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## Wilk ends testimony about why he killed Broward deputy

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South Florida Sun-Sentinel

May 18, 2007

For seven days, jurors in Kenneth Wilk's federal death penalty trial listened to his version of why he killed a Broward sheriff's deputy.

Wilk concluded his testimony Thursday with the defense showing jurors secretly videotaped statements he made to a detective hours after the Aug. 19, 2004, shooting.

On the tape, he repeatedly told the detective, who was sitting knee-to-knee with him in a small room, that he could not hear him. One of Wilk's defenses is that he shot at deputies in self-defense because he could not hear them shouting and thought they were intruders in his Fort Lauderdale home.

At times during his testimony, the 14 jurors -- 10 women and four men -- looked intrigued. At other times, they looked bored. They are expected to start deliberating early next week.

The former car salesman and would-be actor defied conventional legal strategy to testify in his defense. But on the hottest seat in the courtroom, Wilk kept his cool as prosecutors tried to pick away at his account.

He is charged with first-degree murder for killing Deputy Todd Fatta and attempted murder for wounding Lt. Angelo Cedeño. The officers were serving a child pornography search warrant.

Wilk portrayed himself as a Christian who stood by his boyfriend, Kelly Ray Jones, when Jones was accused of having child pornography and traveling to have sex with a 12-year-old boy.

Wilk said he became "irrationally consumed" with the state and federal task force, Law Enforcement Against Child Harm, which arrested his partner. He accused the task force, and one officer in particular, St. Lucie Sheriff's Detective Neil Spector, of homophobia and entrapping innocent men in undercover online stings.

Sobbing, Wilk told jurors last week that he did not know Fatta and Cedeño were law enforcement officers when they broke in his front door. An ear infection and eardrops, he testified, prevented him from hearing the deputies yelling they had a warrant.

His defense also includes temporary insanity caused by AIDS-related dementia.

Wilk tried to humanize himself by showing how much he cared about his dogs. He also told jurors

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how he came out as a gay man after a friend was beaten to death because of his sexual orientation.

But he may have undermined his dementia defense by repeatedly correcting prosecutors about dates and other information. He also gave several monologues about the Constitution and civil rights.

During days of cross-examination, prosecutor Neil Karadbil accused Wilk of a long-running feud against Spector and other officers. He read from letters, phone transcripts, online instant messages and chat room talks in which Wilk detailed his hatred of police officers.

In an instant message in September 2001, Wilk told an undercover officer he suspected was Spector: "I will hunt you down the rest of my life."

When Spector asked who he was, Wilk replied: "The last person you will see on earth."

Wilk said he thought the task force members were angered by his online efforts to disrupt their undercover work. And he suggested, "Maybe that's why they set up Todd Fatta."

When Karadbil reacted incredulously, Wilk said Fatta and Cedeño, who were not task force members, had nothing to do with his feud against Spector. "They were not a part of this," Wilk said.

Karadbil accused Wilk of lying and pandering to jurors about his Christian beliefs because juror questionnaires revealed some have strong religious beliefs. Wilk said he is sincere about his Catholic faith.

Fatta's parents, Joseph and Josephine, and his brother Joe Jr. would not comment on Wilk's testimony. In an earlier interview, they said they think he should get the death penalty. The family has filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the Broward Sheriff's Office in state civil court, seeking answers about how the agency handled the raid.

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