

THE MOVEMENT

Issue #40

Human Rights Coalition
Dedicated to Protecting the

The Official News Magazine of the
Human Rights Coalition for the union of Prisoners'
Families

SCI-Phoenix Mann-Up!
See page 24

Mann-Up! Mann-Up!



Mann-Up! Mann-Up!

See Abolishing Prisons
by Sergio Hyland, page 35

We at HRC and CADBI care and thought this might be a good time to remind you to; dream like Martin, lead like Harriet, fight like Malcolm, think like Garvey, write like Maya, build like Madam C J, speck like Frederick, educate like W.E.B. , believe like Thurgood, challenge like Rosa be strong like the following:



From:
Ms. Yvonne Newkirk
P.O. Box 591
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April

- Tequilla Fields 4-1 (Muncy)
- Jamal Ball 4-1 (Forest)
- Randall Chumley 4-10 (Huntingdon)
- Enrifue, Sanabria 4-23 (Huntingdon)
- Clarence Sutton 4-26 (Huntingdon)

May

- Gary Bates 5/17 (Phoenix)
- Sid Berger 5/23 (Cambridge Springs)

June

- Frank Metzger 6-12 (Phoenix)
- Kevin Suffrout 6-29 (Huntingdon)

Belated,

- Germaine Jones 11-22 (Chester)

Front Cover: Mann-Up! Members

L-R Top: Qawi, Karim Diggs, Tracy Fisher, Sahih, Tyree, Phila. Chief Inspector Dr. Jacquely Bailey Davis, Benny Doo, Honorable Judge Stefany Sawyer, Big Hick.

L-R Bottom: Adolf, Unique, Shamsideen.

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From the Desk of the Editor



Bro. Shakaboona, Co-Editor

Greetings Everyone

Welcome to The Movement!

As the new year begun, the United States has been hit with a tsunami-like Coronavirus pandemic. Pres. Trump played down the coronavirus pandemic as a hoax, a conspiracy, and even spewing blatant racism by calling it "The Wuhan Virus". This hamstrung the entire U.S. health system from taking precautionary health and safety measures to provide protection for 350 million people in America. Now this country's citizenry is paying the consequence for its foolish President's decisions.

In the PA Department of Corruptions (PADOC), Secretary Wetzel, much like Pres. Trump, similarly is making foolish decisions in response to the coronavirus pandemic. What disturbs me most is Sec. Wetzel's attempts at misleading the public with the PLACEBO-type of actions he has taken in response to the coronavirus, such as providing a useless one-day disposable tissue mask and ignorantly requiring that incarcerated persons not to be in groups of more than 10 & remain 6 feet apart. Well Genius secretary, this is prison! And prisons are densely populated, close spaced, micro-cities by design. It is impossible to not be in groups or remain 6 feet apart from others.

From the onset, when there were no reports of the coronavirus being in the prisons, Sec. Wetzel could have taken some REAL and effective precautionary safety measures for the PADOC system, like immediately halting all new receptions and transfers within the PADOC, providing the required N-95 masks, providing coronavirus testing for all prison employees entering a prison, providing testing to all prisoners that show symptoms of coronavirus infection and quarantine them, when the coronavirus enters a prison then quarantine that prison, and providing a GTL Phone Service app on prisoners' GTL Tablets that they and their Loved Ones can have full access of communication during the coronavirus pandemic without prisoners exposing themselves to coronavirus infection by sharing phones.

It's not to late to get it. Right?

Now, on a good note, I am extremely pleased to announce that after over 40 years of cruel imprisonment, the political prisoners of the MOVE-9 family members have all been parole released from the bowels of this hellish PADOC prison system and are now home enjoying freedom, life, and their families once more. Congratulations to the MOVE family!

In my travels to and from federal court recently, I was held over at SCI-Phoenix as a court transfer and got a chance to chill with friends I haven't seen in decades like my elder Charlie Block from South Philly, Benny Doo, and my young'ns Big Hick & Adolf (who are young no more, Haha!). I also was able to parley with MANN-UP movement membership and wanted to present them to you in the pages of THE MOVEMENT, that you may see some of the wonderful work that incarcerated people do during their confinement to uplift the fallen humanity of people inside & outside of prisons. The righteous actions of prison groups are largely unknown or seldomly recognized in society. Please check them out.

Big respects and shout outs to Sadiq, BC, Amenu, Atheem, Hebrew T (from Pittsburgh), & Benny Doo at SCI-Phoenix that made sure your Big Brother Shakaboona was well taken care of with food & hygiene items when I was there. Thanks a million fellas. May peace and blessings follow you.

To everyone, take care of yourselves. Be safe. And remember to live the golden rules of life, to Love your Brother as you would love yourself and to treat People they way you would want to be treated. Ona Move!

By Bro. Shakaboona, Co-Editor

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THE MOVEMENT

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(ISSUE # 40)

China took at least 12 strict measures to control the corona-

VIRUS. They could work for the US, but would likely be impossible to implement.

Hilary Brueck, Anna Medaris Miller and Shira Feder

Mar 24, 2020, 8:51 AM

Volunteers wearing face masks stand next to vegetables to be delivered to residents of a residential area in Wuhan. Reuters

The novel coronavirus is slowing down across China, just as the pandemic accelerates rapidly elsewhere around the world.

A recent multilateral mission to China by health authorities from around the globe has revealed the rest of the world "is simply not ready" to tackle the coronavirus with the speed and seriousness that China has, as the World Health Organization's Dr. Bruce Aylward, who led the international team of 25 health experts, told reporters upon his return.

"Hundreds of thousands of people in China did not get COVID-19 because of this aggressive response," Aylward said, adding that the techniques were old-fashioned public-health tools but applied "with a rigor and innovation of approach on a scale that we've never seen in history."

But this rigor comes at a cost, as professors, journalists and doctors in China have reported being silenced after sharing vital information about the coronavirus outbreak without the consent of the Chinese government.

"These draconian measures seem to have worked to bring down the cases in a very short period of time in China," Yanzhong Huang, senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told Business Insider. "Although there is a cost to the economy, to society, not to mention also the second-order problems, like access to health care for people without the coronavirus. The question is whether the United States is willing to pay such a high price."

Here are 12 of the dramatic disease-fighting tools that China has used to end the spread of the new coronavirus.

Huang says he cannot imagine an America where many of these measures are implemented.

1. Coronavirus testing was easily accessible and free.

In China, patients who were confirmed to have the coronavirus were either sent to an isolation center or hospital, Aylward told the Times. "In Wuhan, in the beginning, it was 15 days from getting sick to hospitalization," he said. "They got it down to two days from symptoms to isolation."

The government also made clear that testing for the new virus was free, and COVID-19-related charges that weren't covered by a person's insurance would be paid for by the government.

In the US, there has been a push to make COVID-19 testing free. Tests given by the CDC or a state laboratory are free for patients, but private labs aren't, and given that state-owned laboratories are overwhelmed, many people are turning to private labs for tests. While Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance will cover the cost of tests, many people who are underinsured or lacking insurance will likely hesitate before heading to the doctor.

But Americans may still be on the hook for coronavirus treatment. One woman was charged over \$34,000 for coronavirus testing and treatment.

And while the test is in some cases free, it is still far from available. COVID-19 testing capacity still lags far behind many other countries. Though drive-through testing sites are opening up in certain spots, public health laboratories are still far behind other countries. In South Korea, a country with a population that is one-sixth the size of the US's, more than 300,000 people have been tested for the novel coronavirus so far, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"South Korea and China got through this in two to four weeks," Dr. Rishi Desai, a former epidemic intelligence service officer in the CDC Division of Viral Diseases

told Business Insider. "The dangerous thing is that our healthcare system stands to get overrun."

2. China built new hospitals in a rush, with workers toiling night and day to get them done.

China built two new 1,000-1,300-bed hospitals to fight the coronavirus, one created in six days, and the second in 15 days, using prefabricated modules.

This isn't the first time China has quickly manufactured hospitals dedicated to handling outbreaks. During the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, Beijing built a hospital in seven days with 7,000 people working day and night.

Other buildings got repurposed to support more coronavirus patients, too. "They would convert a training center or a stadium in between 24 and 72 hours," Aylward said. "That was the time frame they took in Wuhan to increase by a thousand their capacity."

The ramp-up of bed space has not been perfect, though. At least one makeshift quarantine spot set up in a hotel in Quanzhou collapsed, killing 10 people.

In America, makeshift arrangements are also being put together to help American's overwhelmed healthcare system handle the expected surge in cases. Four sites in New York will now function as temporary hospitals; the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, and locations at SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Old Westbury and the Westchester Convention Center.

The US Navy is planning to deploy two of its hospital ships into action, to be used for COVID-19 patients, and triage tents are being put up outside existing hospitals.

The Army Corps has also begun the process of converting empty hotels and college dormitories into makeshift hospitals, first in New York, but experts say the process is likely to extend to California and other states.

3. The country postponed non-urgent medical care, and moved many doctor's visits online. Not all patients were given

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the critical care they needed during the outbreak, though.

In China, elective surgeries and other non-critical doctors visits were delayed, and many medical services were moved online. "Someone in one place said 50% of their consultations are now done online; they just moved a whole bunch of what was normally done physically online to be able to keep the regular health services going," Aylward said.

But the move hasn't been without negative consequences. One man with kidney disease in China jumped to his death, Human Rights Watch reported. He couldn't get dialysis during the outbreak. Another boy with cerebral palsy died after being left alone for six days while his father was quarantined in China. One patient died by suicide in China, and people living with HIV in China struggled to obtain their medicine.

In America, many hospitals cancelled elective surgeries like breast augmentations and hernia repairs, although some hospitals continued their work. "I'll be clear: There is no reason to cancel elective procedures at this time," UC Davis Chief Medical Officer Dr. J. Douglas Kirk wrote in an email to employees.

Telemedicine experienced a boom in America, as many doctor's appointments went digital. Telemedicine company Teladoc Health told the Wall Street Journal it had provided about 100,000 virtual medical visits to patients in one week.

The US's roughly 95,000 intensive care unit beds could get filled as the coronavirus outbreak worsens, and equipment like ventilators, space to treat patients, and staff to care for them may all face shortages, Business Insider previously reported.

In Italy, those fears are already a reality, with medical supplies and hospital bed shortages reportedly forcing doctors to choose which coronavirus patients to save first.

4. During the height of the outbreak, trains didn't stop at the disease's epicenter, Wuhan.

When Aylward's team disembarked their train in Wuhan, most of the other trains kept moving. "Trains whirr right through the station. I mean continually now for a month," Aylward told reporters after his trip. "The big inner city trains, they roll right through, with the blinds down."

Trains, as well as other tightly-packed forms of transportation, can serve as vectors of illness, Dr. Darria Long Gillespie, clinical assistant professor at University of Tennessee Erlanger and national spokesperson for the American College of Emergency Physicians, previously told Insider.

"The more people, the more closely packed, and the more poorly ventilated the space, you can imagine that's a bad situation — it's why the CDC is now discouraging people from going on cruise ships — because there are a ton of people, they're in very close quarters, and they're a totally captive audience," she said, adding that a packed concert or a conference would also fall into those avoid-at-all-costs categories.

"Cutting off transportation was considered on the top three measures to contain the spread of the virus," Huang told Business Insider. "But it would hard to imagine the complete shutdown of an American city due to government order."

5. People who thought they might have the coronavirus could go to one of the nation's many fever clinics.

People who thought they had the novel coronavirus in China would often be sent to a special fever clinic, which have been widespread since the country dealt with an aggressive SARS outbreak in 2002. Their temperature would be taken, and they'd discuss their symptoms, medical history, travel history, and any prior contact with anyone infected with a doctor.

If necessary, patients might receive a CT scan, which is one way to do an initial screening for COVID-19.

"Each machine did maybe 200 a day. Five, 10 minutes a scan," Aylward told the New York Times. "A typical hospital in the West does one or two an hour."

After all that, if you were still a suspect case, you'd get swabbed and a coronavirus PCR test would be run through a machine. Even during the peak of the outbreak, a lot of people came in to the fever clinics with

colds, flus, and runny noses, looking for reassurance they didn't have the novel coronavirus.

In the Chinese province of Guangdong, for example, which is a more than 10-hour drive away from Wuhan, there were 320,000 COVID-19 tests done in the clinics. At the peak of the outbreak, only 0.47% of those tests were positive for the coronavirus.

6. China walled off entire hospital wards to contain the virus.

In addition to China's quickly-created hospitals, China also took pre-existing hospitals and repurposed them to solely handle patients with the novel coronavirus, sealing them off from others.

"You had to take whole hospitals and take them out of general service and make them basically response hospitals for COVID 19 cases," Aylward said. "What China's done, rather than have some beds that are isolation beds, is at the start of that ward, they built a wall with a window on it. They seal the whole thing and said a full ward, that whole 40 beds to 100 beds, is now an isolation unit."

Speed was also key to containing the crisis, he said.

"I think the key learning from China is speed — it's all about the speed," Aylward told Vox in a later interview. "The faster you can find the cases, isolate the cases, and track their close contacts, the more successful you're going to be."

7. China used technology that aims to trace every single COVID-19 case.

Chinese public health officials have attempted to trace near every single one of the 80,000-plus cases in that country.

Emergency centers tracking the virus across the country use huge screens that show every disease cluster. Officials militantly track where cases are spreading, with governors not hesitating to call local field teams when they have questions, as Aylward witnessed on his trip.

"They pulled up another screen, and there was the team that was out in the field actually trying to do this," he said. "The whole thing is linked up, and they're in constant contact trying to make sure that

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together they solve the problems of trying to sort out the transmission ... they have changed the course of this outbreak."

Chinese social media including Weibo, Tencent, and WeChat also shared out accurate, up to date information on the virus, providing a counter to fake coronavirus garlic cures and other disease misinformation on the internet.

"You could have Facebook and Twitter and Instagram do that," Aylward said.

But communicating the urgency of the virus, and pushing citizens to follow stringent health restrictions, isn't as simple as it is in China. "It is not easy in a liberal democracy," Walter Ricciardi, a World Health Organization board member and a top adviser to the health ministry, told the New York Times.

"It would be a big change right for the US people to get accustomed to," said Huang, "if the government wants to use this high tech means, like using the cell phones to monitor the movement of the people."

Huang added that even though there is little technological barrier to doing this, this kind of behavior is considered a form of digital authoritarianism, that involves uses privacy issues. Huang would be hard-pressed to imagine the US government using this approach to containing the spread of the coronavirus.

8. The country implemented large-scale contact tracing in the early 2000s.

During the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003, China set up large-scale surveillance systems that included contact tracing, a front-line public-health strategy that involves identifying and following up with people who may have come into contact with an infected person.

The contact tracing technology Chinese public health officials used was "idiot-proof," according to Aylward. If a tracer made a mistake on their forms, their screen flashed a yellow alert.

During a World Health Organization press conference last Wednesday categorizing the novel coronavirus as a pandemic, WHO's executive director, Dr. Michael Ryan, said some countries "have been too

willing to give up on contact tracing at a very early stage of the fight against the epidemic."

He emphasized that the strategy is an effective, inexpensive, and "very basic public health intervention" compared to broad measures like social distancing, which is more burdensome and doesn't work if there's no cultural buy-in.

"When people move towards broader-based social distancing measures," he said, "it effectively accepts that the chains of transmission are no longer visible."

9. While staying home, it's been relatively easy for Chinese people to get extra food and supplies.

China essentially mandated a country-wide shutdown, demanding that every Chinese resident stay home until the curve was flattened. But in America, unlike China, a country-wide shutdown would be difficult to enforce.

"In America, you have to stay at home, but there's no police," said Huang.

"There's no one actively enforcing that rule, but in China, you have what are basically security guards on patrol of every residence to make sure they don't violate the government containment measures. That's a kind of approach I think can't be copied here in the United States."

"Fifteen million people had to order food online. It was delivered," Aylward said.

"Yes, there were some screw-ups. But one woman said to me 'every now and again there's something missing from a package, but I haven't lost any weight.'"

In America, in contrast, fears about quarantining have led to panic-buying supplies, and shortages of toilet paper. Huang says this wouldn't be possible in China, since people wouldn't be able to leave their homes to purchase supplies.

10. People quickly shifted jobs in order to assist during the outbreak.

When it came to the non-medical response, Aylward said there was a nationwide sense of solidarity with Hubei. Other provinces sent 40,000 medical workers to the center of the outbreak, many of whom were volunteers.

Workers in transportation, agriculture, and clerical positions were reassigned to new positions, too.

"A highway worker might take temperatures, deliver food, or become a contact tracer," Aylward told the New York Times. "In one hospital, I met the woman teaching people how to gown up. I asked, 'You're the infection control expert?' No, she was a receptionist. She'd learned."

11. Chinese citizens did their part to curb the disease's trajectory on an individual level, too, though we may never know the true scale of their complaints or sacrifices in this outbreak.

In contrast to reports in the US of people clamoring over the last hand-sanitizer, Aylward said he was struck by the attitude of people in China that they were all in this together.

"This is not a village," he said of Wuhan, which is bigger than New York City. "As you drive into this city, in the dead of night, the lights on, it's a ghost town. But behind every window and every skyscraper there are people cooperating with this response."

Still, the human cost of this widespread compliance with China's strict disease-fighting measures may never truly be known.

"Most Chinese people can't get on Twitter or Facebook to tell their COVID-19 stories, as these and many other global platforms are blocked in China, and government censors speedily scrub away posts describing virus-related events on Chinese social media platforms," Human Rights Watch China Researcher Yaqiu Wang wrote recently online. "Because it's well-known in China that expressing criticism toward the government can bring you trouble, even long prison time."

12. The country may punish people who don't disclose that they've been to coronavirus hotspots around the world, with a social credit score downgrade.

A local medical worker bids farewell to a medical worker from Jiangsu at the Wuhan Railway Station as the medical team from Jiangsu leaves Wuhan, the epicenter

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Women’s Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2019

By Aleks Kajstura
Prison Policy Initiative
October 29, 2019

jails, more incarcerated women are held in jails than in state prisons. As we will explain, the outsized role of jails has serious consequences for incarcerated women and their families.

Women’s incarceration has grown at twice the pace of men’s incarceration in recent decades, and has disproportionately been located in local jails. The data needed to explain exactly what happened, when, and why does not yet exist, not least because

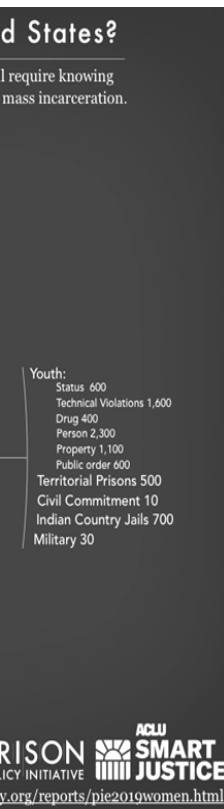
the data on women has long been obscured by the larger scale of men’s incarceration. Frustratingly, even as this report is updated every year, it is not a direct tool for tracking changes in women’s incarceration over time because we are forced to rely on the limited sources available, which are neither updated regularly nor always compatible across years.

Particularly in light of the scarcity of gender-specific data, the disaggregated numbers presented here are an important step to ensuring that women are not left behind in the effort to end mass incarceration.

Jails loom large in women’s incarceration

A staggering number of women who are incarcerated are not even convicted: a quarter of women who are behind bars have not yet had a trial. Moreover, 60% of women in jails under local control have not been convicted of a crime and are awaiting trial.

Aside from women under local authority (or jurisdiction), state and federal agencies also pay local jails to house an additional 12,500 women. For example, ICE and the U.S. Marshals, which have fewer dedicated facilities for their detainees, contract with local jails to hold roughly 5,600 women. So, the number of women physically held in jails is even higher:



With growing public attention to the problem of mass incarceration, people want to know about women’s experience with incarceration. How many women are held in prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities in the United States? And why are they there? How is their experience different from men’s? While these are important questions, finding those answers requires not only disentangling the country’s decentralized and overlapping criminal justice systems,

but also unearthing the frustratingly hard to find and often altogether missing data on gender.

This report provides a detailed view of the 231,000 women and girls incarcerated in the United States, and how they fit into the even broader picture of correctional control. We pull together data from a number of government agencies and calculates the breakdown of women held by each correctional system by specific offense. The report, produced in collaboration with the ACLU’s Campaign for Smart Justice, answers the questions of why and where women are locked up:

In stark contrast to the total incarcerated population, where the state prison systems hold twice as many people as are held in

PHOTO 2

Troublingly, the newest data available show that from 2016 to 2017, the number of women in jail on a given day grew by more than 5%, even as the rest of the jail population declined.

Again, the shortage of timely, gender-specific data makes it impossible to explain this increase. It could be due to increases among women in arrests, pretrial detention, case processing times, punishment for probation or parole violations, or jail sentence lengths - or any combination of these factors. Of all these possible explanations, only arrest data are reported annually and by sex. And from 2016-2017, women’s arrests actually declined by 0.7%, so changes in arrests can’t explain all of the increase in the number of women in jail that year.

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Ultimately, we need more data to fully explain what’s behind the recent growth in women’s jail populations.

Women are disproportionately stuck in jails

Avoiding pre-trial incarceration is uniquely challenging for women. The number of unconvicted women stuck in jail is surely not because courts are considering women to be a flight risk, particularly when they are generally the primary caregivers of children. The far more likely answer is that incarcerated women, who have lower incomes than incarcerated men, have an even harder time affording money bail. When the typical bail amounts to a full year’s income for women,

it’s no wonder that women are stuck in jail awaiting trial.

Even once convicted, the system funnels women into jails: About a quarter of convicted incarcerated women are held in jails, compared to about 10% of all people incarcerated with a conviction.

So, what does it mean that large numbers of women are held in jail — for them, and for their families? While stays in jail are generally shorter than in stays in prison, jails make it harder to stay in touch with family than prisons do. Jail phone calls are three times as expensive as calls from prison, and other forms of communication are more restricted — some jails don’t even allow real letters, limiting mail to postcards. This is especially troubling given that 80% of women in jails are mothers, and most of them are primary caretakers of their children. Thus children are particularly susceptible to the domino effect of burdens placed on incarcerated women.

Women in jails are also more likely to suffer from mental health problems and experience serious psychological distress than either women in prisons or men in either correctional setting.

Compounding the problem, jails are particularly poorly positioned to provide proper mental health care. (Though that is certainly not to say that prisons are always better at meeting women’s needs.)

Ending mass incarceration requires looking at all offenses — and all women

The numbers revealed by this report enable a national conversation about policies that impact women incarcerated by different government agencies and in different types of facilities. These figures also serve as the foundation for reforming the policies that lead to incarcerating women in the first place.

Too often, the conversation about criminal justice reform starts and stops with the question of non-violent drug and property offenses. While drug and property offenses make up more than half of the offenses for which women are incarcerated, the chart reveals that all offenses — including the violent offenses that account for roughly a quarter of all incarcerated women — must be considered in the effort to reduce the number of incarcerated women in this country. This new data on women underlines the

need for reform discussions to focus not just on the easier choices but on the policy changes that will have the most impact.

Furthermore, even among women, incarceration is not indiscriminate and reforms should address the disparities related to LBTQ status and race as well. A recent study revealed that a third of incarcerated women identify as lesbian or bisexual, compared to less than 10% of men. The same study found that lesbian and bisexual women are likely to receive longer sentences than their heterosexual peers.

And although the data do not exist to break down the “whole pie” by race or ethnicity, overall Black and American Indian women are markedly overrepresented in prisons and jails: Incarcerated women are 53% White, 29% Black, 14% Hispanic, 2.5% American Indian and Alaskan Native, 0.9% Asian, and 0.4% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander.

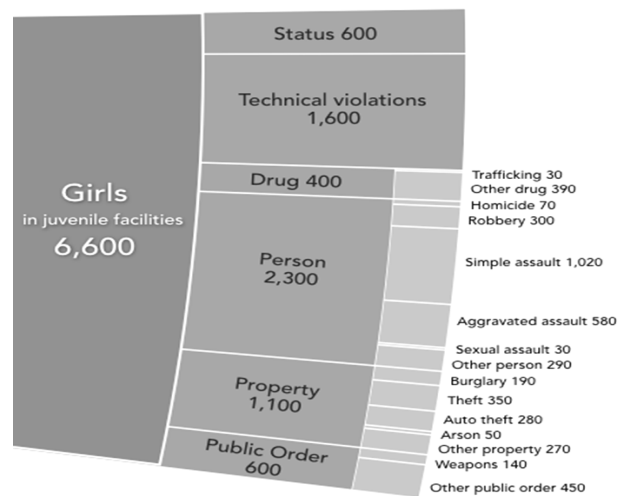
While we are a long way away from having data on intersectional impacts of sexuality and race or ethnicity on women’s likelihood of incarceration, it is clear that Black and lesbian or bisexual women are disproportionately subject to incarceration.

Additionally, a recent Prison Policy Initiative analysis found significant racial disparities in arrest rates for women (but not men) in police-initiated traffic and street stops. Women have not benefited equally from police reforms — since 1980, men’s arrest rates have fallen by 30%, but women’s arrest rates have barely budged. The upward trajectory of women’s incarceration is undoubtedly reinforced by policing practices.

Mass incarceration targets girls

Of the girls confined in youth facilities, nearly 10% are held for status offenses, such as “running away, truancy, and incorrigibility”. Among boys, such offenses account for less than 3% of their confined population. These statistics are particularly troubling because status offenses tend to be simply responses to abuse.

Nearly 10% of confined girls are held for status offenses such as “running away, truancy, and incorrigibility”



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As is the case with women, girls of color and those who identify as LGBTQ are disproportionately confined in juvenile facilities. Black girls account for 35% of the confined girls population, and Latina girls account for another 19%, while white girls are only 38% of those locked up. And while LGBTQ women are also disproportionately represented in the adult correctional systems, a staggering 40% of girls in the juvenile justice system are lesbian, bisexual, or questioning and gender non-conforming. (The comparable statistic for boys is just under 14%.)

While society and the justice systems subject all girls to stricter codes of conduct than is expected of their male peers, Black girls in particular shoulder an added burden of adultification — being perceived as older, more culpable, and more responsible than their peers — which leads to greater contact with and harsher consequences within the juvenile justice system.

The tentacles of mass incarceration have a long reach

Even the “Whole Pie” of incarceration above represents just one small portion (19%) of the women under correctional supervision, which includes *over a million women on probation and parole*. Again, this is in stark contrast to the total correctional population (mostly men), where a third of all people under correctional control are in prisons and jails.

Three out of four women under control of any U.S. correctional system are on probation. Probation is often billed as an alterna-

tive to incarceration, but instead it is frequently set with unrealistic conditions that undermine its goal of keeping people from being locked up.

For example, probation often comes with steep fees, which, like bail, women are in the worst position to afford.

Failing to pay these probation fees is often a violation of probation. Childcare duties further complicate probation requirements that often include meetings with probation officers, especially for women with no extra money to spend on babysitters or reliable transportation across town.

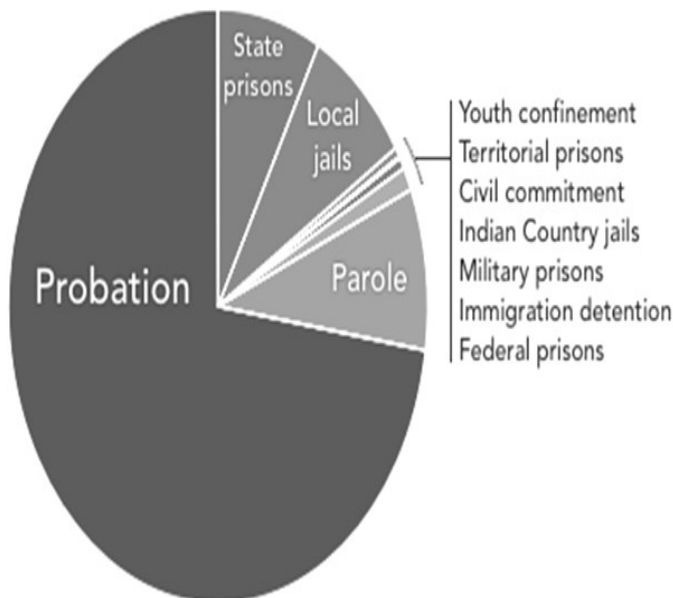
Almost 2 million women and girls are released from prisons and jails every year, but few post-release programs are available to them — partly because so many women are confined to jails, which are not meant to be used for long-term incarceration. It is perhaps then no surprise that formerly incarcerated women are also more likely to be homeless than formerly incarcerated men, making reentry and compliance with probation or parole even more difficult. All of these issues make women particularly vulnerable to being incarcerated not because they commit crimes, but because they run afoul of one of the burdensome obligations of their probation or parole supervision.

The picture of women’s incarceration is far from complete, and many questions remain about mass incarceration’s unique impact on women. This report offers the critical estimate that a quarter of all incarcerated women are unconvicted. But — since the federal government hasn’t collected the key underlying data in a decade — is that number growing? And how do the harms of that unnecessary incarceration intersect with women’s disproportionate caregiving to impact families? Beyond these big picture questions, there are a plethora of detailed data points that are not reported for women by any government agencies, such as the simple number of women incarcerated in U.S. Territories or involuntarily committed to state psychiatric hospitals because of justice system involvement.

While more data is needed, the data in this report lends focus and perspective to the policy reforms needed to end mass incarceration without leaving women behind.

For entire report go to: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2019women.html>

Correctional control of women extends far beyond prisons and jails



Fast-Tracking Second Chance: Increasing Odds for Parole on Life Sentences

Jacqueline Lantsman
January 2020

To close out 2019 the Justice Roundtable Assembly gathered a coalition of more than 100 organizations for a quarterly discussion on federal criminal justice policy. Gathered at the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, D.C., advocates, legal scholars, and stakeholders filled a large conference room to start the assembly. The meeting was scheduled roughly a year after the passage of the FIRST STEP Act, a bipartisan initiative that led to sentence reductions and the release of approximately 3,000 people from federal prisons. Among the released population were 342 individuals approved for the elderly home confinement pilot program, the demographic discussed during the roundtable.

Among the featured guests of the roundtable were:

- ◆ Jackie Craig-Bey, case manager for the Freddi House domestic violence shelter, released from prison after serving 15 years
- ◆ Marc Mauer, Executive Director of the Sentencing Project
- ◆ Stanley Mitchell, released from prison after serving 38 years under the Maryland [Unger decision](#)
- ◆ Jose Saldana, Director of RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison), released from prison after serving 38 years and four Parole Board denials
- ◆ Charlie Sullivan, Executive Director of CURE National (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants)

Within the dialogue, formerly incarcerated people relayed their experiences and voiced their outrage about the parole process in the United States.

Aging in Prison

A great debate has surrounded access to healthcare and the diminishing quality of life for Americans. Life expectancy is continuing to decline in the U.S. Even more dire, people living in confinement, with limited resources, unpredictable medical treatment, and perpetual stress, are expected to **lose two years** from their life expectancy with every **one additional year lived behind bars**. Quality of life in prisons depreciates so rapidly that in 15 states “elderly” is defined as 50 years of age, while the National Commission on Correctional Health Care uses 55 years as its threshold. The Urban Institute found that there was a **330% increase** of prisoners age 50 or older between 1994 and 2011, making this the fastest-growing age group in the federal prison population.

Early death is so common that Jose Saldana recalled losing multiple friends who were serving life sentences with non-parole periods of up to 15 and 20 years. He described the lives lost, among them individuals who mentored, supported, and helped a younger generation transform their lives. Jose begs the question, “Why would you keep someone like this in prison?”

Mechanics and Limitations of Parole

To answer Jose’s question, we need to step back and consider the history of parole, the intended purpose of parole, and the actual operation of parole in the United States correctional system.

Historically the intent of granting parole was to allow an individual who has been reformed the opportunity to be released from confinement and into community supervision. In deciding whether someone has been reformed, parole boards have a lot of discretion, particularly for those with violent convictions. In many states, parole boards have the authority to reevaluate the original sentence, even after the individual has served the required sentence. Furthermore, in the decision-making process, the board places **emphasis on unchangeable characteristics** of parole applicants, like the nature of the offense, instead of dynamic factors that reflect transformation while confined. [See Figure 14 graph.]

Thus, many individuals who have made progress during their confinement are denied parole multiple times, as in the cases of Keith Drone, Roosevelt Price, and Jose Saldana.

Why is the nature of the offense given so much weight?

The composition of parole boards and the appointment of board members are integral to answering this question. Typically, a state’s governor is responsible for selecting and influencing the designation of parole board members. This means that if a parole board’s decision were to receive bad press, it might compromise the governor’s re-election, which subsequently could cost a board member a job. The consequence: while many individuals are eligible for parole, if their records include violent crime they are unlikely to receive a parole hearing. Robert Denison, a former parole board chairman, explains that given the political risk there is a perverse incentive not to hear cases of violent offenders.

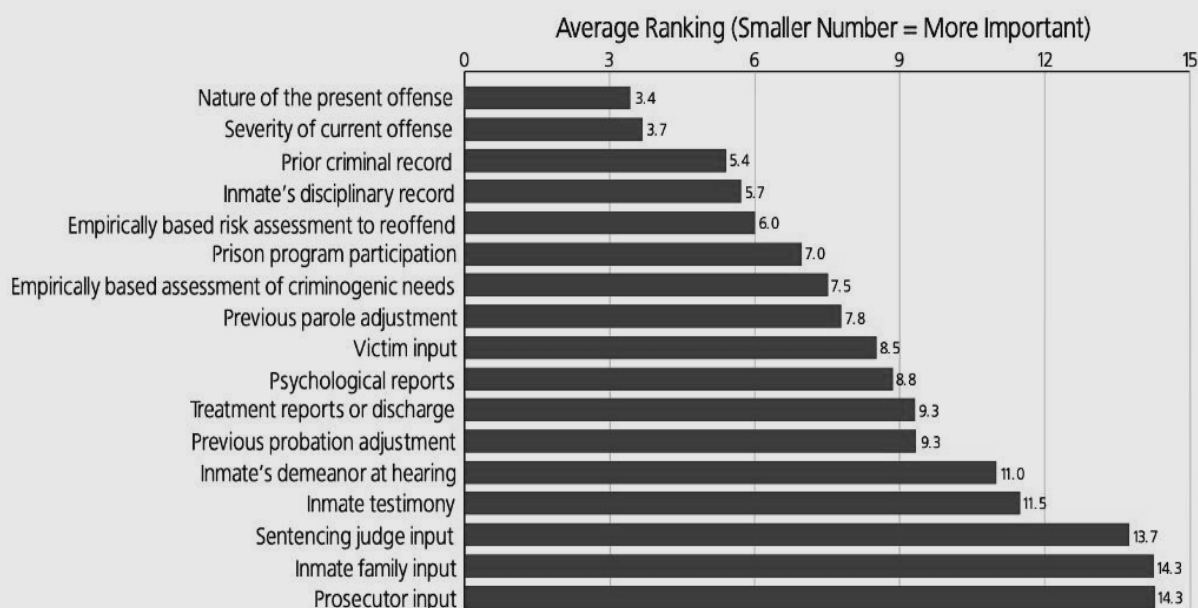
In three states, there is an additional barrier — the governor has the final word on whether a person should be released. Given this, in Maryland, Oklahoma, and California there is even less incentive to holistically review an individual’s chances at receiving parole.

“Because the parole system is so flawed, it’s impossible to make parole. You can be what they call a model prisoner, they still will not bring your case because the Governor needs to sign off.”

— Stanley Mitchell

(Continued on page 11)

Figure 14. Releasing Authority Chairs’ Ranking of Release Factors in Order of Importance



Source: Ruhland, Rhine, Robey, & Mitchell, 2016

(Continued from page 10)

Opportunities for Reform

Maryland

In the state of Maryland, the American Civil Liberties Union has challenged the parole system to remove the responsibility of the governor, specifically in cases where a person was sentenced to life as juveniles. In *MRJI v. Hogan*, the ACLU argues that due to the rarity of parole — for over two decades no juvenile lifers in Maryland had been granted parole — the sentence of “life with parole” actually operates as “life without parole.” In 2017, when the state attempted to dismiss the case, plaintiffs were able to garner a full courtroom of stakeholders, family members of individuals eligible for parole.

Among the supporters was former MD Governor Parris N. Glendening who now regrets his role in denying early release to prisoners with life sentences. “If I was in office right now, I would [work] with the legislature to change that process including removing the governor from it,” former Governor Glendening stated.

Ultimately, the U.S. District Court Judge Ellen Lipton Hollander rejected the State’s attempt to dismiss the case and the federal lawsuit is pending.

To supplement the lawsuit and approach the issue of liberty with urgency, a bill has been drafted for consideration in the Mary-

land General Assembly next year that would effectively remove the governor’s authority over parole. Current Governor Larry Hogan is opposed to the bill, stating that “there is no reasonable justification for removing gubernatorial oversight from the parole process.”

New York

In the state of New York, Senate Bill S2144 has been introduced to change the criteria for parole eligibility, such that a person aged 55 or greater who has served at least 15 years will be provided a parole hearing. This bill is capable of curbing the rapidly increasing population of individuals in prison aged 50 and older — between 2007 and 2016 there was 46% growth in this age group — whose incarceration makes them increasingly vulnerable to developing and worsening chronic illness, which currently accounts for the overwhelming rate of death in prison.

The more expedient the parole process, the better the chances are for a someone to increase their life expectancy. There are many accounts of people returning to communities, discovering serious illnesses that had been undiagnosed and untreated for years, and immediately requiring medical care. Jose Saldana of RAPP recalls his coordinated effort post-release to consume nutritious foods, exercise, and actively attend to his mental health. Stanley Mitchell shares a similar experience,

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

“It’s been a struggle. But I found that if you come out and do what you’re supposed to do, and try to get back to the community and to others that you left behind, you can [live] out there.”

Saldana and Mitchell emphasize the importance of familial, communal, and structural support during the adjustment process. Lacking such support often results in few years of freedom, as many individuals die shortly after release, including the co-founder of RAPP, Mujahid Farid. A major tangible deficit often experienced is housing insecurity — the Prison Policy Institute finds a positive relationship between the rate of homelessness and the age of formerly incarcerated individuals. Among the existential deficits, many individuals recount returning home and attempting to rekindle relationships only to find the years of missed memories to be an insurmountable challenge. Chronic loneliness, Saldana believes, worsens health and leads to premature death.

California

In 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB260 into law, which applies to people sentenced in adult court for an offense committed before 23 years of age. The law instituted a special parole process in response to a political climate that brought to a halt the granting of parole. Roughly 162,000 individuals confined in California prisons were left without sight of achieving freedom. In 2019, of the 5,000 individuals eligible to sit before the parole panel, 1,074 were granted parole.

The parole hearing itself is formulaic, asking individuals to narrate the circumstances leading to the offense, referred to as “pre-commitment factors;” explain their remorse, and portray responsibility taken for the offense committed; and includes steps towards rehabilitation taken while incarcerated, referred to as “post-commitment factors.”

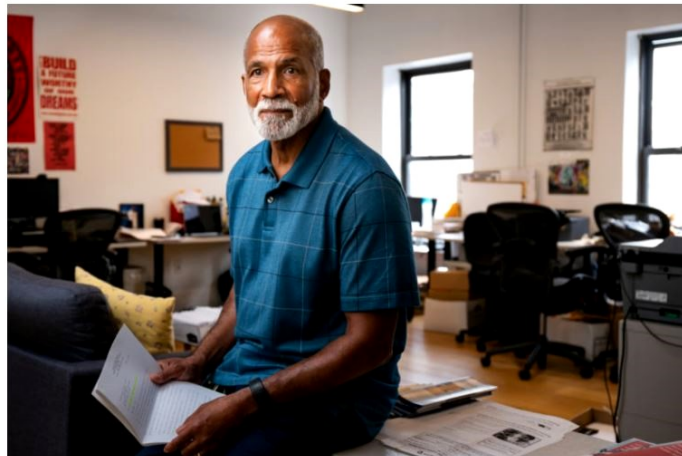
“It rewards those who can make sense out of senselessness, connecting the dots between childhood troubles and adult crimes... Those explanations are seen as a kind of inoculation against future misdeeds: If you understand it, you can prevent it from happening again.”

— Dashka Slater

Federal Legislation

At the federal level, H.R. 4018 was introduced last year by Congressman Theodore E. Deutch [D-FL-22] to amend language in the Second Chance Act of 2007, which would change the eligibility criteria for early release for individuals aged 55 or older. The bill would reduce their prison terms by the amount of “good time credits” earned while confined. This change would be pivotal, given that currently parole is disproportionately focused on the nature of an offense.

The qualities an individual is able to foster while incarcerated — like RAPP co-founder Mujahid Farid, who earned four college degrees, launched the first peer-education campaign on H.I.V. and AIDS, and developed a widely acclaimed state-wide program called PACE (Prisoners AIDS Counseling & Education) —



City Limits / Adi Talwar

Jose Saldana, 66, a community organizer with the Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) at his office on Canal Street in downtown Manhattan. After being denied parole four times, Salsana was released from the New York State Prison system in January 2018 after serving 38 years.

<https://citylimits.org/2019/08/20/advocates-for-aging-prisoners-look-to-force-a-debate-on-parole/>

would become more central to the process, making parole a fairer and more attainable goal.

Beyond making the federal parole process more just, this amendment has the potential to resurrect the hope that confined people and their families have lost after experiencing multiple arbitrary and politicized parole denials.

State Medical and Geriatric Parole Laws

A recent approach that has been adopted by 45 states is to allow individuals with certain serious medical conditions to be eligible for parole. The process to be granted parole varies from state to state, and typically depends on the assessment of a medical professional. Commonly the severity of a medical condition, whether the person is deemed a threat to public safety, and whether the medical condition has a projected time frame of death are included in the assessment for parole.

While states are actively attempting to release individuals with a limited life expectancy, they should take the subsequent step of assuring a coordinated effort of social services and health care, to ensure individuals are able to live a quality life.

Charlie Sullivan speaks to an effective example launched in New York, the Parole Preparation Project. The project, among other activities, trains volunteers to assist individuals returning home on parole from life sentences with their transitions and provides them with access to services and supportive communities.

FROM: <https://medium.com/houstonmarshall/fast-tracking-second-chance-increasing-odds-for-parole-on-life-sentences-9d8d4596573e>

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

FATHER

The Word Father has a strong meaning to me. It is also a word that makes me curious. Everyone has a different interpretation of the definition. To some it's the patriarch of a family, a provider, mentor, or pillar in foundation. To others it's simply a sperm donor. Everyone has a father, some of us know him, others don't. Some of us wish we did, but others could care less. Stepfathers are good substitutes but are never enough. We love them but it's still a lot that only a biological father can teach. Many fathers have strong relationships with their children, majority don't. I myself always wanted a closer relationship with my own and I believe that's why I strive hard to have one with my own daughter. I believe if I did, it would be possible to teach me more about myself and life in general. I've always known him and spent time with him occasionally and even though I see him in my actions and genetic features I realize there's a lot I don't know about him or myself. I can't recall any affection other than a few bucks, fixing a car together or sharing a blunt or bottle. I can't recall him ever cooking me a meal or even if he can cook, what's his favorite book, movie or song. Seeing my Pop on an adjacent tier in a state penitentiary made me clench my teeth. As far as I can remember this was the most I've ever seen him on a consistent basis in my 30 years of life. Part of me was happy I knew where he was and safe, partly sad it came to this to get to know him. Finally, I can get answers to some questions, but pride wouldn't allow me to ask. Mixed emotions arose about him being granted his freedom before me. I pray it's not too late, fear stops me from wanting to strive for a stronger relationship, but curiosity motivates me. So many empty memories, broken promises, and let downs makes me want to give up and move on. What should I do? If only my father could give me advice.

STEFF SPANN

CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN



reddit.com

Report

Sudoku #598 (Medium)

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Zudoku answers on page 19

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

NAACP suing state for prison gerrymandering

John N. Mitchell / Tribune Staff Writer
Feb 27, 2020



Philadelphia NAACP President Rodney Muhammad, left, stands next to plaintiff Robert L. Hollbrook, as NAACP Legal Defense Lawyer Cara McClellan listens in during a Wednesday press conference. — Courtesy of Rodney Muhammad

Just weeks before the 2020 Census is set to begin, three formerly incarcerated Philadelphia men and the local chapter of the NAACP are suing the state to stop “prison-based gerrymandering.”

They argue in their civil lawsuit, which was filed in Commonwealth Court on Thursday by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Ballard Spahr, that it’s illegal for Pennsylvania to count prisoners as residents of the counties where they are incarcerated rather than the county where they were living before they were incarcerated.

The practice “artificially inflates the political power of predominantly white and rural districts where most of the prisons are located,” said Cara McClellan, a lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. “Simultaneously, it dilutes the representational power of communities of color in cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, which is where most of the state’s prison population comes from.”

Rodney Muhammad, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP, compared prison gerrymandering to the so-called “3/5 Compromise” that allowed Southern states to count three-fifths of the enslaved population when it came to apportioning the number of a state’s representatives in Congress.

“You used our bodies for labor and for breeding down through history,” Muhammad said. “And now you are using our bodies to help redraw congressional maps. This isn’t just happening in Pennsylvania; it’s happening all over the country.

“Just think about how diabolical this is,” Muhammad continued. “Many of those prisoners don’t have the right to vote, yet they will be counted as a resident of a particular county. Jobs go to those counties to operate the prisons. The political representation goes to that county. All that’s left in the Black neighborhoods you come from is a broken family with less representation. This is clearly some racket cooked up to punish the Black and poor.”

Muhammad pointed out that Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey have been counting prisoners in their home districts.

“What are we waiting for?” he asked.

More than 12,000 prisoners — roughly 25% of the state’s total prison population — are from Philadelphia.

If those prisoners were counted as Philadelphians in the Census, the city would gain at least one more state House seat, according to an analysis done by criminologists at Villanova University. It would also get more state and federal funding.

State Rep. Joanna McCClinton introduced legislation in March 2019 that would end prison-based gerrymandering. House Bill 940 was referred to the House State Government Committee, and no action has been taken.

“As a society that continues to advance and address injustices, we must acknowledge that prison gerrymandering affects the most vulnerable communities and encourages racial and representational inequality,” McCClinton wrote in an op-ed on PennLive.com in November.

The redistricting process is set to begin in 2021, after the census is completed.

McClellan said NAACP leaders hope the lawsuit will require Pennsylvania to retroactively count prisoners as residents of their home counties rather than the prison counties.

The NAACP in 2018 filed a similar lawsuit in Connecticut. That case is still pending.

jmitchell@phillytrib.com

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

A snapshot in time

Corona Crisis

The Corona (COVID-19) virus is new to the U.S. (and the world); and it scares me to know that there isn't a cure. The number of people infected is rising quickly and the world (as we know it) is trying its best to stay ahead of this virus. By the time you read this article we will have reached somewhere, for better or worse, unknown; but this - here - is the starting point; a snapshot in time.

On March 27, 2020 listening to WDAS news in Philadelphia, it was reported that 1,000 people were infected with the corona virus throughout Pennsylvania; and that there were seven deaths. New York, a international hub and our neighbor is at a crisis with the death toll climbing. Gov. Cuomo said health and government officials underestimated this virus. "It's more powerful, it's more dangerous than we expected," he said.

This week Pennsylvania's Governor (Wolf) issued a quarantine order, instruction people to "self-quarantine" to avoid close contact, actually, keeping 6 feet away from each other when out-and-about; or even better stay at home. Some people are taking him seriously, some are not. Some people refuse to wear mask or gloves or stay indoors; and continue to visit and invite friends over for drinks or anything. Others buy up boxes of toilet paper, cases of water, bread, Lysol and bottles of hand sanitizer wiping doorknobs, clothing and everything they purchase. Rumors are flying - the virus was started by the government, it started from people eating bats, and it was started to kill off old people so the government doesn't have to pay out social security, that Black people can't get it, and lastly, beware this is actually the beginnings of 'The Walking Dead'.

With this quarantine social gatherings are being cancelled. Schools and Day Care centers are closed - *I'm trapped in my apartment with four grandchildren and they're driving me CRAZY!! And if I don't get out of this house, I'm going to go mad - SAVE THE CHILDREN!!!*

As I was saying, restaurants, bars, theaters, concerts, NBA games and even Easter (Mass and church gatherings) is cancelled. The Pennsylvania's Primary Elections have been moved to June. People are losing their jobs (*my grandson works for Olive Garden, he's out of work now*); the airlines laid off 600 workers; casino workers are laid off, barbershop and hair salons are closed, the dollar stores (my favorite) are closed, and some super markets are only allowing a few people in at a time - to keep the 6 ft spacing rule. The streets are creepy quiet.



An empty street is seen in Manhattan on March 15, 2020 during pandemic.

The government is promising to give folks unemployment with little wait and a stipend of \$1,200 for everyone - but with Trump as President who knows what will happen. Hopefully we are all still *here* and *alive* by the time you get this newsletter/magazine.

So while the roads are vacant and we are self-distancing ourselves, what is happening to our loved ones in prison, who are living on top of one another in a COVID-19 incubator.

Out of the 25 state prisons, one thing I've noticed is that each prison operates on their own set of rules or policies regardless of what the Department of Corrections' higher-ups say. Some have given out free soap, face masks, cleaning supplies, have stopped in-person visits but are allowing video visits instead. Some state prisons are testing each and every person who comes into the prison; and some are not. And I can personally attest to the fact that when a person is sick while in prison, they are never going to receive the same medical care as people on the outside; in short they are left to die.

As the long month of March is coming to an end, many are calling on Governor Wolf to intervene; these efforts on the rise. Various groups throughout Pennsylvania are beginning to rally to help prisoners avoid this unstoppable virus.

Twitter Storm—Sponsored by Amistad Law Project, Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP), Abolitionist Law Center, CAD-BI (Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration), and the Human Rights Campaign. A **Twitter Storm** is scheduled to launched on Wednesday, April 1st, flooding Governor Wolf with Tweets and making our demands clear: he must use his

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

reprise powers to #FreeOurPeople before COVID-19 becomes a death sentence to thousands of people inside and near Pennsylvania's prisons. #PublicHealthisPublicSafety.

#RescueChesCo - Chester County called on other organizations and community leaders to endorse and circulate their statement and help shape the course of the response to COVID-19 in Chester, PA. stating: **We need our elected leaders to take this moment as an opportunity to stand as Community Protectors and #RescueChesCo.** There will be those who use this as an opportunity to pit victims and offenders against one another, but this virus doesn't discriminate. We aren't negotiating the safety of some for the safety of others. We are all at risk so long as people remain incarcerated through this pandemic and need to find alternatives that keep our community safe, whether it be from COVID-19 or violence. . .

The **ACLU of Pennsylvania** on behalf of the Pennsylvania Prison Society filed an emergency request asking the state Supreme Court to use its "King's Bench" power to protect public health by ordering county common pleas courts to release some people from county jails, including those who are at high risk of serious illness or death if infected by COVID-19 and those who are held pretrial or on short sentences for minor offenses.

MEDIA MOBILIZING PROJECT asked folks and orgs to join them on March 27th in calling on Mayor Kenney and the First Judicial District to act immediately to decarcerate the city's [Philadelphia] jails and juvenile detention facilities. For more information go to: <https://mediamobilizing.org/call-the-courts-now-to-demand-they-release-those-in-jail-during-covid-19/>

DelcoCPR - Delco Coalition for Prison Reform (DelcoCPR) is calling for immediate action to protect our vulnerable, incarcerated populations and the staff who serve them. For more details go to: <https://delcocpr.org/news/2020/covid-19-emergency-statement-from-delco-cpr>

DelcoCPR demands for county officials are:

- 1. We call upon President Judge Kelly to direct that cash bails be lowered to Released On Own Recognizance (ROR) in all cases in which this is possible.** This will reduce the number of people being taken into George W. Hill Correctional facility. The order recently issued by President Judge Kelly does not go far enough. Incarceration during a COVID-19 outbreak poses an increased risk to those who cannot make bail and is unconscionable in most cases.
- 2. We call upon President Judge Kelly to direct the Office of Adult Probation and Parole to lift detainers and restrain from petitioning for new detainers in all cases in which this is possible.**

3. We call upon President Judge Kelly to modify his recent emergency order to include immediate release of pregnant women, those over age sixty and those listed by the CDC as more likely threatened by exposure to COVID-19. In cases where a risk to the community is perceived, these men and women can be placed on house arrest with an ankle bracelet monitor.

4. We call upon district judges to avoid imposition of high cash bail, and the Office of Pre-Trial Services to recommend non-commitment forms of surety in all cases in which this is possible. Bail should only be used where there is a serious concern that the individual would fail to appear in court or where community safety is at risk. Incarceration prior to conviction is fundamentally unfair, and during this time of emergency it should be suspended.

5. We call upon police officers to file criminal complaints with the court instead of making arrests whenever possible. Other counties in Pennsylvania have already initiated this effort and we should follow suit to further reduce the number of men, women and children booked into our facilities at this time.

6. We call upon District Attorney Stollsteimer to support our position for no cash bail on low level offenses and that he request President Judge Kelly, the District Judges and the police to concur with our demands.

I thank God for all of these groups! Unfortunately, I don't have information to share about "every" group fighting for the safety and health of the men and women in prison at this time; but I wanted you to know that your safety is on our minds. Groups and orgs like these are committed to exposing the carelessness, insensitivity, oppression, and suffering that is placed, without a second thought, upon the human beings incarcerated. We must continue to remind folks that every person's life is as valuable as another's life. And since this is a snapshot in time (and we don't end up being zombies), maybe we will come out of this pandemic much more than toilet paper hoarders - possibly, a new people who believe in the health and welfare of every human being. #HumanRightsMatters.

By Mama Patt

WTF



All the bars & restaurants are closed, grrrrr. So, I had a fabulous birthday party with my girls at home with Corona's! No worries we're young and beautiful and alcohol kills all

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!



Image credit: Barbara Lazaridis

Protesters Gather in Philadelphia to Demand Prison Justice

Published on February 28, 2020 in News/Philadelphia by The Bi-College News

By Barbara Lazaridis, Staff Writer

On February 25, three students from Haverford College’s Re-think Incarceration Club went to a rally in Philadelphia. The group was protesting State Attorney General Josh Shapiro’s constant opposition of commutation for prisoners serving extremely long sentences. The protesters gathered to demand that Shapiro use his power to grant freedom to individuals who have been unjustly imprisoned—or who have transformed over their sentence and would be useful members of society if released—instead of condemning them to die in prison.

Commutation—or the process of replacing one punishment, such as imprisonment, with another—is the only way to lighten harsh sentences, even presenting the possibility of release (this includes life sentences). In order to be passed, it requires five out of five votes from the Board of Pardons, which is chaired by Lt. Gov. John Fetterman. Shapiro has been one of the most frequent voters of commutation votes, and as such has denied freedom to numerous incarcerated persons who have had prison warrens testify for them, struggle with serious health conditions, and even those with support from their victim’s family.

Ken Daly, one of the protest attendees, emphasized his belief that Shapiro’s actions are unjust. He believes that these people would pay their taxes like any other citizen and would contribute to society.

James Lambert, another participant, was himself in the penal system for a total of 42 years—33 of which he spent on death row. Since his release, he has been living lawfully as a committed activist, condemning the cruelty of the incarceration system. Lambert firmly believes that love is the driving force of rehabilitation. He says that it is important “to believe in people and

know that justice is love and love is justice,” adding that, to him, this rally is about fairness and true justice.

Activist Andrea Inge was also at the protest. Her husband, James Inge, has been incarcerated since he was 19 years old. He was initially offered a plea bargain of 8 to 20 years, but turned it down because he thought that his attorney was pressuring him to accept it. He then decided to go to trial, was found guilty, and was given a life sentence without parole.

Since his incarceration, Inge has applied for commutation seven times, and has been turned down each time. In his most recent public hearing, he missed commutation by two votes; he received three of the unanimous five required, despite maintaining good behavior for 39 years. He cannot re-apply until 2021. Shapiro cast his vote among those who condemned Inge to a continued sentence at the Phoenix Correctional Institution.

While Inge remains in prison, his co-conspirator took the plea deal and was released in seven years. The two Board members who vetoed his commutation did so because they went by his behavior when he first went to prison.

“They punish you for not taking the plea bargain because trial costs the state of [Pennsylvania] money,” Andrea Inge explained. “When you accept the plea bargain you save state money.” She pointed out that this is unfair: “If you’re willing to offer somebody a plea of 8 to 20 years, you have already established that their crime was not worth life in prison.” Inge added that, in her observed experience, penalizing those with harsh sentences who choose to go on trial is extremely common. She argued that this procedure is a waste of tax dollars; it is your constitutional right to be given a fair trial. The way the penal system makes these decisions is nonsensical at best and contradictory of fundamental freedoms at worst.



Above, Pittsburgh protestors rallied in unison with Philadelphia. Co-Sponsors ALP, ALC, HRC Philly & Pittsburgh, CADBI-East & Philly.

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!



RAPP Rocks the Capitol



550+ New Yorkers Demand an End to Death-By-Incarceration

On Tuesday, January 14th, we joined forces with more than 500 New Yorkers from across the state in support of freeing people from prison, reuniting families, and healing communities. Hundreds of people from Long Island to Buffalo and everywhere in between marched, rallied, and met with 90 New York State lawmakers in support of Elder Parole and Fair and Timely Parole. Pictures of the day from photographer Walter Hergt can be found [here](#).

Our presence and advocacy gained 17 new co-sponsors among state lawmakers for our two bills. We also drew media coverage from Spectrum News, Crime Report, and Gothamist. Senator Gustavo Rivera penned this op ed in the Daily News in support of Fair and Timely Parole, and Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa wrote this op ed in the Gotham Gazette in support of Elder Parole.

Thank you so much to all those who joined us on the 14th, traveled long distances, shared your stories, and mobilized your power. We did this together.

Protesting in the time of social distancing: Philly demands action by car, bike, text, and tweet



By Samantha Melamed, Updated: March 30, 2020- 5:25 PM
JOSE F. MORENO / Staff Photographer

The sound of honking horns reverberated off the walls as dozens of cars slowly circled City Hall on Monday afternoon, with signs reading “Inaction=Murder” and “Jail the Virus — Free Our People” taped to their tightly shut windows.

This demonstration — a call to reduce the population of Philadelphia jails and state prisons, where officials have confirmed that prisoners and staff have tested positive for the coronavirus — was one indication that even under Gov. Tom Wolf’s stay-at-home order, Philadelphians will find new ways to take their demands to the streets.

In cities around the world, under similar lockdowns, car caravans have quickly emerged as one means of mobilizing within the strictures of social distancing.

Here in Philadelphia, Refuse Fascism has planned a “Drive Trump/Pence Out Now!” caravan to roll through West Philadelphia this weekend. Advocates have also toyed with such a procession to amplify demands for the seizure of Hahnemann University Hospital by eminent domain to house COVID-19 patients. So far they’ve opted for a “call-in day and social media storm” instead. And in New Jersey, a hundred cars lined up to demand the release of immigrants in the Hudson County ICE Detention Center.

Monday’s demonstration — timed to generate a din during Mayor Jim Kenney’s afternoon news briefing, and seen on Twitter and Facebook Live — was the culmination of a campaign that has been waged over several weeks on Twitter and Facebook, through email and phone banks, and, as of Monday, in a lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Pennsylvania seeking action from the state Supreme Court.

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

SHUT DOWN SCI FAYETTE

By Maya Nojehowicz

SCI Fayette is too toxic a prison to house human beings. It's not just toxic in the way of all prisons, which deny prisoners human rights. It's literally a toxic place to live - or die. It's built on toxic soil, toxic air flows through its cells and toxic water through its pipes.

"Inmates, the guards, the staff, the residents, everyone is in harm's way," says Richard Mosley, coordinator of the Fayette Justice Health Project with Put People First PA and a former SCI Fayette inmate, "There is no other alternative but to get people off of the site."

Human Rights Coalition (HRC) and Put People First PA (PPF PA) in solidarity with prisoners, guards, prison staff, and the townspeople of LaBelle, PA where the prison is located have reignited a campaign to do just that: shut down SCI Fayette.

The prison was built on a toxic coal ash waste dumpsite in 2003. The toxic waste has caused health issues for all in its vicinity for years. The drinking water at the prison is so polluted that prison staff sued for access to bottled water and won. Prisoners are still forced to drink the polluted tap water.

Matt Canestrone Contracting (MCC) operated the toxic coal ash dumpsite in LaBelle until 2015. MCC received coal ash waste from coal producers like NRG and First Energy, and then disposed of it. Coal ash, sometimes called fly ash because it's so light it easily travels through the air, contains many toxins. According to No Escape, a report published by the Abolitionist Law Center and HRC in 2014, this waste is likely the root of the severe respiratory issues, rashes, high rates of cancer, and other health issues prisoners, prison staff, and townspeople in LaBelle have suffered from for years.

The campaign to shut down SCI Fayette is not new. The campaign formally started in 2013 as a partnership between HRC, the Abolitionist Law Center, the Center for Coalfield Justice, HOPE for LaBelle, and others. Lawsuits were filed to stop the dumping. In 2015 the campaign won and MCC stopped dumping toxic waste. It seemed like a victory.

However letters from prisoners at SCI Fayette describing the horrible conditions there did not stop and have not stopped since. The respiratory problems and other adverse health effects have not stopped. The brown tap water prisoners are forced to drink has not stopped. In July 2019, 15 men at SCI Fayette

went on hunger strike to protest these conditions. Community organizers and families on the outside joined the hunger strike in solidarity. Governor Tom Wolf and the Department of Corrections (DOC) are aware of the issues, because they aren't new. So far, they've chosen to ignore them despite the evidence of detrimental health effects and the outcry from all those affected.

Jackson Kusiak, organizer with HRC, says, "Our understanding is that Fayette is used as the end of the line prison in PA. The fact that it's built on a toxic dump is used as a threat for prisoners like you don't want to be sent to Fayette because you're being sent there to die."

The campaign led by HRC and PPF PA has three basic demands: clean water for people in prison and in the town; adequate, full coverage health care for people in prison and people in the town; and shutting down SCI Fayette. The first two demands are essential for the health and humanity of those incarcerated now, but shutting down SCI Fayette is the end goal. The prison should never have been built on millions of tons of coal waste to begin with.

Richard Mosley made a comparison between the conditions at SCI Fayette and living with the coronavirus as we are now, "If a virus is causing you to change your behavior, what happens if the soil, air, and water around you is contaminated but you can't move or go anywhere? It's a certain death." This is life at SCI Fayette particularly for the inmates. "I'm fighting for everyone but I can only speak from an inmate perspective. Inmates can't get out of the way. They have no options."

Through their campaign PPF PA and HRC want to bring light to the horrendous conditions at SCI Fayette and build pressure on this issue state-wide. The call to close the prison comes from prisoners, families, community organizers, people in the town, prison staff, and in the past has even from a corrections officer at the prison. Governor Tom Wolf and the DOC must listen to the voice of the people who demand: shut down SCI Fayette.

Sudoku #598 (Medium)

3	7	1	6	5	2	9	8	4
9	6	8	4	3	7	1	5	2
5	2	4	8	9	1	3	6	7
8	3	2	9	1	5	4	7	6
4	9	5	7	8	6	2	1	3
7	1	6	3	2	4	5	9	8
1	8	7	5	4	3	6	2	9
6	5	3	2	7	9	8	4	1
2	4	9	1	6	8	7	3	5

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

Hello My Fellow Brothers & Sisters in the struggle!

I would like to keep you posted on what has been going on since our last issue. As we always do, last year CADBI DelCo with other CADBI Chapters went to Harrisburg on October 26 to rally on Abolishing Solitary Confinement among other pressing issues.

Just wanted to share the photos (page 20) that SCI Muncy and SCI Cambridge forbid any of my family behind the walls there to receive ANY of the 25 letters I wrote along with birthday cards and several hundreds of photos that they asked for.

I, along with several other C.P.S. workers at SCI-Cambridge Springs were facilitators and organizers, am having the first Family and Friends day at SCI-Cambridge Springs. However, I wrote several women and sent numerous emails, letters and photo copies (to make it easy for transmission) and not ONE female received any of my mail or emails. Yes, an officer blocked several of their mail from me. Who the hell do they think they are. I've been up to the prisons to see these women. There is NOTHING I wrote inappropriate or anything that I said to warrant them NOT giving all the ladies THEIR mail. Isn't that a FEDERAL OFFENSE? HOWEVER, EVERY male that I wrote and sent photos to, behind the walls, received everything that I sent. So, this leads me to believe it is the two female institutions that I once resided at. Yes they know who I am. The hell raiser that stopped the men guards who were perverts from getting free feels and gropes. NO MORE!

So I'm still waiting to find out. Yes, I reported it and the authorities are investigating it (LOL); I already did my own. I paid for all those emails and postage. So ladies I want you all to know I have no idea why they have me blocked from you all. My guess is they didn't want you all to be inspired, motivated, and encouraged by what we are doing out here and the people that are doing it. So since you all didn't get my photos. Here's a SHOUT OUT to you all. I love you; and, those that I am not able to correspond with, I love you as well.

Everyone please continue to be safe and take as much precaution as possible. STAY UP!!!! STAY PRAYERFUL!!!! STAY ENCOURAGED!!!! AND STAY SUCKA FREE!!!!

Ladies you will recognize those in the photo who went to Harrisburg last year.

Dana Lomax-Williams
C.A.D.B.I. DelCo., President
She/Her/Hers

Up-Date!

Hello to all my Fellow Brothers and Sisters in the struggle. We want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers on a daily and moment-by-moment basis. Please know that we are out here advocating, interrogating and investigating what issues you are facing, NOW, at hand. We have posted many of your letters via our list serv. - thank you all and please continue to forward your letters, thoughts, and concern to us. Yes, we may be slow in our responses, however please don't give up on us. Please contact your families, friends, loved ones and ask them to help us help you. STAY UP!!!! STAY ENCOURAGED!!!! STAY PRAYERFUL!!!! AND STAY SUCKS FREE!!!!

Love, Dana
Ya Sista in the struggle.

From L-R: Dana Lomax, President
Jackie Martinez Parliamentarian (resigned)
Patricia Monroe Treasurer
Jack Stollsteimer DA



Just to keep you all abreast

on what C.A.D.B.I. DelCo has been up to. Well, I'm glad to say (as some of you know), our new District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer is in the house. Yes, he is our new D.A. in Delaware County. I received many emails and letters via postal service asking what our new D.A. was like? If he's like Larry Krasner. My answer is "no" because he is, Jack

Stollsteimer. However, what I *can* say is that he shares the same values and grassroots that we do. He believes in second chances. He believes in providing alternative treatment versus prison/jail. We endorsed him because he supports second chances. Instead of locking people up for minor marijuana offenses he's giving them citations to go to court. He came to CADBI DelCo's First Year Anniversary on September 14, 2019, although we actually started in May it worked for everyone to have it then. He also showed up for Juneteenth at Memorial Park in Chester, Pa. We had a table at this event and we were able to recruit five members from this event.

Love Ya, Dana - Enjoy the photos (page 20).

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!



← Juneteenth Event, From L-R: Patricia Monroe Treasurer, Cynthia Garvin-Parks Secretary, Carolyn C. Collins Sergeant At Arms & Jackie Martinez Parliamentarian (resigned medical issues)

→ From L-R: Dr. Carolyn C. Collins,



← Harrisburg Rally 2019, from L-R bottom row: Starr Granger, Princess, & Sunshine; From L-R top row: Naseefha, TY, & Malika.

→ From L-R: Cynthia Gavin-Parks, Peggy Stueber, Dr. Carolyn C. Collins.



← Left to Right Dawn Lucas, Cadbi Delco Financial Secretary, Tati Colon Princess Bernard Sampson Malika Tremaine Ty Nafeesa In the wheelchair Phyllis Evans Yvonne Starr



Human Rights Coalition Report

Mann Up!

Mann Up! was created by a unique group of men. These brothers are doing a phenomenal job in prison and in our communities. Their work on the outside is growing with massive support from a variety of people such as D.A. Larry Krasner, Councilman Allan Domb, Honorable Steffany Sawyer and others.

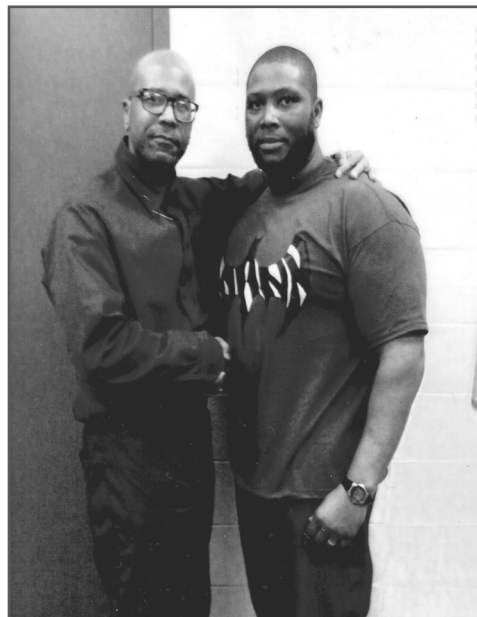
Although Mann Up! has its executive board members, there are other men who play a great role in making sure our program runs smooth and our messages are sincere and on point. We have brother Stanley Brown, Adolf, Ronnie X, Salih, Mustafa, Cooper, Train, Caldwell, Sakana and, last but not least, our Elder and co-founder of Mann Up, Mr. Chuck Logan. I almost forgot to add Tone, son of the Vice President.

The men of Mann Up! greatly appreciate political prisoner, Brother Shakaboona, for the opportunity to be heard and featured in The Movement magazine.

In Solidarity,

Tyree "Big Hick" Little

Executive Program Manager for Mann Up!



Political Prisoner (L-R) Shakaboona and Big Hick

"MANN-UP!"

MANN-UP! WAS CREATED BY A GROUP OF MEN WHOSE LIFE EXPERIENCES HELPED IDENTIFY THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY LEGACY, A STRONG EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, AND A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

MANN-UP! PROVIDES THE ANTIDOTE TO THE VIOLENCE THAT PLAGUES OUR COMMUNITIES; OUR DIALECTIC, THERAPEUTIC, AND SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED, ACTION-BASED SYSTEM CHALLENGES MEN, AND FACILITATES GROWTH AND HEALING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. WE FOSTER SELF-DETERMINATION, SELF-DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT, FORGING PATHWAYS TO MANHOOD AND LEADERSHIP.

MANN-UP! IS A GROUP OF LEADERS THAT FORM AN ELITE VANGUARD OF POSITIVE FORCE!

MANN-UP!

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org



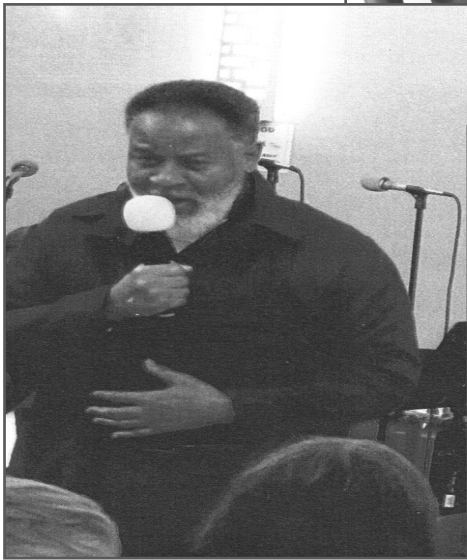
Above: Mann-Up members with City Councilman Allan Domb, his Chief of Staff, Bysm of Prison Society and Mama Dee from Free Da Ballot.



Right: Michael "Qawi" Butler and family, Executive Director of Re-entry Services, Mann-Up.

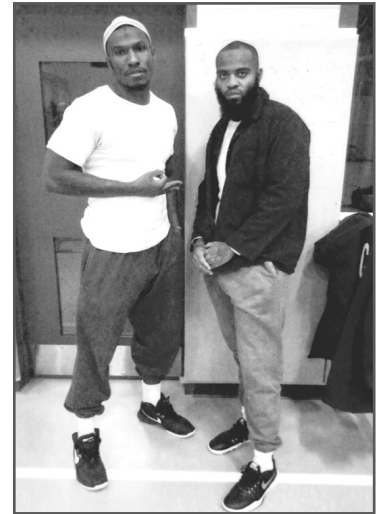


Below: Charles Karim Diggs, Elder of Mann-Up.

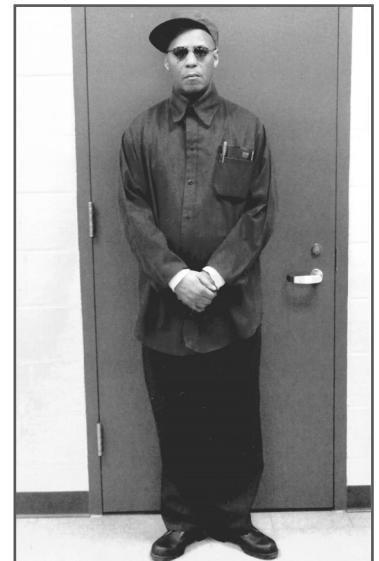


Above: Robert "Rob" Groves, Treasurer of Mann-Up.

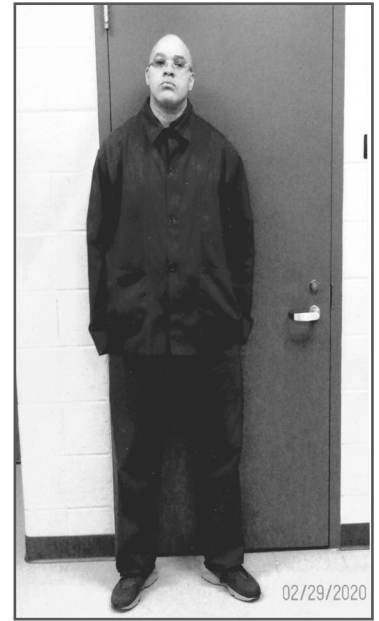
Right: Bobby "Ice Man" Byrd (without jacket), Director of Youth Engagement and Talent Division.



Above: Ronnie X, Mann-Up Security.



Right: Brian "BC" Charles, Mann-Up Executive Secretary.



Mann Up!

Tyree Wallace

My name is Tyree Wallace (EC-0895) and I am the President and Co-Founder of MANN-UP!

HRC: What short term goals were you able to accomplish since joining MANN-UP?

Mr. Wallace: As the co-founder of MANN-UP! Association I have witnessed our team surpass countless benchmarks each and every day since its inception. Including but not limited to, putting together a team of qualified men that are instrumental to making our movement successful. Bringing in a strong outside team of women and men organizations (ICJ, CTS mentoring, etc.) who believe in our mission and support our efforts. We have established political ties that have allowed us to grow at a faster rate than I initially envisioned.

MANN-UP! is having a huge impact on the outside community, every other Saturday MANN-UP! "Street Team" clean blocks in North Philadelphia. We have just begun our F.E.A.R. initiative (Firearm Eradication and Reduction) which is beginning with a gun buy back. Every other Thursday at the MANN-UP! Hub we have group therapy sessions for men who have graduated through the MANN-UP! fifteen-week group therapy sessions on the inside. In conjunction with I.C.J. we are able to provide access to resources such as healthcare, housing, employment, etc.

Most importantly we are helping to positively shape the views of countless men, they are accepting responsibility for the trajectory of their lives, they have committed to be better fathers, husbands, and citizens; they have MANNED-UP!

HRC: Have you personally witnessed a transformation of an individual (s) who attended our mentoring sessions?

Mr. Wallace: There has been an impact so great that it is impossible to quantify. Countless men have been positively impacted by MANN-UP! We have stopped violence inside of the prison, prevented suicides, encouraged and facilitated further education, gave a place of belonging to men who desperately need it, educated men about civics and why it is important to be politically active.

Everyday the men of MANN-UP! are stopped all around the institution and asked about resources, legal help, and told consistently about the impact our movement is

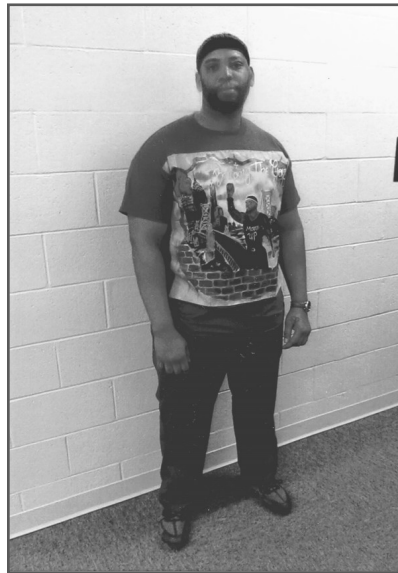
having on the lives of those who have attended our sessions, and implemented the lessons in their lives. Calls of MANN-UP! are heard all around the institution, the MANN-UP! call and response is a call to action, a call to be the best version of themselves, a call to be the men they were born to be. If someone is not doing something that is not principle based, men will say "MANN-UP!" If someone is acting in a way that is opposite of the MANN-UP! creed, mission statement, or principles you will hear MANN-UP!

HRC: Once released, what is the first change you would like to implement to your community?

Mr. Wallace: MANN-UP! transformation units and gun-violence reduction and public safety initiative (GVR-PSI).

HRC: In your words how does MANN-UP! differ from other organizations doing similar work?

Mr. Wallace: MANN-UP! recognizes the challenges for re-entry. So, we have attacked this issue in a unique way.



Way have developed unprecedented new community partnerships via our group therapy sessions; we are bridging the gap between law enforcement and the prisoner population. We have developed partnerships with multiple non-profit organizations who have brought resources to prisoners in a new way. MANN-UP has restored morality which is a form of rehabilitation that prison fails to meet. MANN-UP is about taking responsibility to be a better man, leader, father, husband, and citizen. This prisoner led movement encourages expressiveness and creativity through the MANN-UP! Hub and our street cleaning initiative. We require that the men reentering society engage in community restoration.

Our dialectic therapeutic model enables us to connect best with those who are harming our communities and provide them with both the motivation and resources to make different choices. MANN-UP! has developed a Street Captain Initiative that provides qualified MANN-UP! graduates with leadership positions; a gun violence reduction and public safety initiative that has been endorsed by a plethora of political figures (such as Larry Krasner and Allan Domb); a neuroscience and peer based initiative (brain based reform and peer-to-peer mentoring); a community restoration initiative (Where MANN-UP! Graduates, every other week, clean the streets of Philadelphia); and a fifteen week group therapy session.

Mann-Up! Mr. Sutton, Sr.

My name is Anthony "Benny Doo" Sutton Sr. (ID # AS2919)and I am the Vice President and Co-Founder of Mann-Up.

HRC: What short-term or long-term goals were you able to accomplish since forming Mann-Up?

Benny Doo: Being a Co-Founder of Mann-Up my goal is to always use my life experiences to help and mentor young men.

HRC: Have you personally witnessed a transformation in an individual who attended Mann-Up! sessions?

Benny Doo: Yes, my son! Unfortunately my first born is here with me. He followed a path of destruction for so many years. When he arrived and saw what I was doing with Mann-Up! it made him want to do better-not only for himself but for his children as well.

HRC: Once released what is the first change you would like to implement within your community?

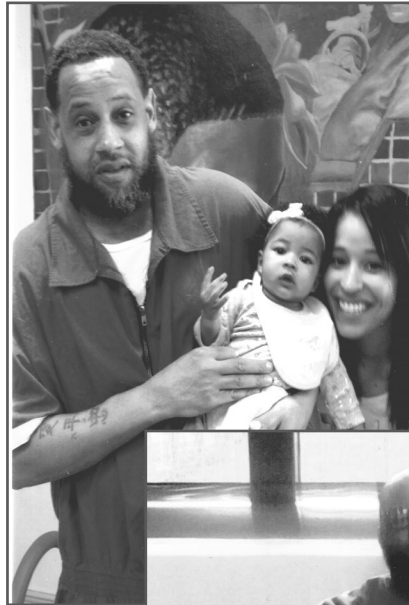
Benny Doo: I would like to continue the path of mentoring because I have seen the positive effects it has on men.

HRC: In your own words how does Mann-Up! differ from other organizations that are doing similar work?

Benny Doo: Mann-Up! to me is hands-on with trying to better our communities and give hope to the youth. We also want to elevate the status of women and teach boys and men the value of women, why it's imperative that we respect them.



Anthony "Benny Doo" Sutton, Sr., Vic President & Co-Founder of Mann-Up and, son, Anthony "Tone" Sutton, Jr.



Lawrence "Salih" Rhoads, Mann-Up! Member



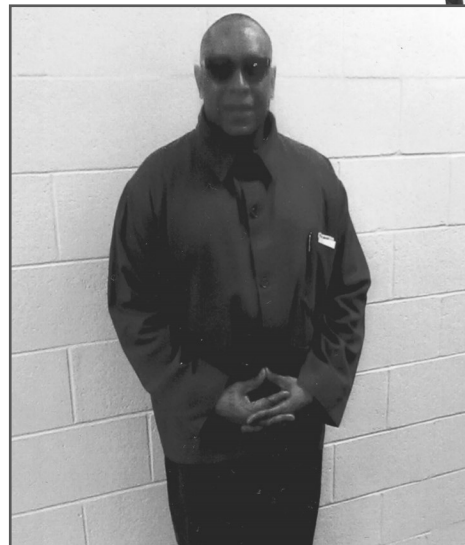
Andre "Adolf" Austin, Mann-Up! Member



Stanley Brown, Mann-Up! Member



Bro. Shamsideen, Mann-Up! Member





Mann-Up! volunteer liaison Al Flowers.

interviewed by HRC's Mama Patt, is currently working as an employment consultant and paralegal. He's been doing employment specialist work for the re-entry population for approximately 11 years. He currently holds a master's degree in legal studies and is

pursuing a PHD. He's realized his life calling is helping with reentry and has assisted with not only employment but also substance abuse, mental health treatment, referrals for housing and other things that's conducive to individuals making a successful reintegration back into the population.

Mama Patt: When did u first hear of the MANN-Up movement?

Al: The first time I heard of the Mann-Up Movement was approximately a year ago. Last year I went to SCI-Phoenix as an employment consultant for Connection Training Services and had a table there for a job fair. While there an individual came up to me who was in the Mann-Up program and we started a conversation. I told him about some of the things that I do with reentry and he was very interested, so he introduced me to the Mann-Up program and asked me if I was willing to come on a Saturday. He gave my name to the reentry specialist and the Chaplin that was over the pastors and they sent me the information to be approved. I was approved and its been history ever since. I've been going to the Mann-Up program for a little over a year.

Mama Patt: What made you want to become involved with MANN-Up?

Al: Trying to give guys the perspective on what they should do to help curb some of the violence out here in Philadelphia and just helping themselves because a lot of the guys in Mann-Up will eventually reenter society, so they have to know what they need to do. I can be an asset to a lot of these people because I've given letters of recommendation, so far, to several and they made parole; and, once they get out they have an avenue for assistance in employment or housing. I'm there for them. I also have other organizations I can refer them to.

Mama Patt: How did u become an outside volunteer liaison for Mann-Up?

Al: I became an outside liaison after I went to a couple of meetings and a couple of workshops that they have on Saturdays. They realized that I knew a lot of people who were already inside of the prison which, unfortunately, I do; some of the people that I grew up with. One of the things they were able to relate to is I've been on both sides. I'm a formerly incarcerated person myself and I know some of the things that you have to do to stay out. I use myself as an example to show that it can be done. So that's how we formed that liaison. I could share my contacts, which I have done and will continue to do, to process that transition with people on the inside, as well as the outside.

Mama Patt: If you don't mind, may I ask how long have you been home?

Al: I've been home now, since 2009.

Mama Patt: Thank you. And what is the mission of Mann-Up?

Al: The mission is to give the people an understanding of what they need to do to be a productive person, to be a man so that people can emulate that, to show them that the things that are going on out here is not the proper way to do things.

So that's part of the process, to show people how to react to certain things and not to react to certain situations. You can show certain people how not to do the drugs, how not to sale the dope and how to protect the females and all the things that go with that, how to bring the children up. Sometimes that gets lost because they've been incarcerated. That's what this is, trying to bring back, to show what they can do for all the generations especially the generations below you.

Mama Patt: What are the goals/agenda of Mann-Up?

Al: The agenda of Mann-Up as well as the goals is to become politically involved. Because a lot of these individuals have life sentences, incarcerated up to 25, 35, 40 some years, 50 years. So it comes a time when they have to realize there's a chance where a person can come out because being incarcerated no longer serves a purpose. It's about becoming politically involved and to advance some type of legislation that will allow them to make parole because as it stands now, in the state of Pennsylvania, life means exactly what it says, life with no parole. That's one of things that I'm trying to help them do, as they've done in other states where they have reduced the life restrictions and have allowed people after a certain amount of time and their age to make parole.

These are the kind of things that Mann-Up is trying to do. To get into that political arena, to help encourage people to make legislations that will enable guys who've been

(Continued on page 27)

incarcerated for a minimum amount of time and improvement of work to actually have the opportunity to make parole and get back into the community.

I did my state time in Louisiana, unfortunately. And they have enacted some laws there that if you're incarcerated for about 20 years and age 45 or 50 years old you're eligible for parole. I wanted to incorporate that with something here and use their pattern to activate something like "VOTE" the acronym for **Voice Of The Experience**. I can touch base with them and get them to come here and explain the situation there and how that bill was actually passed some years ago. Louisiana is just like Pennsylvania where, life means life.

Mama Patt: That sounds progressive. Have you ever heard of CADBI (Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration)? I would like to tell you about it after this interview because I believe we could work together on this issue. But on to my next question is, what are your duties as a Mann-Up volunteer liaison?

Al: My duties are to contact some of the people that have been released, stay in tuned with ICJ (Institute of Criminal Justice) because they employ a lot and they're sponsoring the Mann-Up program and [I] participate in their actions. Another program that I'm apart of is called One Click, here in Philadelphia, and I've tried to get those two to collaborate because they're dealing with youth also.

I, also, give letters of recommendation when they go up for parole or commutation which I've already done for some people at SCI-Phoenix and SCI-Chester.

Mama Patt: Does Mann-Up have any programs and initiatives they're doing in society? If so, what are they? And can you describe them?

Al: Right now we have a clean-up project with ICJ. Every Saturday they go and clean up sections in the neighborhood. They were recently at the 30th and Lehigh area. And we're looking into starting something with Traci Fisher, a Mann-Up program out here in Philadelphia to be politically involved, by going to Harrisburg about legislative initiatives, like we spoke of earlier. So those are two initiatives that they are already engaged in out here.

Mama Patt: What most do you like about working within the Mann-Up movement?

Their ingenuity. The programs that they have every week is different and unique, and they put so much into it because they're very innovative. Being inside you have a chance to think about certain things. The programs that they put together would be practically impossible for somebody out here to put together on a weekly basis. And they do it, they make skits, they have certain songs; they're very talented; and they got some artist

that you would not believe. I just see all this talent and these individuals have been there 30, 35 years.

So that inspires me, I know that feeling, and I know that situation, and I know that they can do this thing. When people start talking about no they can't, I try to tell them, I could have easily been one of them today.

What [people who've returned home] they're doing now -abiding citizens, paying taxes, taking care of our families and doing everything they can actively do in the community - these guys been out here like 5, 10, 15 years and doing what they need to do. So I know it can be done. That's the part that I want to show people in relationship to what Mann-Up is doing. These people in here [SCI-Phoenix] they're very innovative, I've talk to them and I know them, I'm a good judge of character. It's one thing about being in prison, you can become a good judge of character. Lots of people —some I know personally and some I've just met — I can see that once they get outside they won't have a problem. And that's what I like about Mann-Up.

Mama Patt: How can prisoners get involved with Mann-Up? And who is the Mann-Up contact person in society for people who're interested in joining its Programs & initiatives?

Al: They have two people on the outside that people can get in contact with, myself, Al Flowers, Mann-Up Liaison, email: abflowers.speaklegal@gmail.com and/or Radee Hammett - Outside Mann-Up Coordinator, radeehammett78@gmail.com. At SCI-Phoenix you may also contact Tyree Wallace - President Mann-Up, # EC0895 or Anthony Sutton -Vice President Mann-Up, # AS2919 or Michael Butler - Reentry Coordinator Mann Up, # FX8178.

Also there's a distinction; Solomon Jones from W.U.R.D. [Philadelphia radio show] has a Man Up program. The two are different and I plan to meet with him to discuss this. Solomon Jones' Man Up program is spelled with one "n".

Mama Patt: Thank you Al. I think this wraps up our interview. Is there anything you want to add that we may have omitted.

Al: I think we covered mostly everything. I definitely appreciate your interest, glad to have met you and your organization [Human Rights Coalition] because it's about reaching out to more people trying to get this thing moving a lot quicker and more smoothly. So that really is the key. So what was your son's name?

Mama Patt: Kerry 'Shakaboona' Marshall, #BE7826, SCI -Rockview, Co-Founder of HRC and Editor of THE MOVEMENT. Nice talking with, too.

The Mann-Up Comrades' Creed

By Brother UNIQUE-A/K/A Robert E. Ivory

You are my Comrade...

What's mine is yours. We must FIGHT for a CAUSE;

We NEVER get WEAK...We shall ALWAYS speak;

I TRUST you and NEED you. I will never DECIEVE you;

MY SIGHT is your sight. Your FIGHT is my FIGHT.

My LIFE for your LIFE. Your LIFE for my LIFE;

No ENEMY can DIVIDE US...Infiltrate or get BESIDE Us;

If the battle goes longer, we shall only get STRONGER;

**Through Bullets, Bombs, or Mines, If you get trapped behind ENEMY lines...I will
come FIND You; If you are BROKEN.. I'll BIND you;**

No Earthly Riches can seperate Us; No loss can DEFLATE Us;

My PAIN is your PAIN...Your GAIN is my GAIN;

I RESIST because of You...I EXIST because of YOU;

When our adversary is DEFEATED, our MISSION is completed;

My last breath will I give...So that you can live;

If I WIN.. YOU WIN..Until our WORLDLY End;

So Let Us thus Begin..To be COMRADES MY FRIEND

HRC NEW MEMBER FORM

Who We Are: The Human Rights Coalition (HRC) is a grass roots organization of prisoners' families, prisoners, returned citizens and supporters. HRC exists to advocate for prisoner's rights, to support families coping with the stress and hardships of having a loved one incarcerated, to challenge the punitive retributive nature of the penal system, and to work to transform that to a model of rehabilitation and successful reintegration to society. Our members and allies—both inside and outside the prison walls—share a common conviction in our hearts to fight injustice, and have no ulterior motive of personal profit to do so. We are truly motivated by the strength of our belief that we can build a movement for collective liberation and win!

How We Started: HRC was formed in 2001 by people held in solitary confinement at SCI-Greene, a SuperMax prison in Southwestern PA. The Human Rights Coalition had its first meeting outside of prison walls on June 4, 2001 at the house of the mother of one of the men who helped conceive the idea of HRC. The meeting was small and a mix of prisoners' family members and former prisoners. Many of those who attended felt powerless in the face of the prison administration and its institutional discrimination, abuse, and torture. Yet the lives and well being of their loved ones were at stake – something they could not turn their backs to. At the end of the meeting, however, there was a consensus that a great deal of powerful energy is lying untapped, in the constituency of former prisoners and prisoners' families in this country, and if mobilized this powerful energy could transform the prison system as we know it.

Our Vision: The prison system is based on a foundation of punishment, exploitation, corruption, and slavery. Most of the people in prison are poor, Black and Brown, urban, under-educated, and unemployed or under-employed before they were locked down. The modern prison reflects all the social inequalities in our society, and it does not work in its current incarnation. HRC's ultimate goal is to dismantle and abolish the prison system and replace it with a system based on accountability, safety, fairness, and resilience, while focusing on healing instead of punishing.

Our Structure: We are a community-based organization without paid staff. We are committed and dedicated organizers, but we are not lawyers or professional legal aid. We are comprised of prisoners, their family members and loved ones, returned citizens, and supporters. We have an Advisory Council (AC) of incarcerated people who are our inside members of HRC. Our AC guides our work by reporting on conditions inside the prison, connecting us with family members to build our base, strategizing for campaigns, and making important decisions about actions, events, coalitions and legislation to support.

The Human Rights Coalition has two chapters on the outside:

- HRC-Philly meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6-8pm, Philadelphia, PA (simply send us an email for the location)
Email: Info@hrcoalition.org; Facebook: Human Rights Coalition PA ; Website at: www.hrcoalition.org
- HRC-Pittsburgh/FedUP!
Email: sd4hrc@gmail.com Phone: [570-763-9504](tel:570-763-9504)

HRC is also a founding member of CADBI (Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration) a coalition building power to end LIFE without parole in PA.

- CADBI meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, Mosaic Community Church, 51st & Sansom. Philadelphia PA
Email: CADBIphilly@gmail.com Phone: 267-606-0324

Our Work: HRC is currently working on two central campaigns: 1. to abolish long-term solitary confinement and 2. to abolish death by incarceration (life without parole). We are working to advance legislation to limit the use of solitary, and to get parole eligibility for lifers after 15 years. We collaborate on these campaigns with the Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI), Decarcerate PA, Let's Get Free, Fight for Lifers, Global Women's Strike and several other organizations. HRC seeks to elevate the voices of prisoners and their families by publishing a quarterly newsletter, called 'The Movement', which is sent to 800+ prisoners throughout PA. HRC monitors and advocates against abuse inside the prisons through the maintenance of an Abuse Log and by corresponding with prisoners. HRC works to strengthen our movement, our organization's base, and our coalitions by taking collective action, organizing events for prisoner's families, doing political education, and fighting back against political repression for those struggling for their human rights.

FOR EVERY PERSON READING THIS:

HRC Needs Your Help!

The Human Rights Coalition is currently looking to strengthen our work by expanding our base of active members. We need your help to expand our organization and build a movement strong enough to abolish prison slavery and end mass incarceration.

We want to reach out to and connect with family members of incarcerated people. If you are incarcerated and have any loved ones on the outside that you think might be interested in joining HRC...

Send them this form!



If you want to **JOIN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION**,
fill out this form and mail to: **ATTN: NEW MEMBERSHIP**
Human Rights Coalition, PO Box 34580, Philadelphia PA 19101

OR

Email us at: Info@hrcoalition.org

OR

Visit our website at: www.hrcoaliton.org

OR

Facebook

OR

Attend our regular meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

HELP US BUILD THE MOVEMENT FOR PRISONER'S HUMAN RIGHTS

I want to be a Member of the Human Rights Coalition

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

What aspect of our work do you think you can help with? _____

I am in agreement with HRC's vision and pledge to support their work to the best of my abilities.

Your Signature: _____

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

The Cost of “LACK” of Medical Care in PA DOC

My name is John J. Richards, I am currently incarcerated here at SCI-Coal Township, and have been down since June 2005. Through the years I have had different medical surgeries. But since my heart attack in 2013 my chronic heart condition has been on decline. Since transferring here to SCI-Coal in 2016, I have been diagnosed with an ascending thoracic aortic aneurysm, and a defective aortic heart valve that leaks blood back into the heart effecting the function of my heart. Since 2016 I was being “monitored very closely” due to the serious nature of my diagnosis. I had a team of cardiac surgeons and cardiologists that I had to see at Geisinger Medical Center (GMC) in Danville, PA. But lately it seems that all my scheduled appointments at GMC have been delayed, interfered with, and stopped by SCI-Coal. When I questioned as to why, the answer that was given was “it was costing too much, and they need to cut costs”. My daily life’s activities have been a struggle, do to my condition worsening. I just got bad news that the aortic aneurysm is growing larger, after a test was done here at SCI-Coal. I was told I will need major surgery on both the defective heart valve and the aortic aneurysm, but it seems that according to PA DOC and SCI-Coal it is not at the point of being “LIFE THREATENING”. If it were not, I would not have had a team of cardiologist and surgeons monitoring me closely.

Along with this I have lost significant sight in my right eye, do to a torn retina and severe swelling and bleeding in the eye. I was also under treatment at a laser eye clinic in Pottsville for pre-opt treatment to help with the bleeding and swelling of tissue prior to surgery, but yet again, SCI-Coal has delayed, interrupted, and interfered with my pre-op treatment, costing me precious time and now my vision has deteriorated significantly to were I have almost no vision in the right eye; and, I question whether it can be saved.

I was sentenced to do time for my crime, not to suffer cruel and unusual punishment at the hands of the PA DOC and the health care services. What is the cost of my heart and eye, while the DOC tries to save \$\$\$?

What will the ultimate price be paid for my crime while incarcerated here for the LACK of medical care?

Sincerely,

John J. Richards, #KD1617, SCI-Coal Township

From Omar Askia Ali,

In a letter from Ms. Shavonnia Corbin-Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, she states that the Lt. Governor and the Board of Pardons are aware of the continuously aging population and that they are doing their best to reach out to them especially lifers and are asking them to apply for pardons. This also goes for prisoners who are terminally ill. She also informed inmates that while they cannot guarantee everyone’s release, they are compassionate enough to realize this is an important issue; and, they are also looking for meritorious lifers and are putting an extra emphasis on the elders and terminally ill.

Sabin Sober, D.A.B.: 11-21-51
 Age: 66
 Incarcerated Since 2004,
 Second Degree Murders,
 Life Sentence...
 Chronic Care,
 Lung Disease, "A.C.P.D.",
 Im Not Recieveing
 Proper Care.
 Their Just Waiting For
 me To Expire.



exonerated prisoners who were wrongfully imprisoned and convicted of a crime that they didn't actually commit, should be



Robert Bishop AF5266, DOB 8-8-52, Incarcerated 5-11-74

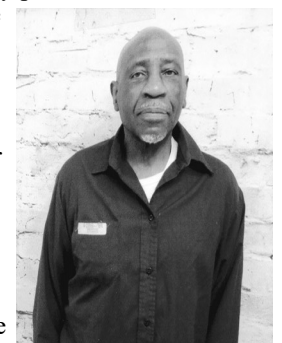
able to sue. The Central Park Five rape was a highly visible case of this sort. The conviction of the five Black and Latino teenagers who had been accused of the rape and beating of the white female jogger in 1989 (a prime example of our nations' punitive ideology) was subsequently exonerated in 2003. Donald J. Trump in 1989 made



Vincent Wallace KU-8033

harsh comments about the young boys; and now, as President of the United States has remained unapologetic about his comments.

There is credence that a segment of law enforcers have staged wrongful convictions of individuals. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was unjustly incarcerated more than 29 times for this anti-social behavior during his lifetime. And not once did any District Attorney or any prosecutor make one step forward to assist Dr. King or exonerate him. Therein once any prisoner is blessed to obtain their release and able to undo the psychological slavery of misconceptions and transcend their abnormal actions and become a person who is able to transcend their difficulties and become a productive asset in the endeavor to eradicate the ills of our society, prisons will not longer be a part of his/her life. Prisons are a businessperson's dream because a stationary clientele is big business. This is why there are very few rich people in prison, mostly are the poor. THINK WHO IS REALLY GETTING PAID PLAYER?



Omar Askia Ali, AF0814, Unjustly Incarcerated since 1971

Fraternally yours, Omar Askia Ali

3/24/2020

Compassion for the elderly

By TyRee M Rivers #DK2865

CORONAVIRUS IN PA'S PRISONS COULD PROVE CATASTROPHIC! -- In light of our current world wide "COVID19 PANDEMIC", Pennsylvania's Prison system now faces the new threat of a very critical health care emergency that's never been seen, or witnessed before. As of right now, and by the grace of God, institutions like SCI Dallas, and the D.O.C have been very proactive in implementing strategic precautions to help prevent COVID19 from entering and/or spreading through out the states prison population. However, with the wide spread of this DEADLY CORONAVIRUS throughout the world, it's not a matter of "if the virus will hit the Pennsylvania State Prisons", but rather "when the virus will hit our State Prisons"?

Based on extremely close quarters ('cell block' living arrangements) limited medical resources such ventilators, mask, bed spacing on prison medical wards, and absolutely no current cure for this deadly virus. It's a nightmare to imagine how hard the CORONA VIRUS will affect many of the inmates currently serving time in a Pennsylvania State Correctional Institute!

Our incarcerated (elderly who are terminally ill) with diseases like STAGE THREE CANCER, are projected to suffer a huge blow! For cases like theirs, I think that an executive order of compassionate release should be strongly considered. Such a proactive consideration should be taken into account considering "when we get hit", we can at least have them home with family, or in some special hospice care where they can be afforded adequate medical treatment, additional bed space, and breathing ventilators.

To those healthy in society, I encourage you all to take COVID19 extremely serious and be sure to exercise all safety precautions to HELP STOP COVID19 FROM KILLING SO MANY!

Jan. 3, 2020
From: Robert Pezzeca #DX1148
Email: robertpezzeca@gmail.com
Smart Comm/Pa DOC
SCI Forest
Po Box 33028
St. Petersburg, Fl 33733

I woke up this morning (Jan. 3, 2020) to see the face of a man I knew, Joseph Gacha, on the news. This man wasn't my friend. I barely knew him, he worked with me in the SCI-Dallas maintenance repair shop for maybe a month. He is moved to SCI-Fayette, fights with a cellie and dies at the hands of staff.

This is the 2nd PA state prisoner who has died at the hands of staff. What about Tyrone Briggs who was killed at the hands of staff in Mahanoy in November? When is anyone going to start speaking up about prisoners being murdered?

There was a big outrage over the young lifer who fought with the sergeant at SCI-Somerset, over this *one* incident, Secretary Wetzel decided to cave into guards' (former) Union President Jason Bloom, and take everyone's' Timberland boots. It was a ridiculous decision but Bloom went to Republican Sate Representative Carl Metzgar to apply pressure to Wetzel. What happens? We all know, everyone loses their boots with no compensation. One hundred (\$100) for boots in here is a lot. What were they replaced with, low top Columbia shoes that are garbage. My feet still get soaking wet in the rain and puddles on the walkways here in SCI-Forest.

My point is, when will staff be held accountable? Has everyone seen that prisoner in SCI-Mercer was murdered by his cellmate, while in the RHU. This was in Nov. or Dec. 2019. He was strangled to death with a bed sheet. Did the DOC go around and take the bed sheets? No. Is the new union president on the news calling bed sheets an "instrument of death" like Bloom did with the boots?

We prisoners need someone to lobby for us? Let us not forget that the DOC gets away with doing whatever they want because Sec. Wetzel answers to no one except Governor Wolf. We need to begin to take all of our issues directly to the Governor himself. There are no agencies that oversee the DOC and how it is being run. Wetzel is doing a terrible job keeping inmates safe. What are the incentives to behave? You're not letting us out. We don't get any incentives to behave. Staff are literally getting away with murder right now; two prisoners have died at the hands of staff in under sixty days. This is a pattern of abuse that we need to speak up about. The DOC has been getting away with abusing inmates for many, many, decades. Now is the time to reach out to every democrat in legislature and get them to ask the hard questions; they have the power to take these issues to the Governor.

What sickens me is they just had breaking news on the local Pittsburgh news of how a state prison inmate assaulted two officers and the prison is on lockdown due to a dangerous inmate. But when Tyrone Briggs was killed by staff, we saw nothing, when Gacha was killed by staff, it was a brief news bit. Speak up, tell these people that WE MATTER TOO. Prisoners Lives Matter!

On another note, I am working with a reporter from Spotlight PA to do articles on lifer organizations in prison, the good that men do. These articles will hopefully be published in all major PA newspapers and I will do my best to include every lifer organization in PA. Eight lifers created the lifers org in SCI-

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Smithfield, they are: Tyree Wallace, Robert Pezzeca, Daryl “Snook” Williams, released juvenile lifer John Thompson, Ed Monroe, Christopher Berry, Kevin Sullivan, and Saleem. And though I left Smithfield in Dec. 2015, I hear that the organization that I helped create, is thriving. Tyree was a great leader, president and friend. For anyone else, besides those eight men, to claim they created this lifers organization, it would be wrong.

Akeem Hutchinson

2-24-2020

I am writing to you guys again to let yall know that my max out date (March 20 2020) is coming up and this is serious to not only me, but for a lot of other people that’s stuck in these torture chambers.

Before I go into the reason I am writing today, I will like to say thank you guys for being here in my time of need. When I thought it was the end of the world, your magazine slide through my door and that always brightened my day up. And even though I can’t donate no money to yall at the moment, yall will be hearing from me soon after my return, and this is why:

Impair – to make worse; to diminish in quality, value, excellence, or strength; to deteriorate.

I came into the prison system in 2011, and to tell you the truth I was a “normal person” who made a mistake as a young man of 19 years old. (12 days after my 19th birthday, which is on September 7, 1991.)

Now today is February 25, 2020 and the person I am today is worse than I have ever been. First I am horribly disfigured on both arms by self-mutilation with razors and sharp objects; second my mind is all over the place and this is all due to the restricted housing unit, 24 hour lockdown, solitary confinement, the Department of Corrections torture chambers.

And the crazy thing is I can prove it. Even though I am a nice looking young man (6’2”, light skin with a nice build) my arms are cut up bad to the point it will make you cry and the thing is this, I have did years in the hole (restricted housing unit) but I don’t pose no threat to anybody, I have never been in a fight or anything, and all my times I been in the hole was for my mental health issues because they weren’t giving me mental health treatment in general population at no jails.

Without mental health treatment I end up in the restricted housing unit for months at a time, and while in the restricted housing unit I start to hurt myself. But the DOC keeps saying it’s not a mental health concern because they are trying to get outta my 1983 lawsuit that is filed against them, (Akeem Hutchinson v. Overmyer).

I have been in the restricted housing unit since August 14, 2019 because I got caught with a weapon (a knife and a lock) and I was telling staff that I needed to be on the mental health unit because of me being paranoid and having hallucinations and other mental health issues. I thought somebody was after me (the staff) but they weren’t and that’s why I am in the restricted housing unit today.

I did my 30 days from August 14, 2019—September 14, 2019 and instead of putting me back in population they placed me on AC status (because of my 1983 lawsuit I was getting help in population) for 90 days and when I wrote to the courts about it they called a meeting on October 23, 2019 on camera in front my judge.

At this meeting staff admitted losing all my in cell property (when I went on ATA) and they admitted to a lot of other things such as:

- Not feeding me because I will be screaming out the door during tray pass out
- No showers for over 90 days
- No yard for over 90 days
- They admitted that I kicked and screamed all day

These things they admitted to the judge on record but nothing was done because they are saying I am being held in the restricted housing unit because I pose a threat to the general population! The psych department (Mr. Cowan) stated I told him that will continue to carry a weapon; he stated this on file. Now that’s a lie, then he stated after the fact that I told the whole PRC this lie and it’s not true at all.

That was the only way they could keep me in the restricted housing unit, so I couldn’t receive any help on my lawsuit in general population, which my whole lawsuit is about them keeping me in the restricted housing unit too long and me harming myself in the hole.

My last suicide attempt was on January 21, 2019. The officer (Bakewell) gave me a razor while I was on razor restriction and I swallowed it. They took me to POC. But first I went through the scanner and they stated they didn’t see the razor. I went through the scanner eight times in all and they still didn’t see it (they claimed). After being released from POC I tried to kill myself in the shower. I was taken back through the scanner (three times) and they didn’t “see” the razor. I got to POC and four days later I handed over the razor to the officer. They tried to act like they didn’t see the razor on the scanner.

As of now my lawsuit is on hold because I filed a “motion to stay civil” and it was granted and my judge put my case on hold until May 18, 2020.

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So as you can see, I'm not just sitting around. The Department is going to release me to the streets on a uneven foundation, with no help at all because they say they "don't think" I'm mentally ill. I have requested to be sent to a mental health hospital but was denied that.

My family is here for me, and I wish yall would be too. I am the perfect person to use for what you are trying to do, and I'm willing to help. . . Remember my release date is on March 20, 2020 will see yall soon.

Divided and Conquered

**Critical poverty even before I learned to walk
You can hear the torture when I speak
I have recognized the forbidden fruit of temptation
And that's why they don't love me unconditionally**

**If you divide the mother from the child that's the treasure
The guidance that a father has was the gold
The old from the youth was the sickness
Society took our real history outta the schools**

**Dependency on your crumbs was our weakness
Compromising our principles was the key
Separation and isolating our families increased the killings
Leaving us hungry for justice and emotionally deceived**

**Our ignorance for education has been demonstrated
Technology has manipulated generations into separation
Perfecting your victory over leaving us feeling abandoned
I'm not recognizing why millions of distracted
People don't see your hatred.**

**Contaminated souls desperately fighting for their freedom
While millions are brainwashed into slavery
Violations, massacres from mass shooting are today's love
And that's why nobody is coming to save me.**

By Akeem Hutchinson

A Life Worth Living

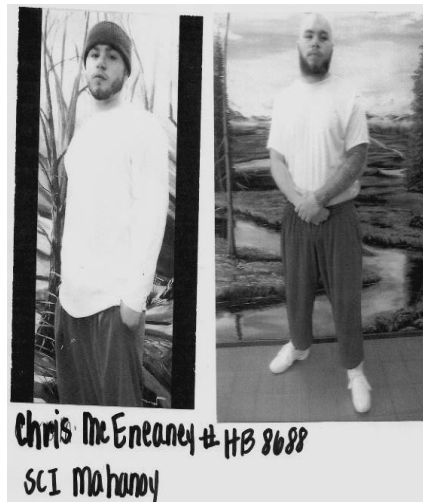
By Chris McEneaney

I know I am where I am today because of the decisions I made in the past. I also know that where I end up tomorrow depend on the decisions I make today.

I am committed to making the right decisions. I had to grow up in prison and it gave me the time to review my life, my behavior, and who I wanted to be. Coming to prison as a child made me grow up fast. I choose to follow a path of change. I used my time to grow as a person regardless of the negative around me. The path I choose was effective and for it to be effective I had to accept responsibility for my actions and my life. Once I began to accept responsibility for the pain I've caused, for the dreams I've crushed and the lives I destroyed, I was able to take an honest accounting of who I was.

But it is important to know that if it was not for the love of my family, who believed in me and still saw that my life had value, I don't think change would be possible for me. Everyone gave up on me. The court system threw me away and told me that I had no redeeming qualities and that my life should be spent behind concrete walls and heavy steel doors of a prison cell.

This devastated me and I began to write. I released my pain and frustration through words, and I healed through inspiration, motivation, and education. I took the time to learn who I was as a person and found principles and foundation to build myself on as a man.





Abolishing Prisons

I'm a prison abolitionist, and so are most others who have given the Human Rights Coalition (HRC) their support throughout the years. But the concept of abolition has too often been ignored as wishful thinking. Many people consider prison abolition to be unrealistic or impractical. But that's only because most people aren't pushing their minds to where they were created to go. As children, we all had hopes and dreams; and those dreams seemed very possible to accomplish. As we get older, our worldview is narrowed as the result of our experiences and failures. Still, if you're an advocate of prisoner's rights, you must also be an advocate for human rights. These two concepts can never be mutually exclusive, because in order to be a prisoner, one must first be recognized as a human being. This is the same principle that Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized towards the end of his life, when he stated that, "Before one can acquire civil rights, one must first acquire human rights." Sadly, it was that epiphany which led to his assassination.

While prisoners seek to make their living environment on the inside as agreeable as humanly possible, there is no way to make prison humane. Human beings weren't built to be locked away in cages. Under no circumstance is this acceptable. We understand that Rome wasn't built in a day--and neither will the destruction of prisons take place very quickly. However, one can't seek to acquire "a little bit of freedom". Its either all or nothing. Consequently, all prisoner rights activists, must also be prison abolitionists. If not, then you hold the belief that prisons can be humane and can also exist. Similarly, when we look at the institution of slavery, one can't be an advocate for the rights of slaves, while not also being an advocate for the rights of humans. And if one is an advocate for human rights, then one believes that no human being should ever be owned by another human being. It is this ideology which brought destruction to that institution.

Under no condition is slavery humane.

Today, the Prison Industrial Complex is most often compared to the institution of slavery--and rightly so. There isn't one single humane component attached to the existence of prisons. Therefore, if one believes that--under any circumstance--prisons are an appropriate response to crime, one is either miseducated or an imposter.

After making this argument, the common response is something like this: "If prisons shouldn't exist, where do we put people who commit crimes?"

First, we don't "put" people anywhere.

Crime is always a response to more profound underlying social issues. Hence, crime is a disease, which not only can be treated, but prevented, the same way that physical/mental ailments can be treated and prevented. And those treatments and preventative measures don't involve prisons.

Politicians today are begrudgingly acknowledging that sending nonviolent offenders to prison, is causing significant harm on society. But in the same breath, they state that prison is the proper response to those who commit violent crimes. I, and many others, disagree.

If nonviolent offenders can be treated through diversion programs and the like, so can violent offenders, because violent offenses are always committed for the same reasons that nonviolent offenses are committed.

Following much study and debate on this issue, I have concluded that violence falls into one or more of five categories:

- 1) Economic Violence;
- 2) Domestic Violence;
- 3) Hate Crime Violence;
- 4) Mentally Ill Violence; and
- 5) Mischievous Youth Violence.

Economic Violence results from a person's depressed economic conditions, and causes that person to commit crimes which will ultimately bring upon the desired financial relief. Domestic Violence is a result of miseducation, anger management, PTSD, and possible psychological issues. Hate Crime Violence is the result of cultural miseducation, anger management issues, and possible mental health issues. Mentally Ill Violence is the result of untreated/mismanaged mental health issues. Mischievous Youth Violence is the result of the immature, underdeveloped mind of a young person.

All of these causes of violence can--and should--be treated through the same processes that nonviolent crimes are treated. No act of violence is senseless or meaningless. Each of these acts of violence have reasoning inside of the mind of those who commit them.

For example, Economic Violence can be treated through the creation of economic opportunities, such as jobs, education, and the real prospect of a high quality of life. Domestic Violence can be treated through therapy, counseling, education, and the same intense programs that are used for those addicted to drugs. Hate Crime Violence can be treated through real cultural sensitivity programs and education. Mentally Ill Violence can be treated through medication and other treatment programs. Mischievous Youth Violence can be treated through leadership programs and community engagement.

There is no such thing as a "complete cure" to any ill which society has been battling from its inception. And I realize that the skeptics will go to extremes to point out any flaw in such a bold and progressive concept. But even cynics must acknowledge that prisons haven't created a safer and humane society. Any new approach to crime and punishment in America, must be done so

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under the premise of true restorative justice, understanding, and love.

For too long, the answer to crime in America has been punishment, absent any focus on restoration. And while some nations and states have put progressive measures in place to remedy the crime epidemic, Pennsylvania has remained behind the pack in most regards. People like Jennifer Storm, head of the Office of Victim's Advocate, are on a perpetual mission to thwart the restoration of millions of people impacted by crime. She does so by denying the humanity of incarcerated people.

Even now, she fails to admit the reality of dual victimization--as if people who commit crimes can't also be victims of crimes themselves. In fact, studies prove that most violent offenders were once victims of violent crime. What makes the situation with Jennifer Storm even more critical, is that her organization is also a sanctioned branch of Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections. And the PADO has continuously allowed her to interfere with the lives of prisoners in this state, by giving her the power to decide which prisoners are involved in certain programs and events which aid in rehabilitation. Her office is even allowed to sit on the board of the commutation committee, although any victim of the offender's crime is usually present.

Let me be clear, Jennifer Storm is no more an advocate for the rights victims, as Elmer Fudd is an advocate for the rights of Buggs Bunny.

How can society move forward while still holding on to the anger, hatred, and want for revenge that is inherent to people like Jennifer Storm?

I believe that people understand the inhumanity and indignity of prisons. But as it stands, the financial benefits of prison have far outweighed the desire to destroy the pic. It will take more than a protracted struggle to win the fight to abolish prisons. We must continue to attack the ideologies which justify this institution's existence; we must continue to expose the inhumanity of prisons, while also exhibiting the dying humanity of the millions of human beings forced to survive under these barbaric and sadistic conditions.

How is this conversation any different from the one that surrounded the abolition of slavery?

Prisons are designed to break human beings. Those broken human beings are then released into society, to break others. By all accounts, that is the most accurate definition of genocide. I urge all prisoner rights advocates to rethink your ideology. If you don't support total abolition, you're a part of the problem.

Sergio Hyland FX1537
SCI Chester
FaceBook: Serg Uptown Scribe
IG: uptownserg

Woman Locked Disabled 27-Year-Old in Bathroom for 1 Year, Police Say

"It's horrendous. Most of us have kids, and to see someone being treated like this, it's just not right"

By Rudy Chinchilla March 12, 2020

Pennsville Police Department

A caregiver in New Jersey faces reckless endangerment charges after police say they found a mentally disabled, malnourished 27-year-old woman who had been locked in a windowless bathroom for nearly a year.

Lisa Bullock-DeLorenzo, 42, is charged with endangering the welfare of a disabled person, criminal restraint and related charges after officers found the 27-year-old woman with only a towel and a bowl of food inside the 5x8-foot bathroom Wednesday morning, Pennsville Police Department Chief Allen Cummings said.

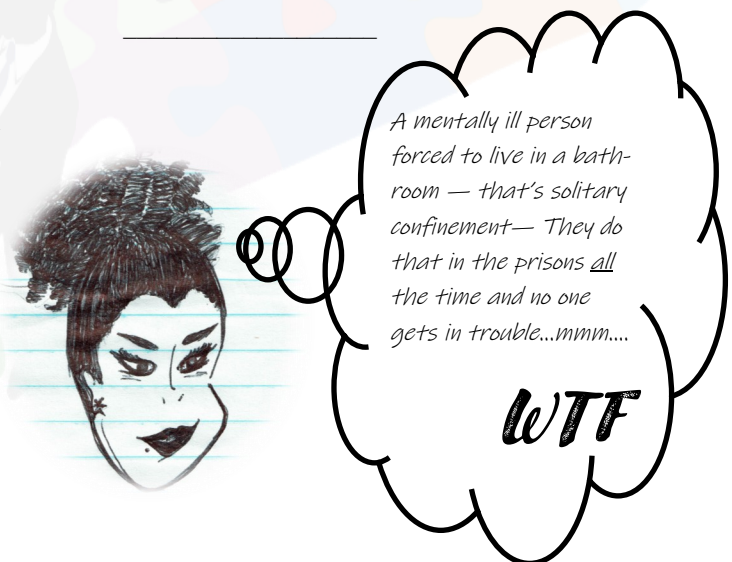
Bullock-DeLorenzo had been living in the home on Riviera Drive with the woman, a 30-year-old man who also has mental disabilities, and two brothers in their 20s, Cummings said. She had apparently adopted all four after their original adoptive mother died of cancer, Cummings said.

When officers and a Salem County Office of Aging and Disabilities employee arrived, they found the 27-year-old in the bathroom, which also had a non-working toilet, the chief said, adding that she was forced to use diapers to relieve herself.

"It's horrendous. Most of us have kids, and to see someone being treated like this, it's just not right," Cummings said.

The 27-year-old was taken from the home and was being treated at a hospital. The 30-year-old man was also removed from the home.

Bullock-DeLorenzo was released pending a court appearance. It was unclear if she had retained an attorney.





David Irby, 31

- From Philadelphia

On January 30th, 2020 David Irby was found dead in his cell by an unknown Correctional Officer (C.O.) at S.C.I. Fayette on L-Block, B-Unit in cell 2017. Several inmates on that solitary confinement cell block, including Reginald West and Bleck Essence, reported the event.

In Reggie's words, "During the 3rd shift around

10:14pm on January 30th, inmate David warned [unknown] C.O. who made his first round on the shift that he was feeling suicidal and that he was cold because the guards on second shift came into his cell to search and took all of his property because he was talking back to them after a C.O. was calling him names. The 3rd shift guard paid the inmate no mind, so inmate David pressed his emergency cell button to make officer know in the bubble how he was feeling, but no one answered his call button.

So around 10:44pm I witnessed an [unknown] officer make a round and stopped at inmate David's cell #2010 and **noticed inmate David hanging from something in his cell.** This officer called inmate David's name multiple times, but inmate David was unresponsive. [Unknown] officer called for another officer to join him. When the other officer made it to inmate David's cell, the officer had a can of O.C. (Oleoresin capsicum) spray in his hand, and **opened inmate David's cell and started to spray the whole can into David's cell.** When [unknown] officer saw that David wasn't responding, the officer went and got another can of O.C. spray and sprayed it until it was empty. Then both officers called for more back up. **The whole process took about 10 minutes or so before they ended up going into David's cell to get him down from hanging.**

Medical was called and David was laid on the floor outside of his cell door. While the Lt. and nurses was pressing on his chest and hooking some type of machine to him trying to bring him back to life.

David Irby was already dead when they brought him out of his cell, but I actually found out today, this morning, on January 31st, 2020 Friday that he had died. David was a seriously mentally ill brotha, who they had on R.R.L. (Restricted Release List) with me and the other brothers over on this unit, but the psych team and the administration never took his mental health conditions seriously, just as they don't show any concern to none of us that is locked down on this unit in solitary confinement in general.

Just like they went about causing the death of David, they basically treat a lot of us like that here. Taking our property, denying us recreation, shower, law library, and sometimes food.

So yea, this is what goes on, and what has happened. **Mr. David is from the city of Philadelphia.** I don't have any info to contact his family members to let them know what was going on and how **these people went about in pushing him to his death.** They didn't have to spray two cans of O.C. spray in his cell while he was already hanging from the light in the middle of the cell. It was no need for that. **If they would have went in there when they first saw him hanging from his light, Mr. David would not have died...** So whatever you guys could do to bring this matter to the attention of the public about what is going on here at SCI-Fayette solitary confinement, Please do so... Thank you for your time and concern.

In solidarity, Reggie."

If you want to read the "Official" story about David Irby's death go to: <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/crime-courts/2020/02/03/pennsylvania-state-prison-inmate-death-possible-suicide-fayette-county-uniontown/stories/202002030095>

The lies they spew in this article about "officers trying to help" David Irby are despicable.

The prison system killed David Irby. We will not stand for this slavery and genocide. SCI Fayette is a DEATH CAMP.
#ShutDownFayette #SolidarityNotSolitary

Until everyone is free...Straight ahead!

- Jackson



Note from the Editor: A subscription is needed for the Post Gazette article. However you may read the 'Times News Online' article, on page 36.

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Inmate from Carbon dead in Fayette prison

Published February 06, 2020

A Carbon County man who was serving a state prison term for aggravated assault was found dead in his cell of a suspected suicide on Jan. 31.

According to a news release from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Mark Capozza, superintendent at State Correctional Institution at Fayette reported the death of David Irby, 31.

A corrections officer conducting rounds found Irby unconscious in his cell. Officers provided immediate emergency first aid until medical staff arrived.

Irby was transferred by Brownsville Ambulance to Uniontown Hospital where he was pronounced dead just after midnight.

Irby was serving a five-year, eight-month to 14-year, four-month sentence for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on a Carbon County conviction.

According to previous articles published in the Times News, Irby pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated assault, two counts of simple assault and one count of aggravated harassment by a prisoner.

Irby was first arrested on Feb. 27, 2010, by state police at Fern Ridge for an incident at the Glenn Clark House, a Child First Services facility located along Route 903, in Albrightsville, Penn Forest Township.

He was at the home waiting to be placed into a supervised independent living program. Irby did not want to be there and made physical contact with two employees of the home.

He was placed in the county prison on those charges.

On April 6, at the county jail he struck a corrections officer after causing a disturbance in his cell. Other guards attempted to subdue Irby but he injured a second corrections officer before being restrained.

According to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Fayette County Coroner Phillip Reilly said he had preliminary information from Irby's autopsy, but he deferred to state police to release it. He said he was three to four weeks away from having a full report, which will include toxicology results.

The inmate's next-of-kin had been notified.

FROM: <https://www.tnonline.com/20200206/inmate-from-carbon-dead-in-fayette-prison/>

(Continued from page 6)

of the coronavirus outbreak, in Hubei, China, March 19. China Daily via Reuters

One woman flew to Beijing recently from the US, and might've hidden some of her symptoms from authorities before she tested positive for the coronavirus, according to Chinese tech news site Abacus.

"Beijing police said Monday that the woman is under investigation and could be charged for impairing the prevention and control of infectious diseases," Business Insider's Isobel Asher Hamilton reported.

"I feel believe it's important that we find the right balance between the maximum protection and minimum disruption to life," said Huang, who studied China's response to the 2003 SARS outbreak, which is widely critiqued. "It's good to do the aggressive testing and let people know you know how dangerous this virus is, but you don't want to create panic among the population and exert pressure to the existing system."

China's been lambasted in the past for its refusal to share information with its residents, and reports are emerging about the ways the Chinese government appeared to try and smother early talk about the new coronaviruses. "Effective communication and information sharing with the public is also crucial," said Huang.

FROM: Business Insider - <https://www.businessinsider.com/chinas-coronavirus-quarantines-other-countries-arent-ready-2020-3#people-who-thought-they-might-have-the-coronavirus-could-go-to-one-of-the-nations-many-fever-clinics-5>



By Joshua Vaughn Feb 13, 2020

Life and Loss: A Son Sentenced to Die in a Pennsylvania Prison

An Appeal documentary on life without the possibility of parole—and its impact on loved ones—in the state.

In 1993, Antoinette Osei's oldest son, Jay, was arrested and charged with murder in Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. He was ultimately sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Within two months of Jay's arrest, Osei left her home in Pittsburgh with her youngest son, Ron, and moved to Georgia. She barely spoke about Jay to anyone other than her family for more than two decades. Now, nearly 30 years later, Osei is back in Pittsburgh, advocating for the roughly 5,400 people sentenced who, like Jay, are sentenced to grow old and die in prison.

"I just pray one that day he could be free and that everybody can hear his story, you know?" Osei said. "Give him a chance to tell his story."

In 1976, fewer than 700 people were serving life without the possibility of parole sentences in Pennsylvania. By 2018, that number had ballooned to more than 5,400 people.

"We still have to understand that when somebody is serving life without parole, that there is a family who is also being harmed in that," Celeste Trusty, Pennsylvania state policy director for Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), told The Appeal. "And we need to start bringing those two sides together because it's not an us versus them thing."

Since 1995, only 25 people have received commutations from life sentences in the state. More than half have occurred since Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, a Democrat, took office in 2019. Fetterman ran in part on a platform of revitalizing the commutations process.

"Mercy must be a partner of justice," Fetterman told The Appeal. Forgiveness and redemption, he said, are a major part of our society's philosophy. "And why would we want it to be removed from our criminal justice system where it is perhaps needed more than anywhere else?"

Mercy must be a partner of justice - John Fetterman, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania

In November, Democratic state Senator Sharif Street reintroduced a bill that would for the first time provide parole eligibility for people convicted of first- and second-degree murder. SB 942 is a companion bill of HB 135, introduced by state Representative Jason Dawkins, a Democrat. Both bills face steep opposition, including from the state Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm, and have seen little movement in the legislature. Storm publicly opposes any bill that provides parole eligibility for anyone convicted of first-degree murder and anyone currently serving a life without the possibility of parole sentence.

"Don't just put [people] in a box and leave them there and say, okay, we solved the problem," Osei said. "Because just putting them in a box and forgetting about them, that's not helping the situation at all. It's just making it worse."

The Responsibilities of Forgiveness

By Bray "Jibril" Murray

I write here for the first time, IN RESPONSE to the remarks of VICTIM RIGHTS EXPERT "Jennifer Storm" (that was published in ISSUE #38 of the THE MOVEMENT on page 4), where she stated: "*How do we balance the need for necessary reform with the inherent need for safety, justice and —yes—retribution?*"

I (like most Lifers serving sentences, WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE), do not personally know Jennifer Storm, and can't speak to the underlying motives of her comments. And, even though some of my fellow Lifers may assume Ms. Storm's comments to be self-serving, one must grudgingly admit that she raises a valid question, that we as Lifers must give serious consideration to, and seek to answer and resolve. That is, if we (who are still incarcerated) hope to one day re-join and reintegrate into the communities (that we ONCE caused so much havoc, grief and pain in).

In my opinion, the answer and solution to Ms. Storm's question will never reveal itself to us, unless and until we (as Lifers) embrace FORGIVENESS and the tremendous RESPONSIBILITIES that comes with it. Hence, if a Lifer has not yet come to FORGIVE him or herself for the previous life they had violently ended, nor are remorseful for it, then certainly they can't realistically expect forgiveness, compassion and leniency from others.

Neither, will the Lifers, who are UNABLE to embrace FORGIVENESS, etc., be alleviated of the tremendous guilt they must bear in their head everyday. To best understand what I mean, I would like to acquaint THE MOVEMENT's readership with a lesson in forgiveness, from the late Tammi Bakker.

Everyone remembers Tammi Baker as the wife to the Pioneer Televangelist Jim Bakker, and during one of their televised sermons Tammi dropped some wisdom on the subject: "The Burden of Sin". In which, she equated it with the punishment and retribution visited upon a man or woman for murder, under the Ancient Talmudic laws of the tribes of Israel.

According to Ms. Bakker, a man or woman guilty of murder, was banished from the tribe into the wilderness WITH THE BODY OF THEIR MURDERED VICTIM FIRMLY TIED OR STRAPPED TO THEIR BACK. Hence, forcing the murderer to bear the burden of their sin/crime, while wandering in the wilderness.

For most, Ms. Bakker further explained, the weight of their sin (or victim's body) eventually exact justice on the murderer by

What's The News!

Former Montgomery County jail guards sentenced for roles in violent 2017 inmate assaults

by Vinny Vella, January 6, 2020

Two former Montgomery County corrections officers were sentenced Monday for their roles in assaulting two inmates, and one of them is heading to the jail he previously patrolled.

Darin Collins, 54, and Alfred Gregory, 35, appeared before County Court Judge William R. Carpenter in Norristown nearly three years after they attacked inmates Derrick Houlihan and Matthew Ruffings.

Both had been convicted in October after a contentious legal saga that included a retrial after a jury couldn't reach consensus on charges some of their codefendants faced. Four other former prison guards were charged in the assaults, but were acquitted.

Gregory was found guilty of simple assault and official oppression, but the jury cleared him of more serious charges, including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

In a statement to Carpenter, Gregory said he believed his actions were justified. He said he used physical force to "keep individuals who I consider family safe."

Video played during the trial showed that Houlihan, who wears a prosthetic leg, suffered two broken ribs, cuts, and bruises, and did not fight back.

Gregory's attorney, Brendan Campbell, asked Carpenter on Monday for probation, but the judge sentenced Gregory to one to 23 months in the county jail, followed by two years' probation. Carpenter said his decision was influenced by footage showing Gregory as the most brutal of the officers who attacked Houlihan, displaying conduct that he called "completely outrageous."

"This is not your average simple assault conviction," Carpenter said. "This is the assault by a prison guard of a one-legged man."

Collins, a lieutenant at the time of the 2017 assaults, was sentenced to two years of

probation. He, like Gregory, was found guilty of official oppression, and spared from more serious charges by the jury.

As a supervisor who worked his way up at the jail over 30 years, Collins was chastised by prosecutors for allowing the assaults to happen and for attempting to cover them up with inaccurate reports and conflicting statements to investigators.

First Assistant District Attorney Ed McCann, the lead prosecutor on the case, said Gregory and Collins showed little remorse for their actions even as they faced their sentences.

"They're a stain on law enforcement, trying to wrap themselves in their badge and duty," McCann said in court. "The truth is that by what they did here ... people like Mr. Gregory make the job harder for everyone else."

Houlihan, incarcerated at the county jail on a drug charge, was attacked inside his cell in February 2017, the day after he had an argument with Collins and other corrections staff about trash in an inmate common area, according to court documents.

He was punched and kicked by a group that included Gregory and Collins, who then took him to get medical treatment, but did not allow him to put on his prosthetic and forced him to hop on his one leg, according to a grand jury presentment in the case.

After being treated, and while being escorted back to his cell, Houlihan was grabbed by one of the guards, who tried to remove Houlihan's bloodstained shirt and appeared to choke him with it. Other guards, including Gregory, then punched and kicked Houlihan on the ground, the presentment states.

The grand jury stressed that Gregory was "particularly aggressive," stomping on Houlihan with his full body weight and later kicking Houlihan's prosthetic leg into another room.

Ruffings, who was awaiting trial on aggravated assault and gun offenses, told authorities that after he questioned an order by one of the officers who assaulted Houlihan, he was assaulted the next morning in his cell by a group that included Gregory and Collins. He suffered a broken nose and bruising to his face, according to court records.

FROM: <https://www.inquirer.com/news/montgomery-county-jail-assault-darin-collins-alfred-gregory-sentencing-20200106.html>

(Continued from page 39)

causing his or her death in the wilderness. However, in the very rare case that the sinner survives his or her divinely decreed punishment, then the same Talmudic law also decreed that they be forgiven, and allowed to rejoin the tribe.

It has often been said, "that for every physical act there is a spiritual counterpart." And although, I and other Lifers have not been forced to carry the actual dead body of our victim(s) strapped to our back (during these long decades of exile into incarceration), we have however, had to carry the guilt of our sin (that we killed another human being) in the deepest chambers of our heart and mind.

Which is, in deed, a tremendous burden to bear, that has and always will torment us, and exact contrition from the Lifer; whether he or she is free or still in captivity. Thus, I remind my fellow Lifers that "FORGIVENESS" of self, and from others specifically, is a weighty responsibility demanding great sacrifice and service from us all. For it is written, "to whom much is given, much [more] is expected" for the Lifer to prove all naysayers (like Jennifer Storm) wrong. Especially, those Lifers currently on parole.

In closing, I would like to thank the Editorial Staff of "THE MOVEMENT" News Magazine for providing the incarcerated (everywhere) a platform to air their grievances, and share their revolutionary ideals of how we can "SET AT LIBERTY" the hundreds and thousands of poor/disenfranchised men and women victimized by the Prison Industrial Complex. Also, I extend my thanks to all the members of the HCR for their selfless service and sacrifices in the struggle to secure freedom, justice and equality for oppress people everywhere.

Bray "Jibril" Murray/#CG-8958/SCI-DALLAS
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THE MOVEMENT

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What's The News!

Theophalis Wilson outside the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Court Date/Release Date 1/21/2020



Theophalis Wilson was released on Tuesday after a Philadelphia court vacated his wrongful conviction and dismissed all charges against him. He is the 12th person exonerated by District Attorney Larry Krasner's Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU).

In 1992, Mr. Wilson was arrested for killing three people in North Philadelphia. The crime occurred in 1989, when Mr. Wilson was just 17 years old. He and his 29-year-old co-defendant, Christopher Williams, were convicted in 1993. Mr. Wilson was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole and Mr. Williams was sentenced to death.

As the Philadelphia Inquirer reported, the prosecution's case turned on the testimony of James White, a six-time convicted first-degree murderer who claimed to be an accomplice in the murders. Prosecutors admitted in a court filing in 2001 that they had no case against Mr. Wilson or Mr. Williams "unless the jury believed White."

At a 2013 hearing in Mr. Williams's case, James White admitted that he lied at trial in exchange for a plea agreement to avoid the death penalty. Forensics experts also testified that the physical evidence discredited Mr. White's story that the three men were shot and pushed out of a mov-

ing van. The court granted Mr. Williams a new trial because his trial lawyer failed to present this expert evidence, which "would likely have changed the jury's mind" about believing Mr. White and resulted in acquittal.

But even after its crucial witness was completely discredited, the District Attorney's Office planned to retry Mr. Williams. In response to pretrial discovery requests, prosecutors steadfastly refused to turn over their case file to the defense.

More than half of wrongful convictions can be traced to witnesses who lied in court or made false accusations. False testimony by jailhouse informants is especially common in death penalty cases.

"Everything that goes wrong in the criminal system goes wrong worse in capital cases," Robert Dunham, a former federal defender in Pennsylvania who heads the Death Penalty Information Center, told the Inquirer. "Generally speaking, the more high-profile a case is, the more prone it is to government misconduct. There is greater public pressure and greater political pressure to solve the case and to convict somebody. There is greater political gain to a prosecutor who has ambitions beyond his office."

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson spent years trying to challenge his conviction without legal help. He managed to get his case into court only after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down mandatory life-without-parole sentences for children in *Miller v. Alabama*, entitling Mr. Wilson to a resentencing hearing—and a lawyer. Mr. Wilson persuaded his resentencing lawyer to help file his innocence claim, which prompted the CIU to open a review of both his case and Mr. Williams's in May 2018.

Last March, the CIU gave defense lawyers over 40,000 pages of documents from the prosecutor's file that had never been disclosed. Lawyers told the Inquirer the files revealed "a catalog of deep problems in Pennsylvania's legal system, [including] concealed evidence, undisclosed deals in exchange for testimony, corrupt relationships with informants, and a direly inadequate system of appointing and funding defense counsel that doomed both men to decades in prison."

CIU chief Patricia Cummings asked the court to drop the charges against Mr. Williams because evidence in the file confirmed that Mr. White's testimony was false and there was no other evidence against Mr. Williams or Mr. Wilson. The court granted that request in December.

Citing Philadelphia prosecutors' violation of *Brady v. Maryland*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision requiring prosecutors to disclose evidence that's helpful to the defense, the CIU also moved to withdraw all charges against Mr. Wilson.

"For decades and with some frequency, it appears that the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office failed to comply with its obligations in regard to *Brady*," Ms. Cummings wrote in a filing in Mr. Wilson's case, which she described as a "perfect storm" of injustice. "Wilson's trial was infected by serious prosecutorial misconduct, *Brady* violations, a critical witness who supplied false testimony, and ineffective assistance of counsel."

"It is time for Mr. Wilson to be allowed to go home — that he go home a free man, and that he go home with an apology," Ms. Cummings argued in court on Tuesday. "No words can express what we put these people through. What we put Mr. Wilson through. What we put his family through."

The trial court found that Mr. Wilson's right to due process, effective counsel, and any material exculpatory evidence in his case had been violated and ordered that he be released immediately.

(Continued on page 42)

What's The News!

(Continued from page 41)

"This is a great day," Mr. Wilson, now 48, said outside the courthouse. "Now we got to go back and get the other guys. There's a lot of innocent people in jail."

FROM: <https://eji.org/news/theophalis-wilson-exonerated-after-28-years-in-pennsylvania-prison/>

What Nathaniel Woods' Sister Told Alabama's Governor After His Execution

Pamela Woods tells Gov. Kay Ivey: 'You Killed My Brother'

Written by BET Staff

After Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey allowed



Nathaniel Woods execution despite wide protest pointing out evidence of his innocence, his distraught sister confronted her in public over it.

The Montgomery Advertiser [reports](#) on Thursday (March 12), while Ivey was giving a press interview on Thursday, **Pamela Woods** calmly approached Ivey and said, "I'm the sister of Nathaniel Woods. You killed my brother. Gov. Ivey, you killed my brother."

Ivey was quickly shuffled away by her aides as Woods continued, "He's an innocent man and you killed him."

Woods told reporters, "He had bad legal counsel. That's the only thing that went wrong in his case... These were dirty cops, everyone in Ensley knows this, eve-

ryone knows this. So why? Why execute an innocent man?"

Nathaniel Woods was executed in Alabama on March 6, despite a temporary stay of execution and pleas to reconsider the evidence against him in a case that drew wide attention, the [Advertiser reported](#).

Woods, was pronounced dead at 9:01 p.m. at the William C. Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, Alabama just hours after the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a temporary stay while being reviewed by justices.

He was convicted for the June 2004 murders of three Birmingham, Alabama police officers, **Carlos Owen, Harley A. Chisolm III, and Charles R. Bennett**. Woods did not kill the cops himself, prosecutors conceded, but was labeled an accomplice to the crime — an offense punishable by death in Alabama. However, Kerry Spencer, Woods friend and co-defendant in the case, says he is the one who fired the gun that claimed the officers' lives.

Ivey said in a statement on the execution: "Under Alabama law, someone who helps kill a police officer is just as guilty as the person who directly commits the crime," she said. "Since 1983, Alabama has executed two individuals for being an accomplice to capital murder."

Woods' family had protested in front of the Alabama State House and the attorney general's office on Wednesday. Pamela Woods said she would continue to speak out against the execution of her brother.

"I want them to abolish the death penalty," she told the Advertiser. "I want it completely gone. You're executing people who are innocent and they're not even looking through the information of the case. This is an irreversible decision. You can't bring him back."

FROM: <https://www.bet.com/news/national/2020/03/13/nathaniel-woods--sister-told-alabamas-governor-after-his-executi.html>

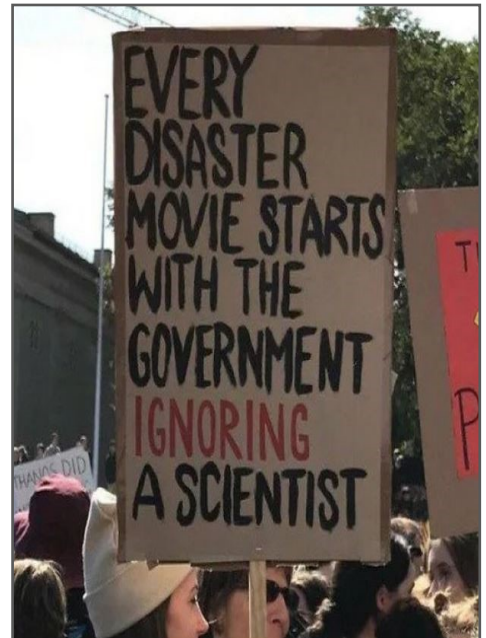
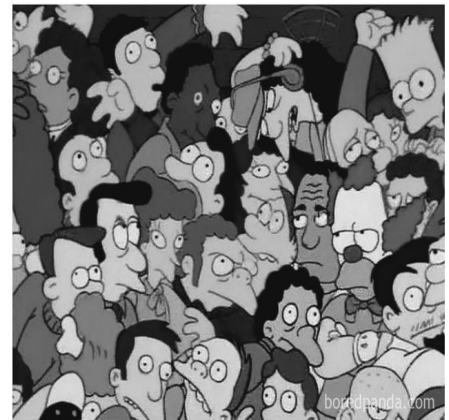
(Continued from page 43)

Seeing the outcome for Alvarado gave a measure of hope to Yvonne Newkirk, an activist whose own daughter, Stacey Newkirk-Small, is serving a life sentence. Newkirk teared up watching the court proceedings in Alvarado's case. "It means someone cares to take the time to look into a process that's flawed."

COVID-19

PLEASE AVOID MASS GATHERINGS

Grocery stores 10 minutes later:



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What's The News!

A Philly woman was in prison for life. Villanova students, and one weird coincidence, helped get her out.

by Samantha Melamed, Updated: March 30, 2020

In the 1990s, sociologist Jill McCorkel began interviewing women in prison just as their numbers began to explode — not because women were committing more crimes, but because of mandatory minimums that extended harsh sentences even to those with peripheral involvement in a case.

What she found, over and over, was "women not fully understanding the criminal-justice process, and being leveraged by police and by prosecutors against the men in their lives. Often, they won't give information because they're scared of the guy or in love, and then they end up getting hit with charges in a retaliatory fashion."

Now a professor of sociology and criminology at Villanova University, McCorkel is waging an uphill fight to reverse that trend, working with students to correct what she sees as disproportionate sentencing for many women. They're examining female lifers' cases, one by one, helping some of them file applications for commutation — just a dozen women in Pennsylvania have received that relief in the last half-century — and others by reinvestigating in order to unearth grounds for future appeals.

On one of the last March days before the courts closed and students scattered under threat of the coronavirus, they finally got a break in their first case: Cynthia Alvarado, who had served more than 11 years of a life sentence, was ordered released, a win that resulted from tireless legal work, the Villanova team's advocacy, and one wild coincidence.

In 2008, addicted to Xanax, Alvarado had driven her cousin Oscar to Fairhill Square Park to buy drugs. But while she waited in the car, Oscar pulled out a gun — and in the melee that followed he fired into a crowd. He jumped into the car, and Al-

varado sped away. She did not learn until later that a bystander, a woman named Marta Martinez, was killed.

A witness, a woman who had been in the car with them, testified at the trial that Alvarado had urged her cousin to use the gun. With that evidence, she was charged with second-degree murder, or participating in a felony — Oscar's gunpoint robbery of a drug dealer — that resulted in a death.

The jurors hesitated, skeptical of the witness. They repeatedly asked about the definition of "accomplice liability," and whether helping after the fact could count. The judge assured them it could, and both cousins were sentenced to life without parole.

That verdict was overturned in federal court last year, based on that flawed jury instruction. And the District Attorney's Office offered a deal: Alvarado could plead guilty to third-degree murder, and get 11 to 22 years in prison.

Then, McCorkel wrote a letter — as did her husband, Brad Mellinger, who was, it turns out, the inquisitive juror who kept sending the judge questions about the nature of accomplice liability. He was shocked when, years later, McCorkel showed him the docket and he learned Alvarado had been sentenced to life.

"I was convinced that she was not guilty of conspiracy," Mellinger wrote, calling the sentence an "unjust" outcome.

"The only way I was willing to consider her guilty via accomplice liability was if her assistance to her co-defendant after the shooting, in and of itself, would qualify."

McCorkel's letter focused on the research she and the teams of students in her classes conducted. That included walking through the decade-old crime scene to assess whether witnesses' accounts were plausible given the terrain (they were skeptical). They also raised questions about witnesses interviewed by a detective who was later fired after he was found to have tampered with evidence. And, they challenged the credibility of the key witness against Alvarado, a woman who had received a deal for probation on her own

criminal charges after testifying in the case.

On March 11, Alvarado, 39, pleaded guilty to murder and robbery — in exchange for a new deal that would result in her immediate release from prison.

The next day, just as the city was beginning a slow, coronavirus shutdown, Alvarado was home after 11 years in prison. She was now a grandmother, her daughters grown up.

She joined McCorkel for lunch at a restaurant with sweeping city views, then made her way toward the probation office to check in. Alvarado admitted she'd thrown out the first letter McCorkel sent her in prison. "I thought it was someone just trying to ride the wave of mass incarceration," she said.

But when McCorkel wrote again, explaining more about the project and her family's own odd connection to the case, Alvarado said, "I was crying, it was surreal. After that, it just seemed like amazing things started happening, with everything her and her students were able to obtain."

"I feel like when Dr. McCorkel speaks, people listen," she said.

At her sentencing, dozens of students were in the courtroom, alongside Alvarado's siblings, her friends, and her two daughters.

Anna DalCortivo, 24, flew back on spring break from graduate school at the University of Minnesota to witness it. "I think there was a lot of injustice," said DalCortivo, who had worked on the case as an undergraduate at Villanova, "so it was important for me to show my support for her and her family, and to help bring her home."

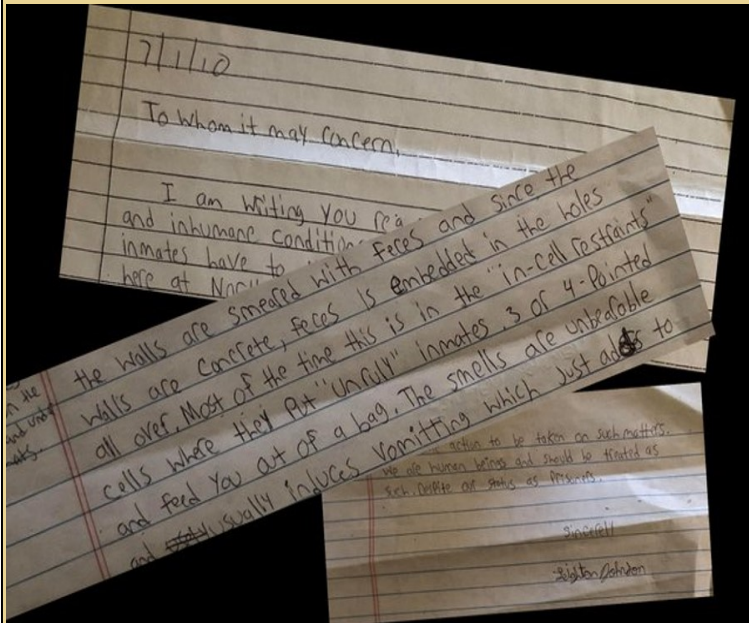
Susan Lin, Alvarado's lawyer, said it's hard to say exactly what role the students' advocacy played in the case. But the emotional support — including reentry planning and identifying mental-health and other service providers — was crucial. "It made a difference that she had a community of people to come back to," she said.

(Continued on page 42)

If any prisoner, family member, or community activist would like to submit an article that is critical of the state and county prison systems, courts, D.A. offices, police, capitalist corporate America, and the government, just forward your article to the HRC's Newsletter Department for possible printing.

The Growing Fight Against Solitary Confinement

Public outrage over the practice has spurred many states to curb its use.



Michelle Chen ,January 13, 2020

Leighton Johnson's 2010 letter from a Connecticut prison documented systematic human rights abuses in the prison.

In July 2010, Leighton Johnson wrote a letter to advocacy groups, calling attention to the horrors he had witnessed in solitary confinement in a supermax prison in Connecticut.

"There are so many things that are going on in this building that are unjust, inhumane and basic violations of our rights. But we have no voice," Johnson wrote. "I'm hoping this will open some eyes and cause some action to be taken . . . We are human beings and should be treated as such, despite our status as prisoners."

Johnson, who recently recited the letter in a phone interview from New Haven, is no longer imprisoned. But his plea—asking to be treated as a human being—still resonates in a growing debate about reforming a practice widely regarded around the world as torture.

The power of solitary confinement lies in its ability to exert extraordinary violence without a single touch—in fact,

that's the point. Denied meaningful human interaction and fresh air in a barren cell typically just large enough to turn around in, for nearly twenty-four hours a day, for weeks, months, and even years, people experience agony through isolation.

Johnson, who spent several years of his decade-long sentence in solitary, said prison staff provoked people to stir up conflict and make them miserable and angry as possible, and ignored requests for medical or mental health treatment or legal documents. He described the putrid air, "filthy" medical clinic, and shower smeared with urine, feces, and semen.

But in the years since Johnson wrote his letter, growing public outrage over the practice spurred many states, including New Jersey, Washington, and even solid red states like Texas, Nebraska, and Arkansas, to pass reforms to curb the use of solitary confinement, often focused on restricting the use of solitary for "vulnerable" groups—usually more sympathetic populations, such as juveniles.

Still, the practice remains entrenched in the nation's carceral infrastructure. While there are no firm statistics on the use of solitary nationwide, one study estimated that, in 2012, there were 89,199 people being held in solitary, about 69,000 in state and federal prisons and rest in local jails.

"We think of solitary confinement as the handmaiden of over-incarceration," says Amy Fettig, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project. While the practice represents the most extreme form of imprisonment, she adds, "It is a symptom of an entire set of institutions that are deeply, deeply broken."

Inmates subjected to solitary, most of whom will eventually be released, suffer extraordinary death and suicide rates and chronic physical and mental health problems after leaving prison, and often end up concentrated in communities starved of social services.

A recent study by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that in the two weeks following release from the North Carolina state prison system, people who have spent any time in solitary confinement or "restrictive housing" were significantly more likely than the general prison population to die by opioid overdose. In the year after release, homicide or suicide mortality rates

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overall were higher in the solitary confinement population. There was also a high rate of recidivism—returning people to the environment that traumatized them in the first place.

Then there are those who never get out, who take their lives while in solitary.

“I’ve been in situations where people have actually killed themselves right next door to me,” says Johnson, recalling a man who managed to hang himself while officers were not looking. Now thirty-five, he is working with Stop Solitary: Connecticut. In mid-December, the group called on the state to end its use of solitary confinement.

Johnson, reflecting on the several years he spent cycling in and out of solitary, frames his appeal around universal rights, regardless of a person’s sentence: “I committed a crime, and I deserved prison time. But that doesn’t mean that while I’m doing my prison time that I should be treated as less than a human in inhumane conditions.”

Historically, the widespread use of solitary coincides with the expansion of torture tactics in the prison system in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, solitary typically takes the form of “administrative segregation”—separation from the general population due to a perceived risk of violence, escape or some other safety concern. However, it is often used as a disciplinary response to an infraction, which might simply involve disobeying an officer’s orders.

According to the Vera Institute’s analysis of solitary confinement in several states, most of the inmates in solitary were there for disciplinary segregation. People of color and those with mental illnesses were disproportionately represented.

Cesar Villa was sentenced to solitary confinement at the notorious Pelican Bay prison in California based on a charge that he was affiliated with a gang. In 2013, his twelfth year in the prison’s Security Housing Unit, he reflected on what the experience had done to him: “My psyche had changed—I would never be the same. The ability to hold a single good thought left me, as easily as if it was a simple shift of wind sifting over tired, battered bones.”

“Other than the death penalty, long-term solitary confinement is the worst thing that can legally be done to a person in this country,” says Jean Casella, co-founder of the advocacy group Solitary Watch, in an interview with *The Progressive*. Such prolonged, frequent, punitive detentions in solitary contravene the so-called “Mandela Rules”—internationally recognized human rights standards that require the minimal use of the practice, and never against people with serious mental illness, nor as a form of “collective punishment.”

Solitary Watch reported that in 2011 “nearly all of the 1,100 men in the [segregation unit] at Pelican Bay State Prison had been in solitary for five years or more,” some

for as many as twenty years. The dire conditions prompted a major lawsuit led by the Center for Constitutional Rights, along with widespread hunger strikes and protests in 2013, which eventually paved the way for significant restrictions on the use of solitary. A settlement with the state that effectively [prompted many releases](#) from solitary, as well as an agreement to overhaul restrictive housing policies.

Fettig says confronting the harms of solitary means facing some of the most brutal aspects of prison culture and “really reimagining the way we do corrections and the way we do law enforcement in this country.” Enhancing mental-health treatment programs, providing a socially supportive setting for all incarcerated individuals, and strengthening programs for people preparing for reentry into the community, would help tamp down the stressors that current cause violent or disruptive behavior.

And, in the long run, advocates want to reduce overall incarceration by fundamentally changing the legal and law enforcement systems to focus less on punishment and more on therapeutic, rehabilitative intervention, and stable housing and jobs.

In the meantime, the use of solitary is being gradually reduced, state by state.

New Jersey recently passed a law that restricts the use of “isolated confinement” to no more than twenty days, and only for people between the ages of twenty-one and sixty-five. It also bans its use for inmates who are pregnant, postpartum, LGBTQ, or deemed to have a serious medical or psychological condition. The law, which applies to both prisons and jails, also directs the prison system to provide recreational and rehabilitative interventions during the short time when people in solitary are allowed out of their cells.

In 2019, Nebraska also passed a similar law to restrict the use of solitary for vulnerable populations, including minors in adult prisons. Now activists are campaigning to end solitary in juvenile detention, where youth of color are heavily overrepresented. “Young Nebraskans in the juvenile justice system need education, treatment, and rehabilitation,” says Scout Richters, legal and policy counsel for ACLU Nebraska, “and we know that isolating children, whose brains are still developing, undermines these goals.”

Cultural change among the prison workforce is a more complex challenge. California and Colorado have hired more mental-health staff and trained jail officers to treat inmates more humanely and to deescalate potential conflicts in order to minimize solitary confinement. But there has been resistance from corrections officer unions, which insist solitary is a necessary safeguard for staff. Following a ban on solitary for people between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one in local jails, New York City’s Correction

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Officers' Benevolent Association petitioned the city's Board of Collective Bargaining to allow for the use of solitary, citing a recent 25 percent spike in violence between jail inmates (even though research shows no link between violence rising and decreased use of solitary).

Despite some backlash, Bonnie Kerness, director of the American Friends Service Committee's Prison Watch, which helped lead the campaign for the New Jersey legislation, says public opposition to solitary confinement is rising steadily, with some aiming to rid society of prisons altogether. She acknowledges the limitations of the legislation—it restricts the use of solitary but does not fully end the practice or substantially improve conditions within restricted housing. But she notes that the more radical activists driving the campaign see “abolishing the use of solitary confinement as a first step to abolishing the use of prisons as we know them.”

The conversation in Congress is now shifting as well. After the passage of a major sentencing reform bill in 2018 and years of steady reductions in the national prison population, two federal bills have been introduced to overhaul standards for solitary confinement. The more expansive proposal, which would deal with state as well as federal prisons, declares that “a prisoner may be placed in solitary confinement only under extreme emergency circumstanc-

es, as a last resort, for as short a time as possible, subject to independent review.”

But nationwide reform seems unlikely for now, under a Republican administration and a conservative Supreme Court.

Johnson, for his part, still suffers from the trauma of his time in solitary. Part of his recovery is taking part in the movement to defeat the practice.

“I made promises to people when I was inside that I wasn't going to stop fighting,” he says. He recalls that, after sending his letter, when he realized that advocates on the outside were campaigning to help him, “I said, you know, I'm going to do the same thing once I get home for people who are still in there . . . You know how many people inside don't know that we out here doing this fight right now?”

Michelle Chen

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FROM: The Progressive: <https://progressive.org/dispatches/the-growing-fight-against-solitary-confinement-chen-200113/>

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