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Gay Ft. Campbell GI goes on TV

Former soldier to be on '60 Minutes'

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FORT CAMPBELL — A former Army private discharged for being homosexual tells *60 Minutes* in a segment to air Sunday that his platoon sergeant at Fort Campbell led troops in an anti-gay drill song shortly after the slaying of a soldier rumored to be gay.

Javier Torres said that, although he was not the direct target of taunts or epithets while stationed at the post, he started to fear for his safety after witnessing numerous instances of anti-gay bias, including the song.

He started feeling so uncomfortable that he disclosed his sexual orientation to a superior officer and received an honorable discharge in mid-September, after spending about two years in the service, he told the CBS-TV newsmagazine.

Torres, 24, said infantrymen in his unit chanted, "Faggot, faggot, down the street, shoot him, shoot him, till he retreats," during a drill held just weeks after the slaying of Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, suspected by some soldiers of being gay.

Winchell, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was bludgeoned with a baseball bat as he slept on a cot in his barracks early

on July 5. He suffered massive wounds to his head and neck and died the next day at a hospital in Nashville.

A member of his unit, Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 18, of Sulphur, Okla., was charged with premeditated murder and convicted of the crime this week. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Winchell's roommate, Spc. Justin R. Fisher, 25, of Lincoln, Neb., is accused of encouraging the attack and lying to Army investigators.

He is scheduled to be court-martialed in January.

Prosecutors said Glover's hatred of gays motivated the killing.

Gay-rights activists have called the case a tragic failure of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which monitors how the policy is carried out, put *60 Minutes* in touch with Torres.

C. Dixon Osburn, co-executive director of the Washington-based group, said he could not comment on Torres' specific situation, owing to an agreement he made with the program's producers.

Torres, who now lives in Louisville,



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Javier Torres, 24, says he quit the service out of fear for his safety.

where he works at a bank, said he took part in the anti-gay drill song so others wouldn't suspect his homosexuality.

"I couldn't be the only one," he told *60 Minutes*.

Attempts to contact him were unsuccessful yesterday. There is no telephone listing for a Javier Torres in the Louisville area.

Elaine Kanellis, an Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon, declined to comment on what Torres told *60 Minutes*, citing Fisher's upcoming court-martial and the pending review of Glover's case.

A telephone message left at the Fort Campbell public affairs office was not returned.

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