

# UNSAFE

## With U.S. Security Associates

What you need to know about safety at America's fourth-largest security firm.

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## Welcome

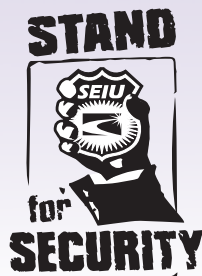
to the fourth issue of *Unsafe with U.S. Security Associates*. Published by the Service Employees International Union, this newsletter will inform security directors, property managers, office building tenants and others about the business practices of U.S. Security Associates.

Upcoming issues will explore:

- More on USSA's alleged problems with sexual harassment.

## Look for us at IFMA.

The International Facility Management Association's (IFMA) World Workplace 2011 conference will be held Oct. 26–28 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Arizona. *Stand for Security* will be there, ready to inform all facilities management professionals about the track record of U.S. Security Associates.



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## U.S. Security Associates' Second "Perfect Storm" of Sexual Harassment: Lisa Garner's Story (Part II)

(On Oct. 26, 2010, an Alabama judge rendered a final verdict against U.S. Security Associates in a case the judge described as, "the perfect storm for the most egregious case of sexual harassment, retaliation and tortious conduct that has been tried in this court." In our last issue, we focused in on another USSA "perfect storm," the case of alleged sexual harassment of Philadelphia Nursing Home security officer Lisa Garner. Her story continues here.)

The background of Todd Messer, the alleged harasser, is questionable, especially for a security officer. In 2004, *The Indianapolis Star* reported that at Messer's house, police found a loaded 9mm handgun on a desk—where a child could have reached it. The small children living in the house were placed in the custody of Child Protection Services. According to Marion County court documents, Messer—having knowingly or intentionally placed "a child in a situation that endangered his life or health"—was charged with felony neglect of a dependent. He plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge and was given 331 days probation. Lisa's complaints about Messer went unaddressed. Instead, USSA removed Lisa from her post. Her last day on the job was May 26, 2011. The company never gave a reason for its decision.

In late July Lisa filed a complaint of sexual harassment and retaliation against USSA with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Her life has not gotten any easier. "I'm looking for work," she says. "In this economy, it's not going so well."

Lisa has not been able to pay her rent since USSA got rid of her. Her landlord has been understanding and has not yet evicted her and her children. In early September, she was forced to apply for welfare.

The stress is overwhelming. "I can't sleep," she says. "I'm up all night. I'm just a mess."

Lisa believes that sexual harassment is still occurring at U.S. Security Associates and will continue to speak out. "It's too much," she says. "It needs to stop. Here I am about to lose everything and the man who did this to me is still collecting a paycheck. It's not right."



Headquarters of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in Washington, D.C. The EEOC is investigating Lisa's complaint, filed in late July.

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