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## Wilk's testimony about killing of Broward deputy is a boon for defense

By Paula McMahon  
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Kenneth Wilk's capital murder trial is turning out to be a mixed bag for his defense -- and for the prosecution.

During his second day of testimony on Wednesday, he brought out new evidence that bolsters a key part of his defense: that he had hearing problems and did not hear deputies shouting they were serving a warrant at his Fort Lauderdale home on Aug. 19, 2004.

"I'm just really struggling to make out what people are telling me," Wilk told his jailed boyfriend in one of several phone calls that were recorded by law enforcement days before the shooting. Wilk had difficulty hearing in four calls played for jurors Wednesday and spoke about medical treatment he was receiving for the problem.

But Wilk's credibility with jurors may be hurt by his odd testimony about a wide range of subjects, and his conspiracy theory that police were unfairly targeting him and his longtime domestic partner, Kelly Ray Jones.

Wilk admits he fatally shot Broward Sheriff's Deputy Todd Fatta and seriously injured Lt. Angelo Cedeño. But he has pleaded not guilty and hopes to convince jurors he thought they were intruders.

Wilk is accused of premeditated murder, attempted murder, and charges related to obstruction of justice and possession of child pornography. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

In five hours of testimony Wednesday, Wilk professed disgust for child pornography. He said the first time he ever saw images of child pornography was in the federal courtroom during his trial. He expressed admiration for most police officers. He accused other officers of homophobia and making up evidence. And he spoke about what he said are his deeply held Catholic and Christian beliefs.

All of that was interspersed with derogatory comments about officers' physical appearances and an impromptu and unflattering critique of President Bush's performance in office.

Wilk said his life was spiraling downward into hopelessness and anger in the years, and particularly the weeks, before he shot Fatta.

"I was getting angrier and angrier and angrier," Wilk said.

Jones, who later pleaded guilty to child porn charges, was arrested several times between 2001



and 2004. The couple's finances suffered as they tried to defend him.

Wilk said he believed one man was responsible for all the couple's legal woes -- St. Lucie Sheriff's Detective Neil Spector, who led the investigations of the couple.

Spector works with LEACH, Law Enforcement Against Child Harm, South Florida's joint federal and state task force that conducts undercover online stings against people accused of exchanging child porn and attempting to have sex with children.

Wilk was accused of threatening Spector online after Wilk launched a crusade against undercover police officers trying to catch child predators and child porn aficionados online. Wilk's legal troubles, resolved with a no contest plea that left him with no criminal record, further depleted his finances. Both men have advanced AIDS and were struggling at the time with serious health problems.

Wilk became particularly obsessed with Spector, who he accused of entrapping people and making up some of the damning evidence against Wilk. Spector testified earlier in the trial that Wilk's online profile included the words: "a good cop is a dead one." Wilk insisted Wednesday that Spector fabricated the entire profile after Fatta was murdered.

Prosecutors are expected to cross-examine Wilk today or Friday.

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