

ERIK MENENDEZ'S

Inmate paints sick picture of rape threats and violent beatings

ERIK MENENDEZ is a marked man in prison — the notorious parent-killer is being attacked by inmates so relentlessly that he's tried to convince officials he's crazy so they'll remove him to a hospital. Erik — who with his brother Lyle shot and killed his parents to death in their Beverly Hills home in 1989 — is currently serving two consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole.

And a fellow inmate says Erik is afraid he'll be killed as violently as his parents were. In prison, murdering your mother is considered as bad as being a child killer," the inmate told *The ENQUIRER*.

The other inmates are ruthless with him. They start fistfights with him, wrestle him to the floor, kick him, knife him and threaten to rape him.

He has no support group here in prison. Most of the inmates get up with old friends or make new ones, but Erik has no allies here. There's no one to protect him, and he doesn't know how to get back."

On a hot August night in 1989, then 18-year-old Erik and 21-year-old Lyle opened fire on their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, as they were eating dessert.

Prosecutors were able to prove that the



LIFE, NO LIFE: Erik is serving life in California State Prison. Left, his parents' final resting place.

brothers murdered their mother and father out of greed, eager to get hold of their parents' millions.

Lyle, now 35, was sent to the California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi, and Erik, 32, to the California State Prison in Sacramento.

"Life in state prisons is brutal — and some

of the deadliest, most violent inmates are in this particular jail," said the inmate.

"There is so much hate and racial tension — there's a kill-or-be-killed mentality.

"And with Erik not being a street criminal-type or gang member, life is especially grim.

"Erik's just not like the other prisoners. And no matter what he does, or how many fist or knife fights he gets in, he's never going to get accepted. That's why he'll always be picked on by all the violent inmates."

At first, prison officials kept Erik in a single-man cell, until his name and court case faded from peoples' memories. But after a year, they moved him to a general population cellblock.

"Word got out who Erik was, and immediately the gangs were checking him out," the inmate told *The ENQUIRER*.

"His biggest problem was the men who would rape him just because he was young and good-looking.

"Then there are also all the guys who love their mothers and want to punish Erik for having killed his mom.

"He really gets pounded on. Erik's not a fighter, so he'll curl up in a ball and everyone will kick him.

"Erik told me he just wants to be left alone to do his time and die naturally, but his biggest fear is that he'll die a brutal death.

"So he's constantly looking for different ways of escaping the daily violence. One day he got in a knife fight and was sliced across his arm and his stomach. So he asked to go to the psych ward.

"He told me he tried to convince the doctors that he's going crazy and needs to be in a hospital. He told them his mother's photo