses to wreak vengeance on the girls who escape.
- Q. And it is customary for the highbinders to wreak vengeance on the girls themselves, is it not?—A. We know of cases where the highbinders have stolen the girls who have married, from their husbands after they had gone to small country places, out of reach of the protection of the missionaries and rescue people, and have there been kidnaped by the highbinders and returned to the places from which they had been originally rescued. We have been notified in two cases that I think of just now, and we have rescued the girls.
- Q. Have you ever heard of the highbinders killing the girls in the houses who tried to escape for any other purpose?—A. I have known of threats, but I have never known of such a thing happening. I have been told by Chinese whom I could depend on that such things have happened.
- Q. It is customary, is it not, for these highbinders to coach the girl emigrants before their examination on their arrival here, as to the necessary way to answer questions in order that they may be landed?—A. I think that is invariably done; there can be no doubt about that.
- Q. They are constantly engaged in furnishing perjured testimony?—A. Yes.
- Q. Is it not customary for highbinders to warn the girls against the missionaries and the rescue home work by preaching horrible stories about them?—A. The girls have frequently told us, after we have rescued them, that they had been told terrible things about the missions before they came here.
- Q. They also threaten them with dire results—even going so far as to threaten death—do they not, if they do not tell the stories they are directed to tell by these highbinders?—A. Yes.
- Q. You regard the highbinders as an absolute menace to the welfare of all these girls?—A. Most decidedly so.
- Q. And against the will and desire of a large number of them?—A. Yes, indeed; I do.

Q. Is it not your experience that at least a larger number of Chinese girls that come to this country are personally desirous of leading virtuous lives?—A. I think the larger proportion of them have no idea of what they are going to do, most emphatically.

Q. What per cent of the girls that are brought to this country do you suppose are destined for bad lives?—A. I was almost going to say 99 per cent.

Q. At least 90 per cent?—A. I should safely say that.

Q. Have you any idea of the earnings of these girls or their owners?—A. I think the average earnings are supposed to be in the region of \$5 and \$6 a day.

Q. Are these girls purchased as slaves in China and brought here in slavery, or do they come voluntarily in the first instance?—A. I think quite a number come voluntarily, never dreaming what their fate is to be; but I think a great many are landed against their will, especially when it comes to bringing them right here and they get some idea of what they are going to be brought to.

Q. Of the 90 per cent they all come as slaves? As I understand it, these girls are purchased by procurers and others in China, and the agents of the highbinders and their allies bring them here, and they are to all intents and purposes slaves when they leave China.—A. They are bought and paid for in China. They are made to take their own purchase money in their own hand and give it to the person who is selling them, so that it can not come back on the head of the person of the highbinders. That is the Chinese idea, so a girl told me.

Q. Do you know if there are any Chinese women who belong to these highbinder societies—any allies and female brokers?—A. Yes; I think in everyone of these bad houses there is one woman or more who assists in getting the girls.

Q. Do you know whether they are supposed to belong to the highbinder tongs themselves or are they merely working in unison with the highbinders?—A. I really could not say whether they belong to these societies or not, but I know they work in unison and do as much as the men do in getting the girls and in holding them after they have them.

Q. Have you ever come in open conflict with the highbinders since you have been in this mission?—A. In rescuing the girls I have had the men take hold of them and try to drag them away from me, while the girl was holding on to me and trying to come with me. I have had that experience several times.

Q. These Chinese highbinders, as I understand it, never lay hands on a white person?—A. They have never touched me, but often laid hands on my predecessor, Miss Culbertson. On one occasion she had her dress nearly torn off in Fresno in trying to get a girl away on the train at night.

Q. It is a very rare occurrence, is it not, for them to lay violent hands on Americans?—A. Yes; I think it is quite an unusual thing.

Q. But it is customary and ordinary for them to do deeds of violence to Chinese, both men and women, is it not?—A. Yes; indeed it is.

Q. Were it not for the highbinders a large number of these girls would not stay in these houses, would they?—A. I think not. I think there are converts in Chinatown to-day who would gladly leave if not terrified by what would be done to them should they attempt to escape.

Q. Have you ever known head money to be laid on the girls in those houses?—A. In numberless cases.

Q. Do you know how much is offered as a rule?—A. I know hundreds of dollars.

Q. How many hundreds?—A. I do not like to say, as I do not remember exactly, but the last case that I think of now was \$500. It is according to the value of the girls.

Q. Do highbinders ever hang around these premises looking for girls?—A. Very frequently. We never receive a girl that the highbinders do not hang around the home more or less for a day or two. We have a chain attached to the inside of the door, so as to prevent the pushing of it open. We always put it on when we open the door.

Q. Would they, in your opinion, come into the house and steal the girls away, should an opportunity occur?—A. Yes; they would. They would even follow us to church. In taking them to church, as we do Sunday evenings, in days gone by they have tried to get them. Only two weeks ago they had a carriage here at the corner to get the girl that we rescued from Sacramento a short time ago. So we do not take her out at night now; just take her out in the morning.

Q. When you go to church, do the highbinders go so far as to slip into church after you?—A. Yes; they have done it. I have no doubt but they frequently do, but I have been positive of it only a few times. Just a few weeks ago some came into the church.

Q. Can you tell a highbinder from one who is not by his appearance?—A. Yes; I generally have a pretty good idea of them.

Q. There are certain characteristics about them that are familiar to the Chinese race, are there not?—A. I have not been long enough identified with them to be able to tell.

Q. Do you know how the highbinders are regarded by the respectable Chinese element?—A. I know they dread them very much indeed; fear them very much. In fact I feel very sure that all the respectable Chinese would wish to have the highbinders banished from the country entirely.

Q. Have you any idea how the highbinder societies could be broken up; by passing what laws?—A. That is too deep for me.

Q. Do you think that if Chinese houses of ill fame were absolutely prohibited it would have any effect in breaking up the association?—Yes, I do; for so many of them depend entirely upon them for support. If the importation of the girls were stopped they would close these houses.

Q. How many Chinese girl inmates of this home are there now, Miss Cameron?—A. We have 39.

Q. How long has this home been in existence?—A. Twenty-three years, I think.

Q. Do you know how many girls have been rescued in that length of time?—A. Over 600; I am not positive of the exact figure.

Q. Do you know about what value is placed on the Chinese slave girl by these highbinder societies and others that are dealing in them?—A. Frequently over \$2,000.

Q. Ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000, according to the age and appearance of the girl, is it not?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever received any threatening letters?—A. Numberless letters have come during the three years that I have been here; slipped in under the door, from Chinese of course. We rescued a very pretty and very young girl who was offered at \$2,000. She had only been here a few months, and about a week after we took her into the home there was a great deal of trouble about her, and the highbinders came after her a great deal. One morning when the man came around with the newspaper he found a large dynamite cartridge about a foot long standing up against the front door, placed in such a manner that when the door should be opened the cartridge would fall in and explode.

Q. It was so placed against the door that it was evidently intended to be exploded by the opening of the door?—A. Yes; and when the police were called they found that at all the basement windows similar cartridges had been placed in such a way that when the windows should be pushed up they would be apt to explode.

Q. When was that?—A. Three years ago last April. That is the greatest threatened act of violence that has ever been attempted against the home. Miss Culbertson, my predecessor, was attacked by a Chinaman with a knife; not really attacked, but a Chinaman was coming directly toward her with an open knife when she was rescuing a Chinese girl.

Q. Have you ever yourself seen them draw weapons?—A. No; I never have.

Q. You only attempt rescues, as I understand it, when information is brought you that the girls are desirous of reaching the home?—A. In the cases of grown girls we wait until we hear that they want to come; but where smaller children are concerned we and the officers of the Society for the Protection of Children take them.

Q. What experience have you had with habeas corpus proceedings?—A. They nearly always serve writs of habeas corpus on us when we rescue a girl.

Q. That is, the attorneys for the Chinese highbinders?—A. Yes; the highbinders hire the attorneys.

Q. They try in all ways possible to interfere with the operation of these homes, do they?—A. They go in as witnesses to say that the girl is the wife of some man who is there in court, or the daughter of someone else, and try to claim them in that way.

Q. Try to intimidate the girls all they can, do they not?—A. As we take a girl through the corridors they stand alongside and threaten them, and say that no matter how long it may be they will get them back some way and wreak their vengeance on them.

Q. They oftentimes succeed in terrifying the girls to such an extent that they get them back, do they not?—A. They have done so.

Q. Have you ever rescued girls who have borne evidence upon their persons of scars and other indignities inflicted upon them by the highbinders?—A. Yes; often.

Q. And have they told you that the punishments were inflicted by the highbinders?—A. Yes.

Q. For what purpose?—A. Generally because they did not earn enough money.  
 Q. Have you any Chinese girls here now who would be willing to relate their experiences, and whose experience might be of interest in this matter?—A. They are very timid when it comes to giving evidence, but still I think I can persuade one or two to do so.

## EXHIBIT G

## STATEMENT OF GON SING, RESCUED SLAVE GIRL, AT PRESBYTERIAN CHINESE RESCUE HOME, MISS CAMERON, MATRON, TO UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION HART H. NORTH, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., SEPTEMBER 2, 1898.

[Questions put by Commissioner North and answered by Gon Sing, through Interpreter J. E. Gardner.]

- Q. How old are you?—A. 19.  
 Q. How long have you lived in this country?—A. Nearly 2 years.  
 Q. How did you come to leave China?—A. Glowing stories were told me of the life of the Chinese in California, which I believed, and which first led me to come over here. I was bought in China by a Chinaman, acting with a Chinese woman, for \$680, Mexican. Then I was sent over here to California by those people. I was told that when I came here I would be married to a respectable, wealthy Chinese merchant. Soon after my arrival, however, I found that was not the intention of all these people. I was resold for \$1,680, gold. I was first placed in a house of ill fame in San Francisco, but finding that I was not willing to stay and that I wanted to get into the home, they removed me to Sacramento and placed me in a house of ill fame there. I managed to send word to Miss Cameron, the matron of this home, secretly, and she took steps to have me brought down here, and so I was rescued. This house in which I was kept for a while in Sacramento was kept by a Chinese woman and a Chinese highbinder.  
 Q. Describe what took place at your rescue.—A. My clothes were nearly snatched off of me at the rescue.  
 Q. Were you threatened in any way by the highbinders?—A. When in the house in Sacramento I was punished and often struck by the owner of the house because I did not make myself agreeable and because I did not earn enough money for the owners. I had bruises on my person at the time I was rescued. The instruments used were poles and rattans, and I was also threatened that if I ever went to the home when they got me back again they would kill me, but the place was altogether unbearable, and I preferred death to remaining and would take the chances, and so I was rescued.  
 Q. Did you ever know of any girls being killed by the highbinders?—A. Yes.  
 Q. Whereabouts?—A. Both in San Francisco and in Sacramento.  
 Q. Did you ever see with your own eyes a girl killed?—A. Yes.  
 Q. Where was it; here or in Sacramento?—A. I saw one with my own eyes in Sacramento killed by the highbinders, and I saw one with my own eyes killed in San Francisco.  
 Q. Will you please describe the killing of the one in San Francisco?—A. The one in San Francisco was shot to death; the one in Sacramento was killed by opium poisoning.  
 Q. Where in this city was it that the girl was shot?—A. It was in one of the lanes in Chinatown, and took place soon after I arrived here, so that I can not very well remember the English name, but it was in one of the lanes in which these houses are.  
 Q. Was it during the day or in the night?—A. At night.  
 Q. Was it in the lane or in the house that faces on the lane?—A. The girl was in the house at the time.  
 Q. Why was she killed, if you know?—A. I never could get at the bottom of the case, but it was generally believed that there was a little spite about it at the commencement, and then she was one of those who would not earn any money.  
 Q. How was she shot? Did anyone hold her and someone else shoot her? Describe it.—A. I can not describe how the murder took place.  
 Q. What was done with the murderer? Did the matter ever become known to the white authorities?—A. I never heard of the murderer being punished.  
 Q. When a girl grows old and is unable to earn much money, is it not rather customary to kill her?—A. I have heard of their being shot, but I have never seen any old ones.  
 Q. Do you think they are killed sometimes for the effect it will have on the others?—A. Yes.