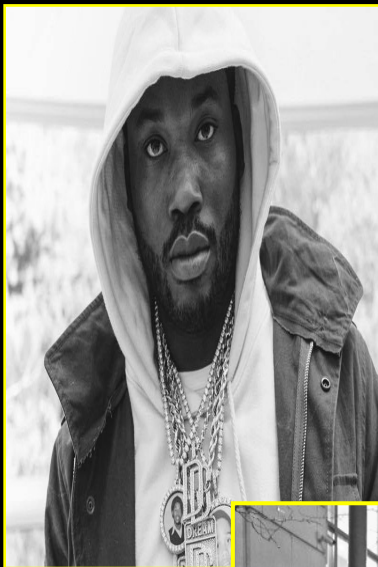


THE MOVEMENT

Human Rights Coalition
Dedicated to Protecting the
HUMAN RIGHTS of All!

Spring 2018
Issue #34

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



**Above
Meek Mill,
victim of
corrupt
cops in**

JUSTICE FOR CORRUPT COP VICTIMS!! FREE MEEK MILL!

Beginning on page 19



**Top & right: Support-
ers of Meek Mill's
FREEDOM**

"It's not just about Meek Mill. It's for every single person locked up in these cages that can't have a news camera, that don't have expensive attorneys," stated Temple University Prof.



Call Me By My True Name

I've dropped thousands of bodies
In the Land of the Free
Tens of thousands maybe, but who's counting?
PA to CA
I tie 'em up
Trunk 'em in broad day
Drive 'em to the mountains
Drag 'em inside walls
Swallow 'em vertical
Chew 'em up
Spit 'em out decades later
Horizontal
No tranquilizers, heart-stoppers,
3-drug cocktails let loose in IVs
No gurneys, leather straps, witnesses
Just years
And years
And years

Isn't it ironic—they call me *Life*?
Hal
Activists, lawyers, *abolitionists* fight for me
I'm more humane, they say
More moral, more just
With life there's hope, they tell ya'll
They tell themselves

Why not call me by my true name?
I kill
I murder
Mostly Black, Brown, poor
I'm legal
I can
Go ahead, call me Death By Incarceration
DBI
Maybe then it won't be so easy
I could use a good fight
Go ahead
Call me by my true name
Maybe then I'll change my ways
Just maybe.

Felix "Phill" Rosado, DB-0028
Box 244
Graterford, PA 19426-0244

Phill is a member of Right 2 Redemption, Decarcerate PA, and Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration, cofounder of Let's Circle Up, and co-coordinator of the Alternatives to Violence Project at Graterford Prison

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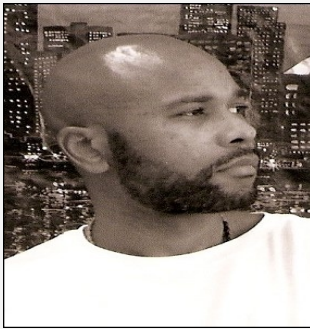
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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



Bro. Shakaboona,
Co-Editor
Email: Shaka-
boona41@gmail.com

Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to The Movement magazine. I recommend that every person read the book 'Our Enemies In Blue: Police and Power in America, 3rd Ed.' by Kristian Williams. Reading this book will teach you the true history and role of police in America, why Black Lives Don't Matter to police, and how we can make police obsolete.

The Philadelphia police department is yet again embroiled in a corruption (crime) scandal involving more than 67 cops that engaged in criminal activities that had been placed on the District Attorney (D.A.) Office's secret "Do not call" list. The corrupt cops were engaging in criminal acts of drug dealing, extortion, robbery, burglary, assault, prostitution, planting evidence, falsifying police reports, perjury (testiLying), D.U.I., domestic violence, and more. The cops' criminal charges on their police records read like a criminal's police rap sheet.

The corrupt cops were/are well-known to the Philly police department, its Internal Affairs Division, and the Philly D.A.'s Office. Yet no cops were fired, arrested, or their criminal acts made known to the Philly news media and public. Instead, the corrupt cops were protected by

the political establishment and released from any accountability whatsoever.

For this reason the D.A. Office compiled a secret list of corrupt cops not to be called to court to testify as the state's witnesses. Were those known corrupt cops to be used as witnesses, and their criminal police histories ever exposed to the public, the Philly D.A. Office would be faced with an epic criminal scandal that would cause thousands of criminal convictions to be overturned and vacated. But now the cat is out of the bag—finally.

Here's the hypocrisy of the whole damn system. Why haven't the Philly police department fired the corrupt cops? Why haven't the Philly D.A. Office prosecuted the corrupt cops? Why haven't the Black-run Philly government and their wealthy Caucasian benefactors called for "tougher laws", "arrests and convictions", and "long prison terms" for the 67 corrupt cops? Why haven't the Philly newspapers screamed "Bloody Mary" and yelled "the sky is falling" over the corrupt cops' criminal predations on Black and Latino/a neighborhoods? Why isn't the Philly political establishment red-faced and up-in-arms over the criminal actions of corrupt cops like they are when a 16 year old Black kid from North Philly commits a crime? Isn't the cops' crime worse than the crime committed by the Black teen? Why the silence from the infamous city of "Law and Order"?

Most importantly is the question of freedom for the thousands of men, women, and juveniles serving time in state prisons for the criminal actions of more than 67 corrupt cops. Will the innocent and unduly convicted people in prison be FREED?

Wake up! Read 'Our Enemies In Blue' and lets make police obsolete.

Your Brother and Servant,
Kerry 'Shakaboona' Marshall, Co-Editor



Also known as Winnie Mandela, was a South African anti-apartheid activist and politician, and the ex-wife of Nelson Mandela.

Winnie Madikizela- Mandela

Mother of the Nation, South African Activist.



Born: September 26, 1936, Bizana, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Died: April 2, 2018, Milpark Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa

Resting place: Fourways Memorial Park Cemetery

Grandchildren: Zoleka Mandela, Prince Cedza Dlamini, MORE

Children: Zenani Mandela, Zindziswa Mandela

RIP

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

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[illegible]

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I want to support the Human Rights Coalition by giving a Donation!

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City/State/Zip Code: _____

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Donation Amount: _____ **\$10.00 - \$25.00**
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 _____ **\$100.00 or above**

Families, we rely on member support, any gift you make above \$25.00 helps us a great deal.
Please make checks payable to the Human Rights Coalition and mail donations to HRC,
4134 Lancaster Ave, Phila., PA 19104, ATTENTION: Charitable Donations.

Timberland Boots Not the Problem!

DOC banning Timberland Boots after unprovoked attack on prison guards.



I've read several articles concerning the hero, prison guard, 61-year-old, Sgt. Baserman, who died 11 days after an unprovoked attack where he was punched and kicked by a prisoner.

After reading the news articles describing what happened, I had a wave of feelings. I felt sympathy for the Baserman and Kendrick families. My heart trembled; because I, too, have a son in prison.

I also had a rush of questions like, What if this were my son who attacked a guard? If so, what exactly, is an "unprovoked" attack – because personally I don't believe such a thing exist. The bigger question, for me, would be what happened to and what *is* happening to my son? And then again, what caused this unprovoked attack? Anger swept through me; I was infuriated that this type of tragedy has happened (yet, again) and the only solution or preventive alternative is to confiscate and destroy all Timberland boots. Did I read this correctly?

"The minute we learned of this unprovoked, brutal attack on Sgt. Baserman and another officer who came to his aid our hearts sank," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said in a statement. "We are greatly saddened by Sgt. Baserman's death and our thoughts are with his family at this time." From: The Morning Call, February 26, 2018, 'Pennsylvania prison guard dies after alleged attack over towel'.

My jaw dropped when I read that statement from the president of the Prison Guards Union demanding that all Timberland boots be confiscated and destroyed; and a similar demand from **State Representative Frank Burns** for answers concerning what foot wear prisoners are allowed to wear and when the clothing rules were last reviewed. I was perplexed because of all the demands, of all of the questions and answers concerning this horror, the only thing they questioned was foot wear. Really?

What about the prisoner? The only mention of the prisoner, Paul Kendrick, that I read was:

... "Kendrick was apprehended without incident and transferred the day after the attack to SCI-Huntingdon."



Paul Kendrick
22 years old

"Without incident"? Well that's peculiar. One minute he punching and kicking and the next minute there's nothing. But there was nothing said about the prisoner, nothing about his physical state. And nothing mentioned about his mental state. So I feel like I can safely assume that Mr. Kendrick was as sane as the majority of us. So the very next question that came to my mind - and it wasn't what type of boots he was wearing - was, *Why would a sane person attack a guard? And, more importantly, why isn't anyone asking that question?*

There has to be a reason. Why would this 22 year old young man attack a Sargent or any prison guard? Clearly from his photo he weighs a lot less than the Sargent. And surely, he knew that if he attacked this Sargent he would be extremely reprimanded and more than likely he would be charged and get more prison time. What drove him to, alone, take on not one but two prison guards? I'm just saying, no sane person attacks another person without being provoked and this is what needs to be investigated and corrected. What pushed this prisoner to the point-of-no-return.

There are two sides to every story and no one seems to give a damn about the other side of this story which is typical of our Department of Corrections also known as the penal system, a place where you are penalized over and over and over again; the penal system creates monsters to keep fear alive, so that

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

more and more prisons are built. Why? Because folks need jobs.

Let's look at this from another's point of view. Below, a prisoner at SCI-Somerset the prison where this tragedy took place, wrote a letter to the Human Rights Coalition.

Dear Sir/Madame:

Inmate Paul Kendrick was involved in a fight with an officer Mr. Baserman. Mr. Baserman went into a coma and died days later. However, at the day of the fight, Paul Kendrick was beaten while handcuffed to the point of near death himself and two of his legs were broken. And then he was emergency transferred to SCI-Huntingdon. At Huntingdon who knows what's happening to him.

Officer Baserman was a known and proud racist, oppressor, and abuser of inmates. Baserman had been harassing Kendrick for months, despite Kendrick's and other prisoner's complaints and grievance.

For years Somerset was a calm jail and then starting two years ago a staff started to verbally, physically and sexually abuse inmates in situation that involved no rule violations by inmates. Staff would literally tell people to "Shut the fuck up", "Fuck you", "Faggot", etc., when you would be walking or asking a question or directions to buildings. Also, they used "pepper spray" if you refused an order. An inmate got "peppered sprayed" for not picking up trash that was not his! All staff in general population carry pepper spray. And they carry pepper spray and use it not knowing who is medically opposed to it.

One inmate won \$800,000 lawsuit because staff at Somerset beat him and broke his arm while handcuffed. We need y'all help. These people are not from our community and culture, yet they are in custody of us? They hate us when we done nothing to them of their community. These prisons are racist, abusive, communities don't work, they literally have our lives in their hands of Nazi and racists. The incident between Paul Kendrick and Baserman is the result of that and this environment.

Finally, please check on Paul Kendrick and help us!

In addition to this letter, several calls have come in to HRC saying that the young boy only wanted to cover his cell to wash and use the toilet without the guards looking at him.

I now understand why there was no mention of Paul Kendrick who, as I write, lay hidden somewhere deep within the prison. I know now why "Kendrick was apprehended without incident"; it was because he was near death after being savagely beaten by the guards who broke both of his legs.

I feel deeply the pain that his mother, father, sister, brother, or maybe wife and/or children are suffering. I know that this family is going through hell wondering if their son is alive, crippled, maimed, or dead. They're bewildered and wondering, why? But the only thing the DOC wants to share is that the incident was definitely "unprovoked". They don't want us to know what they've done to this young man before or after his blow up.

The truth is, neither parties in this tragedy has hands that are squeaky clean. What I have to say to the Kendrick family is that your son is a human being and he reacted as any person would have after experiencing long-term bullying. I believe that people are not genetically bad, and every human life is valued equally, and that one is not superior to another because of their race, class, sexual orientation, title, or other differences.

The DOC needs to learn from prison riots, hunger strikes, and the killing of guards; prisoners do not riot because they're having a bad hair day. It is usually built up frustration from being ill-treated and de-humanized. Now we have a war zone.

I am utterly outraged that the only lesson SCI-Somerset has learned from this tragedy is that prisoners should not be allowed to wear Timberland boots.

By: Patricia M. Vickers

Note from the Editor: We, later, were informed that the Pennsylvania Prison Society looked in on Paul Kendricks and reported that he is stable and did not complain about broken legs.

WTF!



Girl yesss, we all know these cops is dirty eeeooww . . Oh. You meant the other dirty.

BY: PV&KB

Virtual Life Sentences

February 28, 2018

Dear HRC,

It is my fervent prayer that you and your colleagues are all found in the joy of revealed hope of the work that you do. You do not know me. But I have been a subscriber of "The Movement" for a while. After reading the Fall 2017- From the Desk of the Editor – I was compelled to share part of my story and struggle. I sit at the table with many of Graterford organizations that work on Life Without Parole issues and have many times requested that we include excessive sentencing (Virtual Life Sentences). It seems some of us speak about it on the surface, but not in real terms of advocating for the cause. There are some of us who raise the issue of virtual Life Sentences in spite of the lack of solidarity on the issue.

I want to keep this short and brief as to why I am writing and my interests. This is but a small perspective of my situation. I am serving an excessive sentence of 42 ½ to 102 years for 17 petty burglaries netting what was said to be no more than \$50,000 dollars. Found guilty by jury and sentenced by a hang judge by the name of Judge Angelo Guarino. I maintain a record of non-violent crimes and I am in my 30th year of my sentence. If I live past the remainder of my sentence I will be around 72 or 73 years of age.

At my Reconsideration Hearing the then D.A. Rayford Means, now Judge Rayford Means, told Judge Guarino that "the Commonwealth did not mean for this man to get that kind of sentence." The judge then replied, "What kind of sentence did you have in mind?" the D.A. responded, "20 to 40." My lawyer, Meade Spurio chided, "10 to 20." The judge then responded, "you can stop wrangling among yourselves gentlemen. He's going to get the sentence. I have hundreds of guys up state that have appeals against me. They go nowhere."

Hence, I have been attempting to galvanize a support for people serving Virtual Life Sentence. My definition of a Virtual Life Sentence is: **People eligible for parole but serving excessive sentences resulting in Death by Incarceration.** So I have been patiently waiting for someone to have this discussion or to take up this cause as it relates to people who have not committed murder, but are serving lengthy life sentences as a result of excessive sentencing.

Women and men who are serving Virtual Life Sentences are eligible for parole, but their chances of making parole is greatly reduced because as adults they are given sentences beyond the average span of one's life. Hence, they have been long forgotten in the struggle for reform(s). This form of punishment is a gross unjust violation of the Eighth Amendment based upon discrimination of sentencing one to a harsh punish-

ment regardless of one's proven rehabilitation and quality of life achievements, especially through the sentencing process.

The disparity of harsh sentences give out has long been in effect. Someone on Death Row is afforded an opportunity to have a lawyer throughout their sentence who could prove the sentence should be changed to Life without Parole or that they were wrongfully convicted. Many Death Row sentenced people have been and continue to be resentenced to Life sentences and set free from the harsher sentence of death. There is an object mercy implied no matter how long the sentence endures.

Virtual Life Sentences people are not afforded any form of mercy other than if they live long enough to make parole. Time bars impede the chances of changing illegal or excessive sentences and Sentence Modification laws close the door on any chance of reconsideration ten (10) days after sentencing.

People serving Life Without Parole face many obstacles both in court and when filing for Commutation. Since the "Get Tough on Crime" era, the door on Commutation has been tightly closed. Before this particular tough stance on crime, in 1978, some 278 Lifers had their sentences commuted with a successful period of not recommitting any crimes. However tightly the door was closed, a few people serving life sentences were commuted between the years 1981 and 2018.

On the contrary, people serving excessive Virtual Life Sentences who filed for Commutation have not once received Commutation during a more than forty-year span. Yet, women and men who are serving excessive Virtual Life sentences are among those serving Life without Parole who have demonstrated over a long period of time that they are rehabilitated. We are among those who contribute to the stability of the institutions that we are in, as well as being the counselors who embrace the mentally ill, those with assaultive behaviors and the suicidal, while contributing to the outside community. Yet, Virtual Life Sentenced people are the least discussed group as they relate to Criminal Justice Reform.

This is a very brief conversation that I pray leads to a greater conversation. I am among those who have no voice or platform from which to be heard. I am willing to dedicate my time and commitment to foreseeing Criminal Justice Reforms meted out equally across the board to those who are deserving of such mercy. I shall close now with the fondest of hope. I await your reply!

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Frederick Page
P.O. Box 244, BU2238
SCI-Graterford
Philadelphia, PA 19426

Gentrification and the Opioid Crisis in Kensington

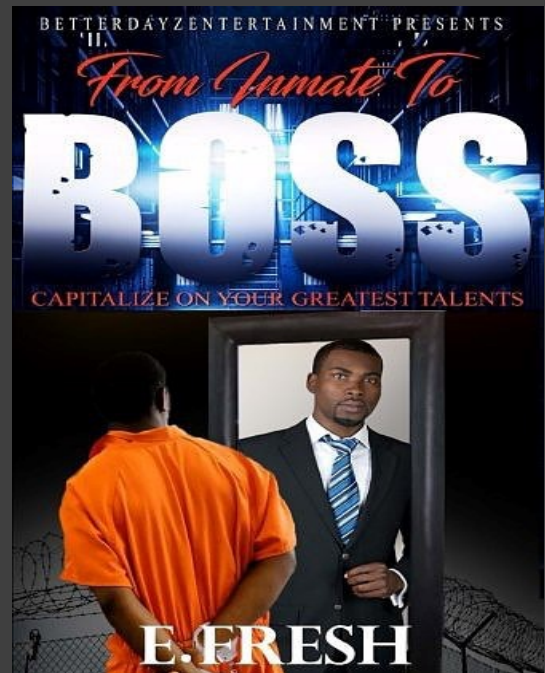
Philadelphia, PA—In Kensington, "El Campamento," was a supervised injection facility along a half-mile area between 2nd Street and Kensington Avenue that has been around for almost three decades and created a sense of community for addicts. For over 20 years, trained librarians and doctors have been on-site to administer over-dosing medicine, Narcan, and clean, fresh syringes were offered which prevented blood-borne illnesses. It was estimated that up to 200 people resided in the area every day. Many users described El Campamento as a safer injection site away from the police where people took care of each other and outreach workers stopped by regularly. Last June, city officials signed an agreement which stated that the city will "clean" the area and start constructing fences in an effort to prevent it from continuing to be a makeshift shooting gallery. At the end of July, El Campamento was shut down and Philadelphia lost the closest thing to a safe-injection site. Starting in mid-August, more police cars have been occupying the area around D and Cambria. Patrol cars have been on constant rotation at the five-way intersection for the last six months. But just a block away, one would have been at El Campamento.

Getty, a photographer who visited the site reported that "over 900 people died last year in Philadelphia from opioid overdoses, a 30 percent increase from 2015." Though many previous occupants of El Campamento expressed their desire to go to rehab, many people were not able to get covered for inpatient treatment. Following months of discussions between officials and rail company Conrail, contractors, patrolled by police, entered Kensington Avenue and worked their way up, throwing away an estimated 500,000 used needles, tearing down structures, and ultimately paving over El Campamento and installing concrete rubble beneath the bridges to fend off new camps.

Kensington was at one time a lively industrial area that people came to from around Philadelphia looking for work. As the manufacturing trades died away, employment rates and house prices fell, homes were deserted and boarded up and the drug trade came into the neighborhood. Then, people started coming from around the city, state, and country for heroin, and now those people have been driven out. Prior to the city forcing people to leave the area, the city moved residents out of McPherson Square, a small park on Kensington Avenue that had been a regular place that addicts went to. At the center of the square is where the local library is located. Librarians were being instructed in how to resuscitate overdosed users in the square. Unfortunately, the residents have now been forced out and El Campamento is no longer there.

By Rosa Nanasi Haas

New Book!



From Inmate to Boss

By E. Fresh

This book is a must for all readers. No matter if you are physically or mentally incarcerated, you are still an inmate to something or someone blocking you from reaching your full potential.

In these pages you'll discover the formula to getting out of your own way and letting no one or anything stop you from unleashing your true desires.

Within the pages of this book are the necessary steps to take for the greatest success. Many may say, what is the difference from this motivational book and the rest that are out there on the market? Well, this book acknowledges the incarcerated mindset for numerous individuals, no matter whatever the dilemma is.

From Inmate To Boss shows you how to make your goals come to fruition; how to master the necessary steps to achieving your desires; and how not to get in your own way and allow others to block your path for success. You will see how the author went from concept to networking; to earning money; to running a business while physically incarcerated. Lastly, you will learn how to capitalize on your own greatest talents.

Sold at: Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble / \$11.95

Winnie Mandela's complicated legacy — and how to honor it

By: K. Riva Levinson, Opinion Contributor —
04/17/18

Publication From: TheHill.com

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

Orlando Stadium overflowed in Johannesburg's Soweto township on Saturday, April 14, during the state funeral for anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the former wife of the late Nelson Mandela. Mourners from across the country and the continent, along with dignitaries from around the world, gathered to pay tribute to the "Mother of the Nation."

In a passionate eulogy, South African president Cyril Ramaphosa recounted:

"She was an African woman who — in her attitude, her words and her actions — defied the very premise of apartheid ideology and male superiority. She challenged the attitudes, norms, practices and social institutions that perpetuated — in ways both brutal and subtle — the inferior status of women. Loudly and without apology, she spoke truth to power."

"In death, she has brought us all together," Ramaphosa said.

But unity was hardly the sentiment voiced by Mandela's family and longtime supporters, who questioned the authenticity of the outpouring of emotion and asked why such widespread recognition and respect felt largely absent throughout Winnie Mandela's life.

The fiery debate over Winnie Mandela's legacy appears to have laid bare a fissure in South African society regarding the double standards imposed upon women. This is particularly the case following the recent airing of a documentary which uncovered a covert propaganda operation the Apartheid government staged against her. Known as Stratcom, its purpose was to divide her from her husband, reveal her infidelities, and to discredit and humiliate her. As a result, it has given new life to another important self-examination as South Africans discuss what extent a cul-

ture of patriarchy and misogyny played in her vilification.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's life was defined by both her marriage to Nelson Mandela and her rebellious approach to keep the anti-apartheid struggle alive after he was sent to Robben Island Prison. Upon his sentencing she declared: "They think, because they have put my husband on an island, that he will be forgotten. They are wrong. The harder they try to silence him, the louder I will become!"

During those intervening years, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was arrested several times and held in confinement. In addition to deprivation, she faced torture and was regularly terrorized by the Special Branches of the security forces, which kept her under a 24-hour intrusive surveillance.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela chose to fight back, and was willing to cross lines others stayed away from, including her support for the torture of "necklacing" suspected government collaborators — burning them alive by placing a tire doused with gasoline around their necks. She was repeatedly criticized for endorsing violence, most infamously in the case of her alleged involvement in the death of a 14 year-old boy at the hands of the Mandela United Football Club, her personal security detail. She later became estranged from Nelson Mandela and the revered Bishop Desmond Tutu.

In 1997, as South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was concluding nine days of testimony focusing on crimes attributed to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Tutu described her as "an icon of liberation" and a "stalwart of the struggle" in South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle, but recognized that "something went wrong — horribly, badly wrong." Later in day, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela offered an apology to the Commission, admitting that "things went horribly wrong" during "those painful years." In its final report, the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission ruled that Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was "politically and morally accountable for the gross violations of human rights committed" by the Mandela United Football Club. Since her death, there is a growing chorus suggesting that the lens through

which she was viewed and judged in life was unfair.

In a CNN column, Farai Gundan said, "The beasts of patriarchy and misogyny were deeply entrenched cultural practices and norms within all the races in South Africa," and add that, "the narrative on Madikizela-Mandela has been defined by white South African male anger in suppressing the African female expression."

In a speech to mourners on Saturday, Zenani Mandela-Dlamini, Madikizela-Mandela's daughter, was indignant. She promised not to forget those who defamed her mother. She lambasted the media for repeating lies of the apartheid propaganda machinery and called those who defended her mother in death "hypocrites." She asked the thousands assembled: "Why didn't you do the same with her male counterparts and remind the world of the many crimes they committed before they became saints? It is clear that South Africa and the world hold men and women to different standards of morality." "My mother is one of the many women who rose against patriarchy, prejudice and the might of a nuclear-armed state!" Zenani concluded.

In memoriam of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, whether one perceives her to be victim or villain, sinner or saint, it is time to initiate a larger conversation on the widespread effects of patriarchy and misogyny in Africa. Like any other hatred or prejudice, patriarchy and misogyny are exclusionary and corrosive to society, governance and economic development — and all thrive in silent complicity. And through this discussion, we might be able to understand better why, despite the march of democracy and competitive elections across the continent, Africa today doesn't have a single female president.

K. Riva Levinson is the president and CEO of KRL International LLC, a DC-based consultancy that works in the world's emerging markets and award-winning author of "Choosing the Hero: My Improbable Journey and the Rise of Africa's First Woman."



Want to help end Life Without Parole sentencing in PA?

Get involved with CADBI.

We are always looking for more people to get involved. We are an all-volunteer campaign made up of members both inside and outside of prison. If you are currently incarcerated and are not yet a CADBI member but would like to join, please write to us at the following address and ask us to send you a membership form:

CADBI c/o Decarcerate PA
PO Box 40764
Philadelphia PA 19107

Just as important, if you have friends or family in the Philadelphia area who would like to join, CADBI meetings happen every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at 123 S. 51st Street, Mosaic Community Church, and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration works to end death by incarceration (aka "life without parole") sentences in Pennsylvania. The coalition's anchoring organizations include Decarcerate PA, Fight for Lifers, Human Rights Coalition, and Right to Redemption.



Want to help end Life Without Parole sentencing in PA?

Hi,

My name is Sandra Hill and to all newcomers I say - Welcome to CADBI.

Once you enter the doors of a CADBI meeting and introduce yourself, you are now in the CADBI family. Our hopes are that you will stay with us through the duration of this fight to not only bring your love one home but all those who are serving a life sentence, be it your husband, son, daughter, nephew, niece, cousin, neighbor or just someone you love.

It's those who have stayed, never wavering, who have now benefited from not giving up to see the fruits of their labor. Need I not neglect to mention the tireless efforts of those who have no loved ones behind bars but are so committed to justice, that they contribute in every way possible to bring about change.

We also have the honor of working with those who have spent many years behind the walls who stand side by side with us, who we will never fully understand the sufferings of the men and women who were incarcerated for decades. We can learn much from them. I, for one, along with many others appreciate the insight and strategy they bring to the table during our meetings.

When injustice becomes law and mercy becomes obsolete, they are proof that given another chance, they bring to the free world what the free world thought they never had, that being the ability to never give up. They hoped against hope that one day a change would come. And guess what, it did. A second chance has now become a reality for many. We are reminded by their very presence that if we stay in the fight, all things are possible.

Welcome.



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www.hrcoalition.org

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 made up of 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 three chapters on the outside:

- **HRC-Philly** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6-8pm, LAVA Space 4134 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia PA 19104
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
- **HRC-Chester** meets every 3rd Monday of the month from 6-8pm, Church of the Overcomer 1010 Sunset St, Trainer, PA 19061

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, 123 S. 51st Street, 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 700+ 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, providing political education, and fighting back against political repression for those struggling for their human rights.

THE MOVEMENT

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, 4134 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia PA 19104

OR

Email us at: Info@hrcoalition.org

OR

Visit our website at: www.hrcoalition.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: _____

Tell us a little about yourself: _____

Why do you want to be a part of HRC? _____

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

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

Your Signature: _____

Russell 'Maroon' Shoatz

To all those who have come in contact with Russell "Maroon" Shoatz throughout the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, my family and I would like to personally thank you for your support throughout the years. We are considering producing a booklet filled with messages to Russell "Maroon" Shoatz from you.

These messages can include prison issues, along with any mentoring, or support you may have experienced as a direct or indirect result of your interaction with Russell "Maroon" Shoatz. Send us your words or an educational solution that he tailored just for you that made a difference, send your experiences.

Russell Maroon Shoatz is considered a father figure to many throughout the PA DOC.

Many prisoners often say how he changed their lives, please help us make this a meaningful and memorable celebration—

paying homage to our dad, Russell "Maroon" Shoatz.

Maybe you know a prisoner who is no longer here with us, your voice is their voice. To be honest, you all will be educating my siblings and I. Some of you know my father better than my siblings and I.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Please send your correspondence to, THE MAROON PROJECT, PO BOX 429, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631.

Thank you.

Shoatz Family



Ellen melchiondo @EllenmelchEllen · 20s

"Grief became my catalyst for facing the truth and working to become a better person." Rose Marie Dinkins, facing her 47th year of serving LWOP.
#WomensHistoryMonth ♀



Ellen melchiondo @EllenmelchEllen · Mar 17

Cyd Berger sentenced to MLWOP in 1980 at 25 years & from Pittsburgh. "I want to re-establish family bonds, attend grad school. I have a heart for those who are lost & I would like to open a safe house for women suffering from abuse & have nowhere to go." #WomensHistoryMonth ♀



Love Knows No Bars



"Juvenile Lifer Friends and Family Day at SCI Muncy".



"A few women lifers at SCI Cambridge Springs"

Ellen melchiondo @EllenmelchEllen · 20m

3 awesome Pennsylvania mothers rallying for justice of their life sentenced daughters: Danielle Hadley from Philadelphia, Brittany Williams from Pittsburgh and Kyra Clardy from Harrisburg. All deserving of a second chance. #WomensHistoryMonth ♀



Dear Women Lifers Resume Project of PA Participant,

Please send us updates for your resume. It's important to keep it current.

We also invite you to send us under a new heading "Health Report" an explanation of your health challenges and wellness. We believe that your health is a major factor in not only your prison confinement welfare but also a contributing factor towards your release. This personal information adds to the fight to reform mandatory life without parole in an economic and humanitarian perspective. If you do not want the information on the website but added to your resume for you to give to your supporters please let us know.

The WLRPPA wants you to know that the impact of this project has reached The United Nations!

New resumes are always accepted too.

Thank you!

Ellen & Darlene

Address:
Women Lifers Resume Project of PA
PO Box 324
New Hope, PA 18938

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!



Senator Sharif Street & Advocates Rally To End Life Without Parole

Harrisburg, Pa.

Senator Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) and allies rallied to end life without parole in Pennsylvania, as outlined in his bill, Senate Bill 942.

“For those out there who believe in the power of God to change the hearts,

minds, and souls, we need to acknowledge that and we have the opportunity for those redeemed souls to reunite with their families and that we do not waste taxpayer money incarcerating those who do not need to be incarcerated,” said Senator Street. “There are a number of reasons we should move this legislation forward. First, it makes good fiscal sense and we have to be good stewards of the taxpayer’s money.

Second, there is a justice issue in that we are actually holding people in jail as an accessory to a crime longer than the person who actually took a life. Finally, because I personally believe as a moral imperative that redemption should be available for all.”

SB 942 would permit an individual sentenced to life imprisonment under the laws of this Commonwealth to be considered for parole after spending at least 15 years in prison. It also extends parole eligibility retroactively to those sentenced prior to the effective date of the legislation. The bill creates no right to parole, so it will not allow our most dangerous inmates to go free. The Commonwealth’s Board of Probation and Parole will continue to responsibly reject requests for parole from those who do not deserve it, or who present too great a safety risk to the public.

Senator Street was joined at Tuesday’s rally by a host of supporters and elected officials.

Lt. Gov. Mike Stack “Hope is so powerful. It is what is going to enable our society to transcend into one that is about forgiveness and love, instead of punishment and waste,” said Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack. “Let’s build futures, not more prisons. Let’s build more schools, not more penitentiaries. Let’s pass Senator Street’s legislation. Let’s truly be about second chances and let’s really do true justice.”

Senator Vincent Hughes, Senate Democratic Appropriations Chair lent his support to SB 942: “Let’s speak the truth to the power that’s running in these buildings. Let’s make 942 happen, but let’s not stop there. Everybody deserves a second chance.”

Senator Street was also joined by people directly affected by the harsh and permanent sentencing in Pennsylvania.

Senator Vincent Hughes “The juvenile lifers and commuted lifers are examples of how the deserving lifer population will re-enter society,” said former juvenile lifer Shavonne Robbins. “Not one of us have re-offended or violated his or her parole. We continue to fight for all lifers and educate everyone who will listen to their stories of redemption. I stand here a free woman, but I am still a lifer.”

“It’s going to take courage, it’s going to take the leadership we are seeing today. I want to thank Senator Street for being courageous,” said Philadelphia’s Chief Public Defender Kier Grey. “These things are not always popular, but it also takes a great public service to go against what is popular and do what’s right.”

More information about Senate Bill 942 can be found at www.PassSB942.com

CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR & TELL THEM TO VOTE YES TO PASS SB942.



From: <http://www.pasenate.com/senator-sharif-street-advocates-rally-to-end-life-without-parole/>

THE MOVEMENT

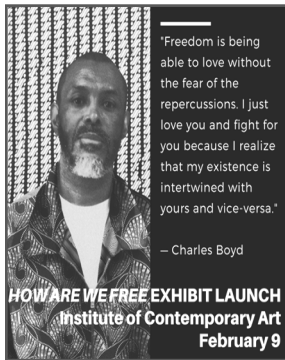
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The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

HOW ARE WE FREE EXHIBIT LAUNCH, INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART FEBRUARY 9, 2018



The *How Are We Free* Exhibit explored the nature of freedom and confinement



through creative collaboration between people who have been sentenced to die in prison and visual artists outside the prison walls. Seven visual artists from around the country took part in the exhibit, partnering with seven incarcerated LifeLines members to conceptualize and produce the exhibit. The exhibit included drawings, woodcuts, digital prints, and a beaded picture. Visual economies and regimes of power

have been massively employed by the state and the media in order to criminalize people. This exhibit interrupted those regimes and instead invited viewers to investigate what actually creates conditions for safety, healing, justice, transformation, and liberation.

The participating artists were: Makeba Rainey (Philadelphia), Noelle Lorraine Williams (New Jersey), Matice Moore (Oakland), Alma Sheppard-Matsuo (Philadelphia), Gb Kim (Brooklyn), Robin Markle (Philadelphia), and Kate Decicio (Washington DC). Their collaborators on the inside are Clinton “Nkechi” Walker, Terri Harper, Felix “Phill” Rosado, Avis Lee, David “Dawud” Lee, Marie “Mechie” Scott, and Charles Boyd.

How Are We Free was designed to provoke dialogue about the impacts of Life Without Parole sentences (also known as Death By Incarceration) by exploring what actually creates the conditions for freedom, safety, and justice. “I think that art within the realm of social change actually sits as the foundation of new thinking,” said Terri Harper, who participated in the project and is serving a Death By Incarceration sentence at SCI Muncy. “It made me want to do something different, and it made me realize something new. I think that’s a critical thing that art can do – for social change, for people’s mental health, for families reconnecting or growing.”

“Pennsylvania sentences more people to die in prison than almost any other state,” said LifeLines co-founder Emily Abendroth. “We hope that this artwork, and the stories that accompany it, can be a small part of helping people see the creativity, energy, and brilliance that we all lose when we condemn members of our communities to permanent irredeemability and exclusion.”

Poor People’s Campaign 4/7/2018

Karen Ali of Human Rights Coalition, with Margaret Prescod, Women of Color in the Global Women’s Strike/LA; Phoebe Jones, Global Women’s Strike/Philly; and Eric Gjertsen, Pay-day men’s network/Philly are pictured here at an April 7 weekend of activities in Baltimore MD in support of The New Poor People’s Campaign: A



National Call for Moral Revival (PPC). The activities included a conference of the National Welfare Rights Union (NWRU), a press conference where NWRU issued a dynamite statement in support of the PPC, and a Mass Meeting of the PPC where Reverend Barber addressed the crowd via phone. The activities were called for by the Rev. Annie Chambers of Baltimore.

The New Poor People's Campaign is a movement uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation, drawing on the history, vision, and unfinished work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1968 Poor People’s Campaign. The campaign is launching 40 days of nonviolent direct actions planned in 40 state capitols and in 39 other countries. The kick off action on Monday May 14, the day after Mother's Day, is focused on the poverty of mothers and children and people with disabilities which the GWS is helping to build support for and in PA will be held in Harrisburg. For more information and to pledge to participate: <https://poorpeoplescampaign.org> or text MORAL to 90975. To get involved in Pennsylvania, go to the “PA Poor People’s Campaign” page on Facebook. Or contact the GWS at 215-848-1120 philly@globalwomenstrike.net

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

“People Change, People Change the World” exhibit and assembly celebrates human rights activism by people in prison.

By: Suzy Subways/phillypartisan March 25, 2018



Robert 'Saleem' Holbrook spoke about meeting Shakaboona.

Almost a hundred people gathered at Mosaic Community Church in West Philadelphia on the afternoon of Saturday March 24th to talk about redemption and celebrate the inspiration of currently incarcerated human rights activist Kerry Shakaboona Marshall. Shakaboona is a co-founder of Human Rights Coalition and the Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration, editor of *The Movement* magazine, and has been active with the Lifers' Association at Graterford and other organizations in Pennsylvania prisons. He has been incarcerated since 1988, when he was 17, but he will be in court for a re-sentencing hearing on May 17th. In 2016, the Supreme Court ruled that people sentenced to death by incarceration (life without parole) when they were under 18 must have a chance at parole.

Organized by members of Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI), Human Rights Coalition, Abolitionist Law Center, Amistad Law Project, Global Women's Strike and The Redemption Project, the event began with an exhibit tracing Shakaboona's life as a teenager in Philadelphia and the "Tough on Crime" policies that sought to punish, rather than heal, communities impacted by crack and violence.

Exhibit panels created by Shakaboona's sister show the values corporate media instilled in young men in the 1980s: expensive sneakers, gold chains, and anti-social violence. Shakaboona's mother, Patricia Marshall Vickers, an organizer with the Human Rights Coalition, next to a 1980s photo of her children, trophies and other treasured things from her son's youth.

A timeline situated Shakaboona's early life in Georgia and Philadelphia in the 1970s in the context of the "War on Drugs" and police violence against Black activists.

At Shakaboona's request, the exhibit featured a memorial to Suzette Richardson, who was killed during a robbery by Shakaboona and his friend in 1988. She was 23 and had two children.

An exhibit panel with photos and fliers explained how, from prison, Shakaboona helped start activist groups to organize families of people in prison.

At 3 pm, the exhibit was cleared away and Kempis "Ghani" Songster addressed the crowd:

"This is about injecting a dose of hope back into this hopeless narrative about crime and punishment," Songster said. "There is no service, no justice being done by continuing Shakaboona's imprisonment after 30 years, with all that we're facing in this world, all that we're dealing with. This human rights activist, this brilliant mind, this person who defied all odds and transformed himself against and in defiance of everything within the prison system and in his prison experience that wanted to corrupt him and drag him into the prison culture. He fought against that and is a shining example of the human capacity for transformation and redemption. We need his hands on the issues of violence in the street. We need him in this fight to make violence no longer a national epidemic. We need him in the fight against poverty. We need him in the fight."

Songster was released in December after serving decades of a juvenile life without parole sentence. He works for Amistad Law Project.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Organizers then set up a phone call with Shakaboona so he could speak — from prison — to those gathered, via a cell phone with a microphone held up to it by Sean “Wispy” Damon of Amistad Law Project. Shakaboona said,

“When I think of changing the world, I think of changed people. I think of some of my fellow juvenile lifer friends who have turned their lives around while in prison, and how they have returned to society and are now making their community a better place to live.... When I think of people changing the world who should be immediately released from prison, I think of the Black political prisoners in Pennsylvania that taught or assisted me and thousands of others in the journey to become a new man, like Russell Maroon Shoatz, Joseph Joe-Joe Bowen, the MOVE 9 family, and Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

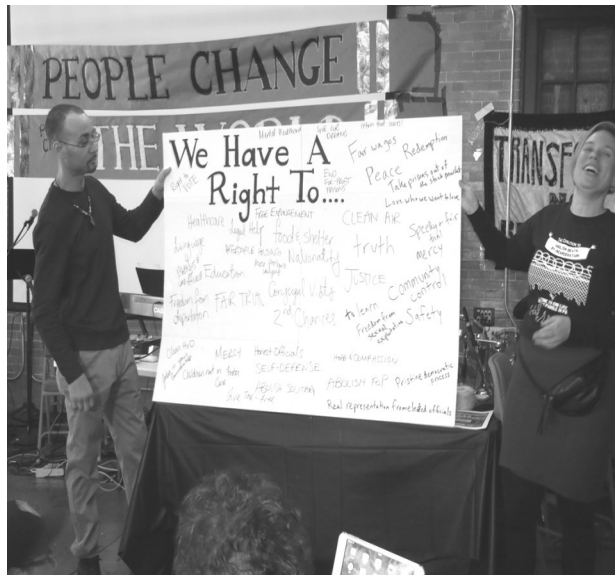
State Senator Sharif Street spoke about his bill to expand parole in Pennsylvania, SB942. He asked everyone to attend a [rally in Harrisburg](#) this Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Free buses will leave from Philadelphia Beckett Life Center, 1410 N. 16th Street at 8 am.

The event then shifted into an assembly, during which people attending the event could get up and speak about their own experiences in prison and their visions for a better world.

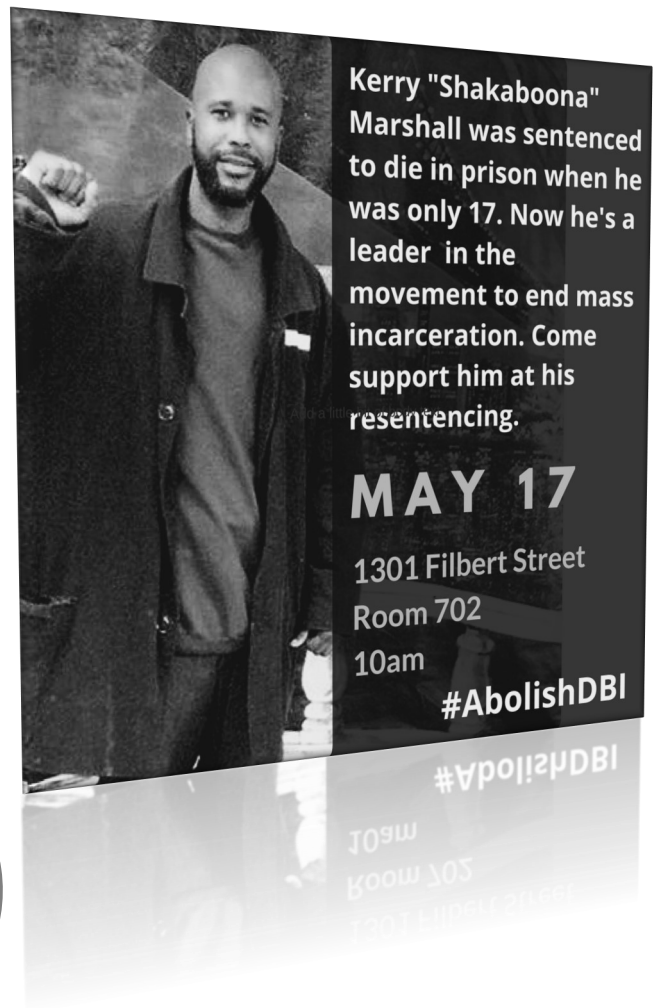
Robert Saleem Holbrook spoke about meeting Shakaboona as a teenager while they both faced life without the possibility of parole. Holbrook, a longtime organizer in prison collaborating with community groups on the outside, was released a month ago and works for the Abolitionist Law Center.

Holbrook and Sarah Small, a CADBI organizer, facilitated those assembled to collectively create this list of human rights worth fighting for, including justice, education, healthcare, community control, fair wages, redemption, peace, and the right to love who we want to love. Everyone was encouraged to attend Shakaboona’s re-sentencing hearing, which will be held May 17th, 2018.

Let us push for a society
that believes in healing by
supporting redemption
and 2nd chances!
See you on May 17th.



Robert ‘Saleem’ Holbrook and Sarah Small



THE MOVEMENT

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The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

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rently awaiting trial, according to court records.

25. Officer Gerald Smith

Date of Misconduct: March 5, 2016

Summary of Facts: Charged with burglary and related offenses.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: He was arrested April 28, 2017.

Penalty: N/A.

Note: Smith was suspended with intent to dismiss last February and accused of assaulting a woman in several domestic disputes. He is free on bail and his trial is scheduled for this month, according to court records.

26. Officer Eric Snell

Date of Misconduct: Not listed

Summary of Facts: Arrested for conspiracy to deliver drugs in Maryland.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: None listed.

Penalty: Suspension with intent to dismiss.

Note: Snell was suspended with intent to dismiss in November after being indicted by federal authorities. He is awaiting trial, according to court records.

27. Officer Adam Soto

File photo of former officer Adam Soto.

Date of Misconduct: Arrested April 25, 2017, for a Jan. 31, 2017, incident.

Summary of Facts: Charged with involuntary manslaughter and homicide by vehicle.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Indicates his arrest date and charges.

Penalty: None listed on the sheet, but was ordered dismissed.

Note: Soto was accused of speeding while off-duty on Jan. 31, 2017, then striking and

killing a pedestrian, Danny Dimitri, 50, who was walking across Cottman Avenue near Algon Avenue. Soto faces an Oct. 9, 2018, trial in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court.

28. Sgt. Michael Spicer

Date of Misconduct: Various.

Summary of Facts: Spicer was arrested by federal authorities on corruption charges.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: On Sept. 10, 2014, dismissal based on his arrest by federal authorities. He was later reinstated after he and other officers were acquitted after a federal trial.

Penalty: N/A.

Note: Spicer was among the narcotics officers charged in a 2014 federal corruption case. He was later acquitted on all counts and got his job back. In 2015, he was promoted to sergeant.

29. Officer Sequeta Williams

Date of Misconduct: June 12, 2017

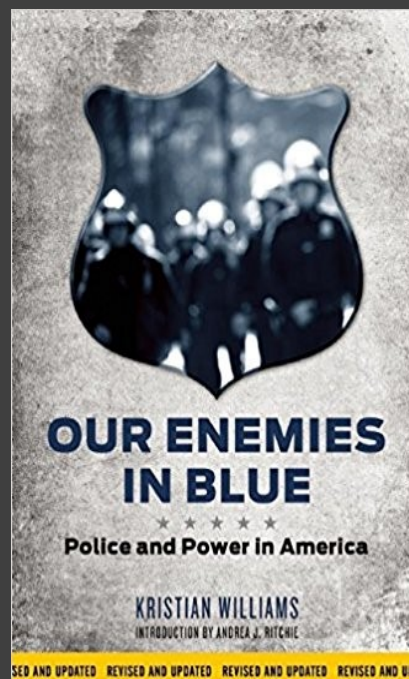
Summary of Facts: Charged with terroristic threats and simple assault.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested June 12, 2017, and charged with terroristic threats and simple assault.

Penalty: N/A

Note: Williams was suspended with intent to dismiss last June, after she was accused of threatening people with a gun at a bar in the city's Logan section.

Read a Good Book!



Our Enemies In Blue: Police and Power in America

By Kristian Williams

Let's begin with the basics: violence is an inherent part of policing. The police represent the most direct

means by which the state imposes its will on the citizenry. They are armed, trained, and authorized to use force. Like the possibility of arrest, the threat of violence is implicit in every police encounter. Violence, as well as the law, is what they represent.

In this extensively revised and updated edition of his seminal study of policing in the United States, Kristian Williams shows that police brutality isn't an anomaly, but is built into the very meaning of law enforcement in the United States. From antebellum slave patrols to today's unarmed youth being gunned down in the streets, "peace keepers" have always used force to shape behavior, repress dissent, and defend the powerful. *Our Enemies in Blue* is a well-researched page-turner that both makes historical sense of this legalized social pathology and maps out possible alternatives.

Kristian Williams is the author of several books, including *American Methods: Torture and the Logic of Domination*. He co-edited *Life During Wartime: Resisting Counterinsurgency*, and lives in Portland, Oregon.

Sold on Amazon.Com \$17.11

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

DEFEND J20 SOLIDARITY STATEMENT WITH CHARLOTTE UPRISING DEFENDANTS

By Defend J20 Resistance
April 13, 2018



On May 7th, Glo Merriweather will go to trial in Charlotte, NC, for charges stemming from the Charlotte Uprising protests in 2016 following the police murder of Keith Lamont Scott. On the day after Scott's murder, a young Black protester named Justin Carr was shot and killed during the protests. Despite witness accounts that the police were responsible for the death of Carr, another protester, Rayquan Borum, has been accused and is facing charges by the state. Rayquan has been held without bond for over 18 months, much of it in solitary confinement, and awaits trial this December. Glo, a young Black trans organizer in Charlotte was next to Carr when he was shot. Glo helped carry him to medical attention and was present when he died. After Rayquan's arrest, Glo began to speak out about what they saw and maintained Rayquan's innocence. Two weeks later they were indicted on charges of inciting a riot and assaulting an officer. This case follows a long history of framing Black activists for heinous crimes in an attempt to silence them.

While the J20 case has drawn national attention for its scope and the nature of the conspiracy charges, we see our cases as intertwined with those of every defendant fighting for liberation whose voice the state and government attempts to stifle with repressive prosecutions. In particular, the use of "incitement" and "riot" charges as a means to destabilize social movements is

a growing trend. The J20 case does not stand alone in this. The court system enables the government to vilify any protest which challenges its narrative of acceptable social order weaponizing criminal charges to target organizers and activists in an attempt to weaken social movements. Despite this, we remain strong. While it is easy for us to blame the increase in these charges on the Trump administration, the charges in Charlotte were brought in 2016, which reminds us that these strategies of prosecution have been in the works for a long time. It is no coincidence that the government is relying on the same institution to investigate these cases- the heavily pro-cop Police Foundation was contracted by both the municipalities of Charlotte and D.C. to issue reports about the police response to protestors. These kind of internal investigations will never be accountable. The charges against Glo and Rayquan are in line with the government's response to the collective rage against police murders of people of color- to further militarize and criminalize communities of color rather than hold any officer accountable. The state is intentionally trying to intimidate activists with the threat of prison for their organizing and street presence, and limit their action while they are held up in legal battles against aggressive prosecutions.

The charges in Charlotte are part of an increasingly extreme prosecutorial backlash against protesters across the so-called United States, that are levied most often and extremely against black and brown organizers who choose to stand up for their survival. The prison and court system has long been used to repress communities of color, for their mere existence, and even more severely when those communities come together to demand justice and liberation. While there are many people of color among the pool of former and current J20 defendants, we acknowledge that the public faces of the case have been predominantly white. This has no doubt helped foster media interest and widespread support, whereas the case against the Charlotte Uprising defendants, all of whom are Black- including Glo who is also queer, trans* and non-binary, has received relatively little attention.

Glo goes to trial in less than 30 days. We demand all the charges against Glo and Rayquan be dropped immediately. We demand justice for Justin Carr and Keith Lamont Scott. J20 defendants and supporters stand with everyone who stands up to police murders, to white supremacy, against the prison industrial complex and the weaponization of the court system.

Please donate to Glo's support fund at <https://www.gofundme.com/GetGloGoing/donate>

To support Rayquan, venmo to @ResistanceIsBeautiful

Free Meek Mill, urges lawyer, mother and Philly sports stars

The Eagles' Malcolm Jenkins and championship boxer Bernard Hopkins lend support at forum

MARCH 2018



Recording artist Meek Mill during a game between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Atlanta Hawks at Wells Fargo Center.

"Meek will come home," the attorney representing jailed rapper Meek Mill proclaimed Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking before a criminal justice forum held Tuesday at the University of Pennsylvania, Joe Tacopina said the rapper's case is representative of an unjust system that leaves people in prison for technical violations. Tacopina also updated his efforts to free Mill, who is sitting in a state prison in Chester, Delaware County, for violating probation.

"Fifty percent of the jail population is made up of people who commit violations of probations – not violent felony assaults or things of that nature," Tacopina said. "That creates the situation we have now. We know about it because Meek is Meek. But if Meek was Robert Williams and didn't have a rap career, that would be the end

of that." Tacopina addressed more than a dozen reporters as hundreds of supporters gathered inside Irvine Auditorium to discuss criminal justice reform, including Eagles star Malcolm Jenkins and championship boxer Bernard Hopkins.

"No matter what, at the end of the day, this case is going to do good," Tacopina said, standing behind a podium adorned with a #FreeMeekMill placard. "And Meek understands that. He's going through something right now but he understands it's for the greater good. Because he's going to be the voice for the voiceless. He's going to make change. That's what tonight's about. It's about reform. It's about putting a spotlight on a system that needs fixing."

Mill, 30, a Philadelphia native, has been incarcerated since November for violating his parole agreement. Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Genece E. Brinkley sentenced him to 2 to 4 years in state prison, citing a failed drug test and his noncompliance with a court order restricting his travel to Pennsylvania. But the punishment proved controversial, with social justice advocates decrying it as unusually harsh. As Mill sat in prison, his supporters staged a rally outside the Philadelphia Criminal Justice Center, drawing hundreds of protesters to Center City.

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

Tacopina said there are felons who don't receive prison sentences that lengthy, calling Mill's situation "probation on steroids." Mill's mother, Kathy Williams, urged Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner to intercede, noting there are many families going through similar situations.

"Now, it's just like time to stop all the injustice stuff that the system is doing out here to all these people," Williams said. "Millions of people – not just my (son). ... Don't just put them in the system like they're dogs or something. They're not. They're human beings, too."

Williams, Tacopina and the Rev. Al Sharpton later addressed the forum, dubbed "Reform: Bringing Injustice to Light." They criticized Brinkley not only for the sentence she handed Mill, but also for her conduct, claiming she encouraged Mill to leave his label to join another run by her friend and has threatened to sue him. "We will make sure this perversion of justice is overturned," Tacopina told the crowd, eliciting applause. "Meek will come home."

Tacopina later dialed Mill and placed him on speaker phone, allowing him to address a crowd of about 2,000 people. Mill thanked the crowd for their support, saying he's not just fighting for his own freedom, but those of other people unfairly treated by the criminal justice system. "I'm happy to shed light on a situation that we've been going through for years," Mill said. "God picked me to be the one to bring the light to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."

Mill was arrested twice in 2017 – once after an alleged altercation at St. Louis International Airport, and again for popping a wheelie on his bike in New York City. Those arrests violated Mill's probation terms, which stem from a 2008 firearms conviction. But that conviction has come under fire in recent weeks. The arresting officer in that case –Reginald Graham – **appeared on a secretive list of police officers that the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office considered untrustworthy**. The list was compiled under former D.A. Seth Williams, who has since been convicted of corruption. It urged prosecutors not to call the police officers as witnesses, alleging the officers had displayed a history of dishonest behavior or racial bias.

Graham was investigated by federal authorities for several alleged acts of corruption stemming from a November 2013 incident. That incident came five years after Graham appeared as the sole witness during Mill's 2008 trial. Mill attorney Peter Goldberger has filed a motion to overturn the rapper's conviction and grant him a new trial, alleging that Graham lied to put the rapper behind bars.

That claim is based on a sworn affidavit provided by former Philadelphia police officer Jerold Gibson, who alleges Graham's testimony doesn't reflect what happened during Mill's initial arrest as an 18-year-old. According to Gibson, Mill never pointed a gun at police, as Graham attested. He said Graham never sought cover behind a parked van, and that Mill never tried to escape.

Mill served eight months in prison following his conviction, and was sentenced to another five years of probation, which was later extended.

In 2014, Mill served five months in prison for violating his probation by performing outside of Pennsylvania. And he was sentenced to 90 days of house arrest after another violation in February 2016. Jenkins – one of the many NFL players who have advocated for criminal justice reform – called for a move away from punitive sentences aimed simply at imprisoning people for long periods of time. "He was sentenced two years for popping a wheelie," Jenkins said of Mill's sentence. "It's an example of just how ridiculous sometimes our system can be and how we're wasting resources, talent, money and locking people up for things that don't make our communities safer."

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(Continued from page 22)

Hopkins, who served five years in prison as a teenager and young adult, said there are many people serving unfair sentences for minor mistakes. "I understand everybody is not innocent," Hopkins said. "I'd be a fool if I tell you that's everybody out there. But there are those that got caught in the system unfairly because of their lack of support, and lack of communications amongst what's best and what's not for them."

JOHN KOPP

PhillyVoice Staff

john@phillyvoice.com

Officers on "Do Not Call" list.

1. Officer Anthony Abrams

Date of Misconduct: June 1, 2015

Summary of Facts: Abrams "lied during a departmental investigation and aided and abetted his live-in girlfriend in a prostitution/escort business."

2. Officer Hashaam Choudri

Date of Misconduct: Oct. 29, 2016

Summary of facts: Choudri "solicited a prostitute."

3. Officer Stanley Davis

Date of misconduct: Pending

Note: Davis pleaded guilty in federal court in August to trading heroin and other drugs for sexual favors. He retired from the police force last year and is awaiting sentencing.

4. Officer Robert Esack

Date of misconduct: Jan. 26, 2016

Summary of facts: Esack "used his knee to strike complainant in the face twice causing broken facial bones."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Found guilty on July 14, 2017, of conduct unbecoming and unauthorized and/or excessive use of force in an official capacity.

Penalty: Five-day suspension.

5. Officer Emmanuel Folly

Date of misconduct: Apr. 25, 2017

Summary of Facts: Folly "was arrested and charged with sexual abuse of children (child pornography)."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested and charged with sexual abuse of children, possession of child pornography, and dissemination of child pornography.

Penalty: N/A

Note: Folly is free on bail and awaiting trial, according to court records.

6. Officer Reginald Graham

Date of misconduct: Nov. 1, 2013

Summary of facts: Graham "investigated by federal authorities for several alleged acts of corruption."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Retired before his hearing.

Penalty: N/A

Note: Graham's testimony was central to the arrest of Meek Mill more than a decade ago — a case that has since landed the rapper back in prison due to probation violations. Mill's attorneys recently filed a motion accusing Graham of lying under oath to secure Mill's arrest.

7. Officer Shawn Hall

Date of misconduct: May 14, 2017

Summary of facts: Hall "charged with DUI."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested May 14, 2017, and placed on ARD probation for one year beginning Dec. 15, 2017.

Penalty: N/A

8. Officer Nicholas Harper

Date of misconduct: Aug. 2, 2017

Summary of facts: Harper "arrested for DUI."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested Aug. 2, 2017, and placed on ARD probation for one year beginning Dec. 1, 2017

Penalty: N/A

9. Sgt. Michael Kennedy

No information available on the list.

10. Officer Kevin Klein

Date of misconduct: Dec. 24, 2016

Summary of facts: Klein charged with [simple assault], DUI, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested Dec. 20, 2017, and charged with simple assault, DUI, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Penalty: The column is left blank on the list, but Klein was dismissed from the force in December.

Note: Klein has been accused of driving while intoxicated, smashing his personal vehicle into an occupied SUV outside a strip club on Christmas Eve 2016, and then pulling

his service gun on witnesses who chased him down. His lawyer has said he intends to fight the charges.

11. Officer Deric Lewis

Date of misconduct: Dec. 30, 2017

Summary of facts: Lewis was "charged with simple assault in Delaware County."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested Dec. 30, 2017, and charged with simple assault.

Penalty: The column is left blank on the list.

12. Cpl. Eric Linder

Date of misconduct: July 23, 2017

Summary of facts: Linder was "arrested for DUI."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested July 23, 2017, for DUI.

Penalty: N/A

13. Officer Allen Logan

Date of misconduct: Dec. 27, 2017

Summary of facts: Logan was "arrested for simple assault in Atlantic City, N.J."

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested Dec. 27, 2017, for simple assault in Atlantic City.

Penalty: The column is left blank on the list.

14. Officer Michael Long

(Continued on page 24)

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(Continued from page 23)

Date of misconduct: March 23, 2017

Summary of facts: Long "abused dog." *Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest:* Arrested March 23, 2017, for animal cruelty and possessing an instrument of crime.

Penalty: N/A

Note: Long was accused of putting an emaciated dog in a trash bag and dumping the animal in Wissahickon Valley Park. He is free on bail and awaiting trial, which is scheduled for May, according to court records.

15. Officer Antonio Mayhew

Date of misconduct: May 3, 2017

Summary of facts: Mayhew was charged with aggravated assault.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested May 3, 2017, and charged with aggravated assault.

Penalty: N/A

Note: Mayhew was accused of leaving his patrol area while on duty to seek out his wife, punching her, then chasing her down in a patrol car with the lights and siren activated — causing her car to crash into another vehicle in West Philadelphia. Police also said he had previously been suspended over a protection from abuse order.

His current case is pending in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court.

16. Officer Alex McAdams

Date of misconduct: Oct. 23, 2016

Summary of facts: McAdams was "charged with multiple counts" of simple assault, reckless endangerment, terroristic threats, and contempt of a protection from abuse order.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested Feb. 1,

2017, and charged with simple assault, reckless endangerment, terroristic threats, and contempt of a protection from abuse order.

Penalty: N/A

17. Lt. Anthony McFadden

Date of Misconduct: 2014-15

Summary of Facts: While on-duty, McFadden engaged in sexual text communication with a prostitute, lied in an Internal Affairs Department interview, drank alcohol, then drove a city car on-duty, misused city time, and accepted gifts from news reporters.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: On Jan. 10, 2017, entered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to lying during an investigation, inappropriate sexual communication, drinking alcohol on duty, driving a city vehicle after drinking alcohol, and improper use of department equipment.

Penalty: 30-day suspension and transferred.

18. Detective Philip Nordo

Date of Misconduct: Aug. 25, 2017

Summary of Facts: Detective suspended with the intent to dismiss.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Suspended Aug. 25, 2017, with intent to dismiss.

Penalty: Suspended with intent to dismiss.

Note: Nordo was accused of improperly putting money on the prison books of a witness, and state and federal authorities in August were investigating whether he had committed any crimes while developing informants. He has not been charged with a crime.

19. Officer Angel Ortiz

Date of Misconduct: Sept. 1, 2011

Summary of Facts: Ortiz mishandled evidence in a narcotics investigation, made false entries in the Preliminary Arraign-

ment Reporting System (PARS) database, and left out important information in communication with other officers.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Found guilty March 8, 2017, of making false entries in a police report and of failure to follow procedures for handling narcotics.

Penalty: Five-day suspension and reprimand.

20. Officer Ryan Pownall

Date of Misconduct and Summary of Facts: Not listed on the sheet.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Not listed on sheet.

Penalty: Not listed on sheet.

Note: Pownall was suspended with intent to dismiss in September for fatally shooting 30-year-old David Jones as Jones fled from a traffic stop on June 8, 2017. The shooting remains under criminal investigation.

21. Sgt. Sheila Pressley

Date of Misconduct: May 22, 2014, and June 12, 2014

Summary of Facts: In May 2014, Pressley physically assaulted another sergeant, made a false statement in a police report, and lied during an Internal Affairs investigation.

In June 2014, she lied in an interview to Internal Affairs concerning an Equal Employment Opportunity complaint that she filed against another officer.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: She was found guilty in April 2017 of lying during an investigation in both cases. She was also found guilty of engaging in harassing conduct toward a police officer and failure to properly supervise in the May 2014 incident.

Penalty: 32-day suspension in the first incident; 30-day suspension in the second.

22. Officer Angelo Romero

Date of Misconduct: Nov. 1, 2016

Summary of Facts: Romero lied in an interview to [police] concerning a shooting he witnessed.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: None listed.

Penalty: None listed

Note: Romero was accused of lying to police about a shooting he witnessed while off-duty, but authorities did not specify how he misled investigators.

23. Officer Ross Scott

Date of Misconduct: May 18, 2017.

Summary of Facts: Charged with aggravated assault.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Arrested May 18, 2017, on aggravated assault.

Penalty: n/a.

Note: Scott was suspended with intent to dismiss in May for allegedly shooting at a car full of passengers after a crash on Broad Street while he was off-duty. He faces a Sept. 25, 2018, trial in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court.

24. Sgt. Brian Smith

Date of Misconduct: Aug. 25, 2017

Summary of Facts: Indicted by U.S. Attorney's Office on charges of bribery and lying to federal authorities.

Finding by Police Board of Inquiry/Arrest: Suspended Aug. 25, 2017, for 30 days with intent to dismiss.

Penalty: Suspended with the intent to dismiss.

Note: Smith was accused of accepting more than \$20,000 in bribes to give two towing companies an unfair advantage. He allegedly raked in kickbacks totaling about \$800 a month between December 2015 and November 2016 to tip off the tow-truck operators to locations of fender-benders and disabled vehicles reported to the city's call center. He is cur-

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Human Rights Coalition Report

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RECOMMENDS A NEW TRIAL FOR MEEK MILL

April 16, 2018 1:47 PM ET
AARON MOSELLE

During a brief status hearing Monday, prosecutors said — for the first time — that the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office wants to grant the rapper a new trial over drug and gun charges filed against him in 2007 because of questions over the credibility of the arresting officer, Reginald Graham, raised by the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

Graham is said to have allegedly provided false testimony during Mill's first trial.

"We're elated," said Brian McMonagle, one of Mill's lawyers. "We anticipate that he should be released immediately."

Assistant District Attorney Liam Riley declined a request for comment after the hearing, though his office has said it would not oppose Mill's release on bail, a position which also drew support from Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

Mill, who was not in court, has been behind bars since early November after Common Pleas Court Judge Genece Brinkley sentenced him to 2-4 years in prison for violating his probation. The decision has sparked months of public outrage directed at Brinkley and the country's criminal justice system more generally. Support for Mill has also led to athletes, sports executives and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney visiting him in prison.

Brinkley has said in court documents that sending Mill to prison for violating his probation was not "excessive" based on his behavior while she's presided over the case, including charges tied to an altercation at an airport in St. Louis and popping a wheelie on a dirt bike while filming a music video in New York.

The airport charges were dismissed. The dirtbike charges were also dismissed as part of a court deal.

On Monday, a curt Brinkley refused to hear arguments for releasing Mill on bail, and instead scheduled another hearing for June 18.

McMonagle and lawyer Joe Tacopina, who also represents Mill, have previously said they would be filing motions to a higher court to try and free their client.

"Now, the fact that he's not out on bail is even more egregious and more outrageous, because the District Attorney's Office just agreed that this conviction should be overturned," said Tacopina.

Even if Mill, 30, is released, it will be up to Brinkley to decide if he should get a new trial. If she approves, the District Attorney's Office has the option of dropping the case.



Mill's supporters gathered Monday outside the Criminal Justice Center for a rain-soaked rally.

"It's not just about Meek Mill. It's for every single person locked up in these cages that can't have a news camera, that don't have expensive attorneys," shouted *Temple University* professor Marc Lamont Hill to a few dozen protesters.

From: <https://www.npr.org/sections/therecord/2018/04/16/602900139/philadelphia-district-attorneys-office-recommends-a-new-trial-for-meek-mill>

Human Rights Coalition Report

Bureaucratic Hypocrisy vs. Constitutional Integrity Is Actual Innocence Obsolete in U.S. Courts of Law?



Interview with Eric “Bro. General” Riddick

The following interview with Eric “Bro. General” Riddick was conducted by Kerry ‘Shakaboona’ Marshall. This interview came on the heels of Eric Riddick’s family, friends and supporters successfully holding another rally in front of City Hall in Philadelphia. This rally was also in the aftermath of the Philadelphia Daily News and the Inquire drawing attention to Eric Riddick’s case, putting his story on the front page of both papers.

Shakaboona: Peace my brother. I am pleased to have the opportunity to interview you on such an important issue. I would like to begin by taking you back to the very first issue of The Movement where a very profound article written by you was published entitled, ‘Is Innocence Irrelevant?’ This was ten years ago. Today, in light of the current momentum and litigation, how does that article apply to where your litigation is at the present?

Bro. General (Eric Riddick): Well ten years ago when I wrote that article, I was attempting to draw attention to the tyrannical nature of Pennsylvania’s Post Conviction Relief Act (hereafter referred to as PCRA). In 1995, the Governor Tom Ridge unconstitutionally amended the Post-Conviction Statue which created the PCRA. These amendments created unreasonable time restrictions that ultimately became obstructions of justice, judicially blocking exculpatory evidence from coming before the alter of justice. As a direct result prisoners, like myself, who at

some point during our incarceration came across evidence that points to actual innocence, were time barred from presenting this evidence. Thus, this is what compelled me to write the article ‘Is Innocence Irrelevant?’

Shakaboona: Bro. General, on December 26, 2017, the President Judge (i.e. Bender) of the Pennsylvania Superior Court in a concurring statement with Justice Fitzgerald stated the following:

“I join the majority’s memorandum in its entirety. I write separately only to express my utmost displeasure with the Post-Conviction Relief Acts failure to facilitate justice in this case, where it is clear to all that it is likely that an innocent man sits behind bars for no better reason than a poorly conceived statue. No system of criminal justice is perfect; however, a system of criminal justice that prevents the correction of obvious errors is easily improved - if only the legislature could see fit to dot it”. I have also seen transcripts from PCRA Judge Cooperman as it relates to your case where she stated on record that the forensic (Ballistic Evidence) evidence in your case is most likely exculpatory. My question to you is, considering the above on record statements by the courts, why are you still in prison?

Bro. General (Eric Riddick): I am still in prison because the criminal justice system has gone rogue. Systematic obstructions of justices have mendaciously cloaked itself in so called policies of finality such as the PCRA. Economic ambitions have infected the course of litigation as well as that old predacious relic of the pass called racism has systematically seeped up into the modern expressions of our Judicial System. All of these things have systematically placed the laudable concept of justice in a subordinate position to concepts that are less in value. Yes, the Philadelphia Courts have acknowledged my innocence. However, the same courts have hypocritically and unconstitutionally stated that actual innocence is not an exception that allows the innocent to overcome the PCRA time bar. If I may, before moving forward to the next question, allow me to briefly bring context to this issue. America’s Criminal Justice System is one that provides attorneys to its citizens. A defendant has many rights. However, as the U.S. Supreme Court has adjudicated on many occasions, “The right to effective representation is the most important. For it is through this right that all other rights are secured.” It is the attorney’s duty to investigate and locate exculpatory evidence. It is the Attorney’s duty to present exculpatory evidence to the fact finder. It is the attorney’s duty to present witnesses. If years later, the defendant locate exculpatory evidence, how could the courts reject

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that evidence and keep a potentially innocent man in prison and still claim to be a civilized society?

Shakaboona: Bro. General, could you give the readers a very brief narration of the evidence that points to your actual innocence?

Bro. General (Eric Riddick): Yes. I was falsely accused by one person, 26 ½ years ago, of shooting and killing a man. This one accuser subsequently recanted his lies against me. It has been revealed by a ballistic expert that all of the forensic and ballistic evidence proves that it is scientifically impossible for the deceased to have been shot and killed in the manner that the sole accuser stated. I had three alibi witnesses that was present and willing to testify at my trial but was not called in spite of my attorney promising the jury that he was going to present them. Also, two witnesses have come forward stating that they were present at the crime scene when the deceased was murdered and that I was not present. These are just some of the on-record facts.

Shakaboona: What is the current status of your case and what can the people do to help bring justice to this case?

Bro. General (Eric Riddick): Currently, I am waiting on a decision from the PA Supreme Court. I am a Pro Se Litigant and I feel very confident that the petition that the Creator blessed me to put together is compelling and, more importantly, on time with time. Meaning justice is in season, and anytime an idea is in season, that idea is propelled by every atom that exist. And as far as what the people can do; well, it is a proven fact that the power is with the people! In the last two years, the people have risen and joined shoulder to shoulder, tenaciously advocating for my freedom. This advocacy has compelled many politicians (Republican as well as Democrat) to lend their voice to the peoples call for my freedom. My supporters and I have recorded this advocacy on my Facebook page (@Eric Man Riddick) every step of the way.

Shakaboona: Bro. General, in conclusion of this interview do you have any closing remarks?

Bro. General (Eric Riddick): The late Great Malcom X stated: "Lynching by any other name is still a lynching!" Brother Malcom X in that statement was pointing out the nebulous nature of injustice. He was saying that whether a lynching occurred in the back woods of Alabama using a traditional rope and tree or whether a person was railroaded in court, a lynching is a lynching regardless of the method used.

Philadelphia District Attorney Released List of Corrupt Cops

Last month, the Philadelphia's District Attorney's office disclosed to the public defender's office and the public a list of 29 current and former police officers among a list of 66, whom prosecutors have tried to prevent from testifying on the witness stand because they were charged with police misconduct- committing such horrendous crimes as animal cruelty, aggravated assault, terroristic threats and the list goes on. A judge ordered that the names, badge numbers, and background information be turned over to the public defender's office at the end of February. The defenders demanded the list from District Attorney, Larry Krasner after the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Daily News* revealed its existence in February.

This list was compiled by prosecutors in 2017 at the order of the former District Attorney, Seth Williams. Before Williams pleaded resigned in June, he established a special police misconduct committee to identify officers whose testimony might be problematic in criminal cases. Williams did not make the list public, regarding it as an internal guide to determine when a dirty officer's testimony could be used.

The 18-page list puts the officers into three categories to supposedly provide direction for prosecutors:

1. "Do not Call" unless authorized by a high-ranking DA.
2. May use as a witness, but first notify the defense attorney of the officer's *alleged* misconduct.
3. Use without restriction but be aware of the documented misconduct.

The list of the now "66 problem cops" labeled 29 officers as officers whose serious misconduct rendered them *problematic* witnesses and 37 others whose crimes were regarded as *less* serious. These 37 officers can still testify, but their *alleged* or committed crimes have to be shared with defense attorneys. A fact summary about each officer on the "Do Not Call List," said that these 29 officers had faced criminal charges or been found guilty by the department's internal board. Approximately half of the police officers on the list *seem* to be still on the police force, including a lieutenant, four sergeants, one detective, and one corporal.

There is still a general lack of clarity about why these 29 or 66 cops are on the list as there are many more police officers in Philadelphia who have brutalized, stop-and-frisked, and sexually assaulted mostly working-class Black and Brown people in this city. The Philadelphia Defender

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THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

Families Dare to Speak, Dare to Resist



I stand on the shoulders of our heroes and roar.

My brother's killer was sentenced to death, but I hope he is allowed to live

APRIL 4, 2018

by **Lorraine Haw** (Was published in The Inquirer)

Many years ago, my brother was senselessly ripped from this world. I was furious at the man who took his life, and I wanted him to suffer the same fate my brother had. I wanted him to be put to death and was relieved when he received the death penalty at trial.

But over time, my perspective has changed. I now believe that the death penalty is morally wrong and that we must support sentencing that allows those who perpetrate harm to learn and change.

The media often talks about those who are sentenced to die in prison and the families of victims as though they are distinct and opposing groups. But the reality is that many families have lost loved ones both to gun violence and to death by incarceration.

A few years after my brother was killed, my son was arrested. His co-defendant killed someone during a burglary of a drug house – a burglary that went terribly wrong when the people who owned the house came home. My son is incarcerated under the felony murder rule. He didn't kill anyone, but he is sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for committing a crime alongside someone who took another's life.

Though I had already begun to question my stance on the death penalty before my son was convicted, now that I have a loved one in prison, I fully realize that people can and do change – and that we need to leave room for that possibility at the time of sentencing.

Today, I fight for a second chance not only for my son but also for the people who killed my brother.

If the courts had honored my wishes initially, the person who murdered my brother would be dead. But I'm glad he isn't. Today, I'd like to have a dialogue with the person who took my brother's life. I want justice that recognizes the possibility of transformation and healing; not just for those who have committed harm, but for those of us who have been harmed, who have survived violence, or lost our loved ones to violence.

I believe that society should set a limit on the kind of punishment it can dish out. Once upon a time, we tortured people to

punish them, but then we decided that was wrong. Today, if someone said at trial, "I'd like you to torture the person who killed my brother," we would say: "We are sorry for your loss, and you are right to be furious, but we cannot do that."

The death penalty is an extremely costly practice that takes money from the things that truly make us safe, like public schools and anti-violence programs. In Pennsylvania, capital punishment remains indefinitely on hold, while government officials await a report, now years in the making, analyzing capital punishment's history, effectiveness, and cost in our state. I hope that Pennsylvania, like 19 other states in America, will make the death penalty illegal — and soon.

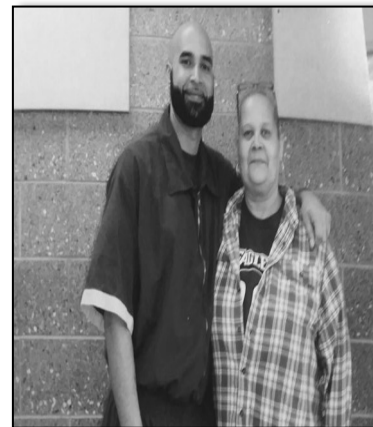
The death penalty is morally wrong.

Just as we should not torture people, we should not kill them, and we should not lock them away forever. We should give people the tools and the opportunity to change for the better, and have them try to make up for the harm they caused. We call it the Department of Corrections rather than the Department of Revenge for a reason.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the families who have lost loved ones to violence. I know your pain because I have felt it.

But the death penalty is not the solution.

Lorraine Haw is a member of the Coalition for a Just DA and the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration.



From: <http://www.philly.com/philly/opinion/commentary/death-penalty-pennsylvania-recidivism-criminal-justice-opinion-20180404.html>

Call for Contributors

THE MOVEMENT magazine is looking for quality, writing, especially from the families of prisoners, prisoners, and former prisoners that can contribute to critical thought and reflection in the various sections of this magazine. In particular we are interested in the following:

Feature articles: In-depth, analytical articles that critically examine the criminal justice System, poverty, racism, and that provide solutions to those issues.

Book reviews/political satire art/poetry: Is there a book you'd like to review for THE MOVEMENT magazine? Do you create political satire cartoons or other artwork? Do you write poetry? Let us know and send us copies of your work.

Letters: We love to hear from you. Families of prisoners and prisoners send us a shout-out letter and visiting room photo for our 'Love Knows No Bars' section, and send your letters to the Editor for our new 'Writings of Multiplicity' section of THE MOVEMENT. Please let us know if we have your permission to print your letter.

Moving? Don't forget to send us your new address!

(Continued from page 27)

Association and others are asking questions about the list and the obvious inconsistent criteria for people being on it. One area of confusion was the treatment of police violence. One officer, Robert Essack, who broke the facial bones of a suspect he punched, was not allowed to testify, while a different officer, Jose Cartagena who did basically the same thing, was allowed to testify. Why exactly are *these* police officers on this list when we know that the duty of police officers is to protect private property through any means necessary—with bullets, their cars, or their batons—as the arms of the state? Additionally, the names of the three Philadelphia police officers who murdered Tyreas Carlyle in North Philadelphia last August have never been released and it is not evident whether these officers are included on this list or not.

By: Rosa Nanasi Haas, Organizer with Human Rights Coalition

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

NOTICE! CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

HRC is forming an artist Co-op to sell artwork from inside the prison.

We are asking for you to send HRC the art that you all make to sell through our Co-op. Your art will be displayed and sold at events, galleries, and online. You, as the artist, will receive half of the proceeds, and the other half will assist HRC in the work that we do. If you would like us to send your share of the proceeds to someone else (family, organizations, etc.) we are capable of doing that. We look forward to receiving your work. Get creative! Send us your paintings, drawings, handmade jewelry, handmade clothing, sculptures, etc.!

Thanks so much!

HRC Artist Co-op



What's The News!

Sadistic prison guard accused of torturing inmates

BY
REUVEN BLAU
JAMES FANELLI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Sunday, February 11, 2018, 9:33 PM

A sadistic prison officer who has cost New York State \$877,637 in legal payouts over assault and sex harassment allegations is now under investigation over accusations he waterboarded two inmates and brutally beat them in their genitals.

Lt. Troy Mitchell, with the help of other guards, is accused of pouring buckets of water over the mouths and noses of two shackled inmates at the Auburn Correctional Facility in separate incidents. He is also accused of grabbing and twisting their genitals and then punching and whacking their groins with a baton.

In one incident, on Sept. 14, 2016, Mitchell beat prisoner Matthew Raymond so savagely that he now needs a catheter to urinate, according to civil court documents filed by Raymond's lawyer, Joan Magoolaghan, in Albany Supreme Court.

"Relentless in his attack, Lt. Mitchell then directed a corrections officer to spread Mr. Raymond's legs apart, after which the lieutenant forcefully grabbed and twisted Mr. Raymond's testicles and penis, and called him a 'stupid little bitch,'" the filing says.

The inspector general's office for the state Department of Correctional Services and Community Renewal previously looked into Raymond's accusations but determined they were unfounded.

However, the office reopened its investigation when a second prisoner made an identical claim against Mitchell, who has been a prison officer since 1986.

Magoolaghan's civil filing — which demands DOCCS hand over video footage and incident reports related the alleged assault — also notes that a third

Auburn inmate made similar complaints against Mitchell before Sept. 14, 2016.

DOCCS said in a statement to the Daily News on Friday that it suspended Mitchell, 54, without pay on Aug. 31, 2017, as part of an ongoing investigation into the matter. But Mitchell was accused of barbaric behavior long before his suspension — and not just by prisoners. Penny Collins, a female corrections officer at Auburn, received a \$787,837 judgment against DOCCS plus \$150,000 in backpay in 2012, five years after filing a lawsuit accusing Mitchell



Lt. Troy Mitchell is accused of pouring buckets of water over the mouths and noses of two shackled inmates at the Auburn Correctional Facility. (FACEBOOK)

and other officers of sexually harassing her.

The worst of the worst, she said, was Mitchell.

She accused him of repeated verbal abuse and bullying, including describing his excrements to her, boasting how he once told his mother she had "nice t-ts" and noting that a wedding ring Collins wore looked like one his wife owned that "got lost in his ass." She also said he liked to discuss the size of inmates' penises.

"This is one of the sickest people I've ever met in my entire life," Collins, 56, told the Daily News last week. She said she was so concerned about Mitchell's history of abuse to co-workers and inmates that she wrote a Nov. 17, 2006,

letter to a senior investigator at DOCCS' inspector general's office, warning him that incidents were going unreported. At the time, Mitchell had just been promoted to lieutenant.

"Someone must look into Lt. Mitchell and his actions as an employee," she wrote. "With this promotion, he now has a substantial amount of authority and I fear for the people he turns his abuse on." Collins said an investigator interviewed her one time after she sent the letter. She said she never heard from anyone after that.

"If they would have taken it seriously 12 years ago, none of this would be an issue now," she said.

Even before her accusations, Mitchell, and other officers at the facility, were under scrutiny. The U.S. Department of Justice investigated Auburn Correctional Facility over allegations of excessive force in 2005. The federal investigators ended their probe in 2007 when the five-year statute of limitations on the alleged misconduct expired.

However, the probe ran parallel to lawsuits filed by prisoners, including two that accused Mitchell of playing a role in beatdowns.

In one case, Dino Caroselli — who is serving a life sentence for a botched robbery in Brooklyn that led to a shootout with police officers — received a settlement of \$70,000 in 2008. He accused Mitchell and other officers of breaking both of his hands, ankle, nose and tooth during a 2002 assault.

In the other lawsuit, Richie Thomas, who was serving a life sentence for burglary, received a \$19,800 payout in 2008 after accusing officers of assaulting him while he was handcuffed to a utility room in 2002. Mitchell was named as a defendant but it is unclear what his role was in the alleged attack.

Mitchell has denied the allegations by Collins, Caroselli and Thomas. He couldn't be reached for comment regarding the latest allegations.

(Continued on page 31)

What's The News!

(Continued from page 30)

DOCCS said in a statement to the News that under the current contract with the prison officers union, it is limited in its ability to discipline correction officers. However, it said it is working to bolster its power to remove bad actors through a new security contract with the union.

"This department has zero tolerance for any behavior that jeopardizes the safety and security of our facilities and the individuals who live and work there," the agency said.

"All allegations of abuse are thoroughly investigated by our revamped Office of Special Investigations and those found to be at fault face the toughest discipline allowable under the collective bargaining agreement."

After years of criticism, the Cuomo administration has boosted the prison system's Office of Special Investigations. The entire unit was reorganized and is now headed by two attorneys with prosecutorial experience. Still, prisoner advocates contend confirmed cases of officer abuse rarely end with criminal charges.

Inmate Dino Caroselli received a settlement of \$70,000 in 2008 after he accused Lt. Troy Mitchell and other corrections officers of breaking both of his hands, ankle, nose and tooth during a 2002 assault.

Prison officials also point out that the state launched a \$15 million capital project in September 2016 to install more security cameras in Auburn. As for the alleged waterboarding, DOCCS could not say when investigators would finish their probe of Mitchell, who earned an annual salary of \$97,478 a year before his suspension.

Raymond, who had a traumatic brain injury before he went to prison and suffers seizures, says Mitchell attacked him after he was taken to a local hospital in Auburn for medical care.

The 29-year-old inmate started serving a four-to-eight-year sentence in prison in 2015 for a burglary conviction in Chautauque County.

On Sept. 14, 2016, Raymond suffered a seizure and was transferred to the hospital in handcuffs and a belly chain.

Officers later accused him of being disruptive at the hospital, even though medical records show he was shackled the whole time and in a confused and disoriented state, his lawyer's filing says.

Despite needing medical care, Raymond was quickly discharged after seeing a nurse practitioner and returned to the correctional facility. However, on the trip home, he suffered another seizure and vomited on himself.

At the prison, he was taken to a small room in a medical unit, where Mitchell and five other officers attacked him while he was shackled, the legal filing says.

The assault began with waterboarding and was followed by Mitchell striking Raymond in the face, neck and chest, the filings says.

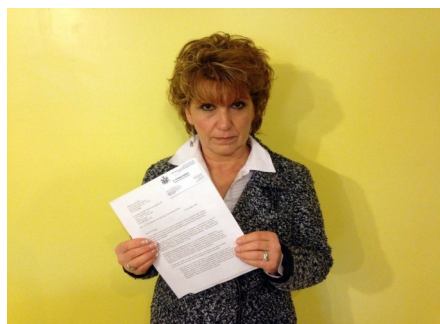
The attack continued — even when another officer interceded to say Raymond had a seizure, according to the filing. When Raymond tried to close his legs, Mitchell punched his groin and repeatedly struck him in the area with a baton, the court papers say. After the alleged attack, Raymond received no medical attention, even though he reported blood in his urine.

"It was not until January 2017, after his ability to urinate ceased and he fainted from toxicity that he was finally taken to the Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse," the filing says.

His medical providers concluded that his injuries were the result of blunt-force trauma to his genitals.

Collins said she was saddened but not surprised that DOCCS continued to employ Mitchell after she got her settlement in 2012.

Before her lawsuit, she filed a complaint in 2006. Collins said she eventually quit her job and became a family and marriage therapist. She also moved to Tennessee — partly to be away from her former co-workers.



Penny Collins (pictured) is a former New York State corrections officer who got a \$732,837 against the state over sex harassment allegations involving Lt. Troy Mitchell and other fellow corrections officers. (COURTESY OF PENNY COLLINS)

"I've never been sorry that I filed this lawsuit," she said. "I am only sorry that the state kept him employed. I knew that other people were going to be hurt. And I'm sorry for those inmates. I'm sorry for the officers. I am sorry for everyone who has to be around that man."

FROM: NY Daily News <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/>

(Continued from page 37)

ing about all their baby mamas, one kid is 25, has 8 kids, and wants more. It's time to stop blaming everyone else. Blacks used to school young bucks, now they try to recruit them in prison gangs telling them we're devils. My neighbor stopped going to school because two F.O.I. guys told him to. That's nuts. Are we trying to change the system or make excuses? Why would I want to stand up for someone who calls me a devil? Be honest with yourself. You make choices in life. We need to find out how to make things better and fix the prison system. But it will never happen because all people want to do is blame the white man. Don't send me no more of these. I hear enough bullshit in here.

Sincerely,
Dave Hoffer

What's The News!

Philly judge grants house arrest to man behind bars 11 years, facing retrial for 1st-degree murder

MARCH 22, 2018

by **Julie Shaw**, Staff writer

A Philadelphia judge on Thursday granted house arrest to a man facing a retrial in a murder case after more than a decade behind bars.

Common Pleas Court Judge Kathryn Streeter Lewis approved the defense request after the District Attorney's Office agreed that Dontia Patterson, 29, should be released on bail with electronic monitoring. But the office didn't go as far as to drop charges against Patterson in the 2007 shooting death of a friend in Northeast Philadelphia. "We have reviewed this matter and believe that the defendant may be innocent, but we're not there yet in terms of completing our investigation, which is why we are not dropping the charges," Anthony Voci Jr., the office's homicide chief, told reporters during a courtroom break.

Releasing from custody a defendant awaiting trial in a murder case is extremely unusual, lawyers on both sides said. State law does not provide for bail in first-degree murder cases, but "ultimately it's up to the judge," Voci said. Calling the case "extraordinary and exceptional," Voci said it meets four criteria for releasing Patterson pending retrial: Judge Steven Geroff on Feb. 16 vacated Patterson's conviction and sentence; Patterson actually may be innocent; he has no prior adult convictions for crimes of violence; and prosecutors agreed to bail.

Patterson's case was taken up pro bono by attorneys from the Center City firm of Cozen O'Connor and the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. Hayes Hunt, of the Cozen firm, standing alongside its president and managing partner, Vincent McGuinness, told reporters Thursday that evidence shows Patterson is innocent. Voci told Lewis that prosecutors agreed to the bail request because "we have serious concerns about the integrity" of Patterson's conviction. But he asked for more

time to investigate the case, saying prosecutors should decide within 90 days whether to drop the charges or proceed to a retrial.

After the judge ordered him released, Patterson smiled at relatives. He has been housed in state prison, most recently in Chester, Delaware County. It was not immediately clear when he would be released, but Hunt said it should be in the next few days. "I'm just really excited and happy," Patterson's mother, Jacqueline, said afterward.

Patterson was charged with fatally shooting Antwine Jackson outside a store on the 800 block of Granite Street in Summerdale on Jan. 11, 2007. He was arrested that April. His trial in 2008 ended in a hung jury. He was convicted at a second trial in 2009 of first-degree murder and possession of an instrument of crime, and sentenced to life in prison.

The store owner knew Patterson and would have testified that Patterson was not the shooter, but was not called to testify, Hunt said. Two witnesses who identified Patterson as the shooter were at a barber shop two blocks away and didn't know Patterson, Hunt said.

From: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news>

HRC at Princeton University's SPEAR Conference

April 13 & 14, 2018

By Shandre Delaney

Princeton University's organization Students for Prison Education and Reform (SPEAR) held a 2 day conference "Shadows of the Prison." Nearly 200 people attended the 5th annual event. The opening plenary, "What About the Families? The Invisible Consequences of Mass Incarceration presented by Breea Willingham touched on the pain that prison life brings to the families of the incarcerated. The Keynote panel topics of discussion were Agents of the Shadows: Police, Violence and Control, Carceral Logics, Carceral Shadows and Probation and Parole: Punishment Beyond the Prison.

on. The day was broken into keynote panels and then breakout workshops which covered a wide range of topics such as decarceration, transformative justice and abolishing cash bail.

Our workshop "Earth Liberation Not Mass Incarceration: Building momentum at the intersections of Abolition and the Environment" featured two speakers from the inside. Representing Human Rights Coalition, my son Carrington Keys and I were a part of a workshop held in conjunction with The Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP). Carrington called in to discuss his experiences with environmental issues within our prisons in Pennsylvania. We listened to a speech at Yale University delivered by another prisoner, Bryant Arroyo which was a powerful and amazing deliverance regarding the prisoners struggle to be free from a toxic environment. We discussed the obvious environmental issues, but also touched on the fact that prison in itself is toxic for both prisoners and families and society in general.

The workshop was facilitated by Jordan Mazurek, national organizer for FTP, who has experience in the areas of environmentalism, housing justice, labor struggles, racial justice, and working to reign in the prison industrial slave complex. Also, on the workshop was Melissa Legge, an Equal Justice Works fellow at Earthjustice's Northeast Office in New York. Her fellowship project aims to use the power of environmental law to fight for environmental justice for the incarcerated.

Our workshop garnered support and allies for our campaign to fight toxic prisons. We announced our upcoming convergence. From June 8 to 11, 2018 the Human Rights Coalition will be hosting the 3rd annual Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence in Pittsburgh. Activists from all movements, Abolitionists and Environmentalists will be convening in Pittsburgh from all over the nation for workshops and a day of action.

For more information please contact Shandre Delaney at sd4hrc@gmail.com or 724-960-8284

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrccoalition.org

Human Rights Matters



The third annual #FightToxicPrisons Convergence is coming up this June 8-11, 2018! Prison abolitionists and Environmental Justice organizers will come together in Pittsburgh, PA for a weekend full of workshops, panels, and action to FIGHT TOXIC PRISONS! Pennsylvania is no stranger to prison and environmental injustice. As fracking for oil and gas and the remnants of the coal industry continue to destroy the environment, Pennsylvania prisoners are faced with a slew of health issues, including crumbling facilities, polluted air and water, black mold, epidemic-level illnesses, and truly criminal medical neglect. Despite that, organizers across the state are fighting extractive industry, working to eliminate solitary confinement, and Death by Incarceration, resisting ICE, fighting for better healthcare, and building community. Join us in Pittsburgh in June as we continue to fight for the rights of prisoners and the environment, develop stronger networks of solidarity, and work together to Fight Toxic Prisons!

If you have any family or loved ones in Pittsburgh invite them to attend! If you are interested in calling-in to speak on a panel at the convergence please let us know!

HRC-Philly will also be arranging transportation, housing and food to spend the weekend at in Pittsburgh. Tell your family, friends and loved ones to reach out to us if they'd like to come from Philly or elsewhere in the state!

We are collecting info on health problems caused by toxic prisons across the state. If you have experienced any symptoms or health problems while incarcerated, please fill out the *Environmental Health Questionnaire* and send to:

HRC Philly, LAVA Space, 4134 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia PA 191014

ATTN: Health Survey should be written on the outside of the envelope.

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

See page 32 for *Environmental Health Questionnaire*

Environmental Health Questionnaire

Name: _____

Inmate Number: _____

Current facility you are incarcerated in: _____

Have you experienced health problems while incarcerated? Please p all that apply.

☐ Headaches ☐ Asthma ☐ Viral Infections

☐ Dizziness ☐ Respiratory illness/bronchitis ☐ HEP C

☐ Bloody noses ☐ Internal bleeding ☐ HIV/AIDS

☐ Digestive problems ☐ Heart disease ☐ Broken bones

☐ Cancer (please specify) _____

Other (please describe): _____

Have you received medical care while in prison? Please describe what kind of medical attention you received. If you felt that you were the victim of medical neglect or malicious/harmful treatment from prison staff, please explain: _____

Do you still require medical attention? What do you need? _____

Are there, or do you suspect there to be toxic threats (bad water, air quality problems, poor infrastructure, toxic industry nearby, etc) in any facility you were incarcerated at? Which facility(ies)? Have you ever reported these conditions? _____

What can be done to remedy the contamination and/or toxic threats? Are there any facilities or toxic industrial sites that need to be cleaned up and/or shut down? _____

What type of action should human rights activists take to make health/healthcare in prison a human right? _____

Thank you.

Human Rights Matters



Ground Zero

by Richard

Upon arriving at SCI Fayette in 2008, my nose began to congest, and I immediately started to experience problems breathing. It first began as a stuffy nose, then my nose began to run constantly. And thus my journey and nightmare began. I started to go back and forth to sick call for months, only to be told that my symptoms were just allergies, and that this was common for people from the eastern part of the state. As my health deteriorated month after month, I was diagnosed with respiratory infections, bronchitis, and throat irritations that made swallowing very difficult. Although I was being given antibiotics and allergy medicines, I was told that my problem was imaginary and psychosomatic. I was admitted into the infirmary well over 10 times and at medical at least 40 times during my four years at SCI Fayette.

My whole time there, I was preoccupied with trying to get healthy, as I had no idea what was making me sick. My story is a similar story to many who are still incarcerated there, along with local residents. We, the Fayette Justice Health Committee of Put People First PA are determined and steadfast in seeking justice for those who have been affected and are currently being affected by health and environmental hazards at SCI Fayette and in and near LaBelle, PA.

No Accident

by Gabriel

When developers began the construction of the facilities of SCI Fayette in 2000, there was no mystery that they were building a prison on toxic land. For over half a century before the first inmates arrived in 2003, workers using trucks and shovels dumped a total of about 40 million tons of coal waste into what are today prison grounds. Coal waste comes from processing raw coal.

Corporations then turned to dumping coal ash, which comes from burning processed coal in power plants and boilers, into the grounds of Fayette. Between 1998 and 2003, the Matt Canestrone Contracting Company and FirstEnergy transported and discarded nearly 1.5 million tons of coal ash, all of it coming from nearby Mitchell, Hatfield, and Elrama power plants. SCI Fayette began operations in 2003, and over the span of the next decade -- as numbers of inmates and staff increased from under 1,000 when the prison first opened to upwards of 3,000, as is the case today -- the same companies teamed up to haul close to an additional 4 million tons of coal ash onto the site. That's a total of 5,337,143.44 tons of coal ash dumped into the grounds from 1998 to the close of 2013.

As one would expect, discarding coal ash is not clean. Every new deposit spreads dangerous dust into the air. For years, black

dust blowing from the dump settled regularly onto the prison and its grounds, exposing inmates, staff, and town residents to harmful airborne particles and contaminated water. In Fayette's first decade of operation, corporations involved in disposing coal waste without a doubt made what was already a contaminated site even more toxic. It doesn't take a scientist to see that dumping large amounts of coal ash into the earth and water is a bad idea. The dust is likely to give anyone exposed to it a host of respiratory problems, gastrointestinal issues, and other painful symptoms. Several lawsuits have been filed against the Matt Canestrone Contracting Company and First Energy over the years for violating regulations put forward by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and for putting those living near the site in harm's way. On top of facing legal challenges, corporations responsible for dumping coal ash into Fayette's grounds also faced pressure over the past several years from prison justice and environmental groups such as the Human Rights Coalition, the Citizens Coal Council, the Center for Coalfield Justice, and the Abolitionist Law Center.

That pressure has already paid off. As part of a legal settlement, the Matt Canestrone Contracting Company was pushed to accept a moratorium on new dumping of coal ash near Fayette in 2016. But the poisons that decades of industry have buried under the ground haven't gone away. Inmates over the years have suffered severe health effects as a result of living on a toxic site. According to an investigation carried out by the Abolitionist Law Center in 2013-14, 61 of 75 prisoners reported experiencing respiratory, throat, and sinus problems such as shortness of breath, chronic coughing, sinus and lung infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, extreme swelling of the throat, sores, cysts, and tumors along upper respiratory tracts. Another major health effect reported by 68% of respondents included gastrointestinal problems: heartburn, stomach pains, diarrhea, ulcers, ulcerative colitis, bloody stools, and vomiting. Half of respondents also noted that they were experiencing skin conditions such as painful rashes, hives, cysts, and abscesses, while 12% reported first-time thyroid disorders or worsening thyroid problems after transfer to SCI Fayette. Staff and local residents have also raised alarms about coal ash exposure negatively affecting their health. It's no accident why so many people are suffering these symptoms. Polluted land poisons the bodies of those who live on it. The prison was knowingly built on a toxic site, and to make matters worse, the grounds continued to be contaminated for over a decade by new infusions of coal ash. To expose incarcerated people -- locked up, disenfranchised, exploited, and separated from their loved ones -- to harmful toxins, unhealthy environments, and inadequate health care is to heap injustice on injustice.

From: Put People First Keystone Fayette Health Justice Issue, Winter 2018

say what ? . . . speak up! / writings of multiplicity

OBSERVATIONS

Time ticks away like the final seconds on a score board at a High School football game.

The past continues to accumulate, so much so, that we lose track of where it began.

The Tunnel leading us into the future, once shed so much light, now, the darkness at the end is in sight.

We approach it, at what feels like the speed of a slug. Every exhale brings us closer to it, and every moment we are aware of this, is torture.

The oppression from our captors, is relentless. Drunk off power, they commit acts of terror without remorse, because they know, as do we, that punishment for their crimes, is taboo.

Every day is a constant struggle to maintain sanity. It slips from our finger tips as if it were covered in oil.

Physically incarcerated, some of us close our eyes and thrust fingers into our ears in a vain attempt to shut out reality.

The mind, was once a place of exclusive escape, but now, even in our imagination, we are unable to break free.

Cheap talk of revolution and rebellion is frequent, but hearts diseased with fear of the oppressor's wrath, pump passive blood through the veins of many.

Though some of us are conscious of our surroundings, the majority are lost in a trans-like state of mind with a one-dimensional thought process, captivated by the allure of momentary satisfaction we get from junk food, malfunctioning electronics, and both legal and illegal "get highs."

We live in an artificial world where our

addictions to "privileges" are exploited by our oppressors as a strategic tool to keep us divided and conquered. Our fear of losing these privileges causes us to stand docile in the face of oppression, mental, moral, and cultural rape.

Our unwillingness to have tolerance for each other's differences, our perverted pleasure and obsession with exposing one another's faults, further divides us.

And so we continue to suffer in deterioration, both as individuals and as a whole. Victory for the oppressor, in miserly live the oppressed. We've allowed an intruder, a clear enemy, to infiltrate our defenses. This enemy now instructs us on what to think, how to think, when to defecate, when to eat, and when to sleep. We are no longer in control of our own faculties.

As long as we have our privileges, we are content with these conditions. Some of us are even so manipulated, that we have become delusional about our "status" in relation to our oppressor. We play wrestle with the oppressor, we think they are our friends, and we love them, just like the slave was taught to love his master. We are not angry at them, and there is not even a minute level of rage within most of us. Just like the dogs we train, the oppressor dangles a treat in front of us and we are ready to obey, sit, lie down, or roll over. The worst part is that we don't even dig how pathetic we are.

On commissary day, we are happy and all smiles. We strut like a bunch of models on the runway with two and three bags of goodies thrown over our shoulders. Conversations get loud for no particular reason. We exaggerate a lean when we walk, and if we don't get any attention from onlookers, we are vexed. Even when someone does shout "O.K. playa, I see you", we put the "ice grill" expression on to mask our pride, and then we walk a little harder and lean a little lower.

Oh yes, we act like a bunch of buffoons

in our defective Timberland's and off white "Bobo's" on commissary day. If we could only see ourselves as we perform, would we be amused, or embarrassed?

Five days later, and two days before the next commissary, it's the Great Depression all over again. We've run out of our comfort foods, we miscalculated our funds while showing off, and failed to pay the cable bill. Now, reality is back, and we have nowhere to hide. So, what do we do? We smoke duce, we pop strips, and we "get wright."

Its weird how the tables turn. We used to criticize neighborhood fiends for having drug addictions. We capitalized on their weaknesses, and we profited from them. We abused them, used them, sold them poison, and despised then. But my question to us is; who are the fiends now?

This is a sincere attempt to give us a wake-up call. Look in the mirror; if we cannot recognize the faces staring back at us, then something is very wrong and the first step towards fixing it is to first admit to it. After that, we retrace our steps to the root of what transformed us into the strangers we see in those mirrors. That will give us understanding, and once we have that we can begin the process of correcting ourselves.

Written from the heart with tough love.

George "Big George" Dalie, #HC-9826, SCI-Rockview

IT'S JUST BUSINESS

Various business ventures became successful to the point that they are able to trade their stock on Wall Street. Prisons are such a venture; a venture that has reached the pinnacle of wealth to be able to trade their stock on wall street.

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say what ? . . . speak up! / writings of multiplicity

(Continued from page 36)

Their stock (prisons) is enhanced by a scheme within the criminal justice system. The scheme is to highjack the jury process and stack it with all white juries during trials of African Americans. Please bear in mind that although the U.S. Supreme court has outlawed this illegal premeditated draconian tactic, prosecutors nationwide are still utilizing this scheme which is synonymous to a high-tech lynching. They repackage the fix in such a manner that they're able to circumvent the high courts' ruling thereby rendering it impotent.

Another fix in the so-called justice system used to garner profits from prisons is Gerrymandering, which according to the Pennsylvania State Constitution is illegal. Under Gerrymandering prisoners are counted as living in areas that aren't their residences. Please see: The newsletter at www.prisonersofthecensus.org or contact Peter Wagner at www.prisonpolicy.org/contact.

Another aspect of the schemes to garner money on the backs of prisoners is the treatment of the poor relative to the rich in the Criminal Justice System. It's not that rich folks don't commit the same crimes as the poor, they do, rather it's because every system in the United States is set up by the rich for their benefit. They will have the best law firms that money can buy, however, the poor will have to make do with an underpaid mistake-prone, overworked public defender. The rich will usually resolve their matter at the arrest level. While the poor court-appointed public defender won't show up until the preliminary hearing or a few weeks before trial — In a word it is all about the money.

In a speech that resonates even today, delivered by the former U.S. Attorney General, Robert Kennedy, in 1964, he stated, "What has been demonstrated here is that usually one factor determines whether defendants stay in jail

before he/she comes to trial. That factor is not guilt or innocence. It is not the nature of the crime. It is not the character of the defendant. That factor is simply money.

Fraternally, yours
Omar Askia Ali, AF0814, SCI-Coal Township

Help Indict Colorado's No-Indictment False Imprisonment Scam

From: Omar Gent, Founder of
FreeOurBrothers.com

To: The People

Greetings:

I was born May 6, 1984. I am a black male that has been kidnapped and wrongfully and fraudulently imprisoned for aggravated robbery — without the necessary valid charging document and felony subject matter jurisdiction to lawfully authorize my involuntary servitude.

But the fraud and multiple structural constitutional violations that led to my unlawful enslavement is indicative of Colorado's lynch law no-indictment machination that abolishes due process of law and the Emancipation Proclamation. My website: FreeOurBrothers.com exposes this machination and challenges the people to sign the petition against this fraud that targets the poor and marginalized people of all races. If you agree that all are created equal and that nobody — including the government — is above the law, please encourage at least 7 people or more to visit my website and sign the petition and encourage those people

to do the same. If you have a platform or expertise that you would like to align with this cause, please contact me. Thank you for standing with this cause.

Contact: Omar Gent, 310 Spenser St. Apt. 1, Monterey, CA 93940 or call/text Ryan Policht (my close friend and supporter) at 707-362-6488 or email: Lightmatter-time@gmail.com.

Besides signing the petition visit FACEBOOK/groups Omar Gent and listen to and share the posted recording titled 'The Legal Lynching Expose'. And send Friend request to this page and add it to your favorites.

Whomever —

When I wrote to ask for a script for *The Movement* I thought it was to help all of us who are incarcerated. But more and more, all I see are articles complaining about whites. I'm already sick to death of having it for the past 26 years in here. People don't take responsibility for their actions so they blame the white man. Now, yes, there are cops that are assholes; I got harassed my whole life. Where I lived, it was mostly white, and I got stopped walking home almost every night. I had a gun pointed at my head when I was 15, searched and locked up for 7 months because a Vietnamese guy robbed a store; I'm white with blond hair.

I've been down since '91, plus 4 years in the 90's and survived. You can't blame people shooting each other and everything else on white people. Sure you may have it worse, you may have to do what ya gotta do, but once you get money, why do you keep doing it? All these kids have no fathers. I hear dudes talk-

(Continued on page 31)

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

say what ? . . . speak up! / writings of multiplicity

Kim Jong Who?

By: Jerome Marshall, SCI-Green

I don't know about North Korea or Kim Jong-un.

I don't know how many people that is in his prison. Or who is in his prison for political or legitimate reasons.

I don't know if they got 5,000 – 20,000, or even one goddamn person, in their prison.

But I do know about Don-ald Trump.

I do know about Jeff Sessions.

I do know about the United States and the mass number of incarcerated people imprisoned here to furnish this Prison Industry.

I do know that they reap a profit of over 100s of Billions of dollars every year to build and operate prisons, and use the cheap labor of low-income Blacks, Minorities, Immigrants, and the Poor.

I know about Don-ald...Trump and Jeff Sessions. I said that already, right? Well, then, I'll say it again.

Because of racism, classism, and financial benefits mass incarceration will continue. This injustice of a biased legal system that permeates every facet of the system, will only stop if we do everything, I mean everything, to change it. We cannot allow this country to forget about, or ignore doing right by all its people.

And I also do know while this Country is consistently preaching and lecturing other countries about human rights and take the moralist platform to the world, this Country is like a family man that appears to the world a decent man, while at home he is abusing and molesting his children. This Country is like this.

And We must not allow them to get away with this at any time or any moment. We must never be silent.

Even the tyrant, Vladimir Putin was smart enough to say, at a summit that the President Donald Trump attended and proceeded to criticize others for their Human Rights violations, Putin said, "What about Black Lives Matters"?

I remember a time when countries were using our examples for improvement, like in the 60s, 70s, 80, and 90s. Unfortunately, now, they are still using our examples.

Maybe if we do better to us, for us, they will themselves, too.

Good Media Bad Media

Good Cop, Bad Cop; Good Racist, Bad Racist; Good Media, Bad Media

Aren't you seeing that there is no difference, except that we are more susceptible to the influence and mental conditioning of the racist so-called, "liberal media". Here's How and Why:

They knew that in the nineteen-thirties, in Austria or some goddamn where, that supposedly a certain Vatican member was brainwashed and this led later to the USSR and UNITED STATES to create brainwashing programs.

They knew that Hitler and his Third Reich brainwashed and influenced millions. They have known advertisers practice these techniques in all advertisement.

They also know the trick, that if you show a video in a courtroom over and over, that you can desensitize the audience to the contents.

They know this. Do you know this?

Because this appears to be a function of the Liberal mainstream White Media. One of their agendas seems to formulate, influence, guide, change and desensitize any issue.

Examples: They shifted the issues and questions Colin Kaepernick addressed about Police Brutality, methodically, to are we disrespecting the NFL and the flag. They rearrange our issues, always intentionally, into their issues, created, in order to kill ours. And when we accuse them of racism, they spend weeks saying, this isn't racism or are we Black people just ungrateful bad black...

I believe that they, the CNN's mainstream media, are more dangerous than, even the conservative media, because with the conservative media, we know who and what they are and what their agenda is. So our mind is consistently on the defense and we do not let any of the bullshit in, that they be talking. But we allow the white liberal media to influence our thinking by absorbing the content of their discussions.

And because our minds are so open to this type of brainwashing, we are now afraid to call racism, each time we hear racism. Why? Because White people are tired of hearing about it?

(Continued on page 39)

say what ? . . . speak up! // writings of multiplicity

(Continued from page 38)

We even let the white liberal Media make us question as to whether a racist is really a racist, or whether what someone said is really racist! Some of us are aware that it's to desensitize their community, but it's also for our detriment too. Example: Donald Trump. Is he a racist? The same man who was sued and lost for racism, before he was elected, and who started the Birther Movement about former President Obama even when, the CIA, FBI, NSA, DOD, etc., the world's most powerful investigators, concluded he was a citizen. But Congress and White People really knew this, including the media, but played upon the racist questioning for years about whether or not he is a citizen. This Trump guy campaigned on racism and xenophobia.

Now the bastard Media are asking everyone, and us, “Is this racism,” and they got some of us are saying now what they are saying, “Naw, maybe that’s just him,” or that he’s just ignorant. And some of this is coming from Black people too. We are becoming placated and subjugated willingly. Conditioned again and again. Mindless to the reconstruction of the 21st century treatment of us. We have to be attuned to what is going on. I feel as though the mainstream media is just managing racism and the status quo and this racist system. I just recently watched on PBS, [I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO] and I really don’t see any difference from yesterday, to today, in the psychological subjugation of the negro. James Baldwin explained how two forces can work for the same agenda and appear differently.

“You don’t have to physically beat me like a nigger—to be beating me like a nigger.” Let’s be more astute to what is going on. From a Son and Brother .

Love you,

Jerome Marshall, AY-5932

[illegible]

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What Does 400,000 Returning Citizens Mean

By: Karen Lee

Initially I was gung-ho, ready to go all-in to write about my experience working as a Hearings Stenographer in the Philadelphia Police Department, but after giving it some thought, running it by my significant other and realizing that I would have nothing positive to say, I “copped” out. So I am now re-directing my thought process to Philadelphia and its returning citizen population, all 400,000 of them.

Yes, at last count, Philly has over 400,000 returning citizens setting up residence in the Hood. It's where they live, eat, play and work. It's also where many of their children's mothers live in public housing, where they are prohibited from residing in because of a criminal background; it's where their children attend schools branded "school to prison pipeline" where you see little if any involvement from the fathers themselves; it's where you see men, women and children running day and night into the corner stores operated by folks who don't look like them whose intent is to let garbage be the content; it's where trades and unions have no incentive or purpose to hire returning citizens because that issue is not their concern nor their fight; it's where regentrification is now becoming the rule and not the exception, but maybe the concept can be adopted by returning citizens who have skills in building, revitalizing and reinvesting in our own neighborhood, brick by brick; it's also where you see good intentioned, well meaning non-residents from the suburbs and college students cleaning up the trash in our neighborhood that we oftentimes create.

So the question is, how can returning citizens make a difference? By building a PAC—a Political Action Committee. With 400,000 in Philly, imagine if one third of that number formed and forged a BLOC, a Lobby, or organized and campaigned. With that number, we can elect our own judges, politicians, make demands with people who have our interest at heart and have those demands heard because we now have the political clout necessary to shake things up, make a difference, even. But right now we're just a scattered 400,000 with no clear cut plan, no prospects, and no agenda, living and giving proof to that old adage, Divided We Fall.

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.

Solitary in Iran Nearly Broke Me. Then I Went Inside America's Prisons.

We throw thousands of men in the hole for the books they read, the company they keep, the beliefs they hold. Here's why.

**SHANE BAUER, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2012 ISSUE**

Part I of III

IT'S BEEN SEVEN MONTHS since I've been inside a prison cell. Now I'm back, sort of. The experience is eerily like my dreams, where I am a prisoner in another man's cell. Like the cell I go back to in my sleep, this one is built for solitary confinement. I'm taking intermittent, heaving breaths, like I can't get enough air. This still happens to me from time to time, especially in tight spaces. At a little over 11 by 7 feet, this cell is smaller than any I've ever inhabited. You can't pace in it.

Like in my dreams, I case the space for the means of staying sane. Is there a TV to watch, a book to read, a round object to toss? The pathetic artifacts of this inmate's life remind me of objects that were once everything to me: a stack of books, a handmade chessboard, a few scattered pieces of artwork taped to the concrete, a family photo, large manila envelopes full of letters. I know that these things are his world.

"So when you're in Iran and in solitary confinement," asks my guide, Lieutenant Chris Acosta, "was it different?" His tone makes clear that he believes an Iranian prison to be a bad place.

He's right about that. After being apprehended on the Iran-Iraq border, Sarah Shourd, Josh Fattal, and I were held in Evin Prison's isolation ward for political prisoners. Sarah remained there for 13 months, Josh and I for 26 months. We were held incommunicado. We never knew when, or if, we would get out. We didn't go to trial for two years. When we did we had no way to speak to a lawyer and no means of contesting the charges against us, which included espionage. The alleged evidence the court held was "confidential."

What I want to tell Acosta is that no part of my experience—not the uncertainty of when I would be free again, not the tortured screams of other prisoners—was worse than the four months I spent in solitary confinement. What would he say if I told him I needed human contact so badly that I woke every morning hoping to be interrogated? Would he believe that I once yearned to be sat down in a padded, soundproof room, blindfolded, and questioned, just so I could talk to somebody?

I want to answer his question—of course my experience was different from those of the men at California's Pelican Bay State Prison—but I'm not sure how to do it. How do you compare, when the difference between one person's stability and another's insanity is found in tiny details? Do I point out that I had a mattress, and they have thin pieces of foam; that the concrete open-air cell I exercised in was twice the size of the "dog run" at Pelican Bay, which is about 16 by 25 feet; that I got 15 minutes of phone calls in 26 months, and they get none; that I couldn't write letters, but they can; that we could only talk to nearby prisoners in secret, but they can shout to each other without being punished; that unlike where I was imprisoned, whoever lives here has to shit at the front of his cell, in view of the guards?

"There was a window," I say. I don't quite know how to tell him what I mean by that answer. "Just having that light come in, seeing the light move across the cell, seeing what time of day it was—" Without those windows, I wouldn't have had the sound of ravens, the rare breezes, or the drops of rain that I let wash over my face some nights. My world would have been utterly restricted to my concrete box, to watching the miniature ocean waves I made by sloshing water back and forth in a bottle; to marveling at ants; to calculating the mean, median, and mode of the tick marks on the wall; to talking to myself without realizing it. For hours, days, I fixated on the patch of sunlight cast against my wall through those barred and grated windows. When, after five weeks, my knees buckled and I fell to the ground utterly broken, sobbing and rocking to the beat of my heart, it was the patch of sunlight that brought me back. Its slow creeping against the wall reminded me that the world did in fact turn and that time was something other than the stagnant pool my life was draining into.

When, after five weeks, my knees buckled and I fell to the ground utterly broken, sobbing and rocking to the beat of my heart, it was the patch of sunlight that brought me back. Here, there are no windows.

Acosta, Pelican Bay's public information officer, is giving me a tour of the Security Housing Unit. Inmates deemed a threat to the security of any of California's 33 prisons are shipped to one of the state's five SHUs (pronounced "shoes"), which hold nearly 4,000 people in long-term isolation. In the Pelican Bay SHU, 94 percent of prisoners are celled alone; overcrowding has forced the prison to double up the rest. Statewide, about 32 percent of SHU cells—hardly large enough for one person—are crammed with two inmates.

The cell I am standing in is one of eight in a "pod," a large concrete room with cells along one side and only one exit, which leads to the guards' control room. A guard watches over us, rifle in hand, through a set of bars in the wall. He can easily

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shoot into any one of six pods around him. He communicates with prisoners through speakers and opens their steel grated cell doors via remote. That is how they are let out to the dog run, where they exercise for an hour a day, alone. They don't leave the cell to eat. If they ever leave the pod, they have to strip naked, pass their hands through a food slot to be handcuffed, then wait for the door to open and be bellycuffed.

I've been corresponding with at least 20 inmates in SHUs around California as part of an investigation into why and how people end up here. While at Pelican Bay, I'm not allowed to see or speak to any of them. Since 1996, California law has given prison authorities full control of which inmates journalists can interview. The only one I'm permitted to speak to is the same person the New York Times was allowed to interview months before. He is getting out of the SHU because he informed on other prisoners. In fact, this SHU pod—the only one I am allowed to see—is populated entirely by prison informants. I ask repeatedly why I'm not allowed to visit another pod or speak to other SHU inmates. Eventually, Acosta snaps: "You're just not."

IF I COULD, I would meet with Dietrich Pennington, a 59-year-old Army veteran from Oakland who has served 20 years of a life sentence for robbery, kidnapping, and attempted murder. Pennington has lived alone in one of these cells for more than four years. During that time, he hasn't spoken to his family. He has never met any of his seven grandchildren. In the SHU, he's seen "some of the strongest men I know fall apart."

But the fact that Pennington is in solitary is not what is remarkable about his story. More than 80,000 people were in solitary confinement in the United States in 2005, the last time the federal government released such data. In California alone, at least 11,730 people are housed in some form of isolation. What is unique about Pennington—if being one of thousands can be considered unique—is that he doesn't know when, or if, he will get out of the SHU. Like at least 3,808 others in California, he is serving an indeterminate sentence.

Compared to most SHU inmates, Pennington is a newbie. Prisoners spend an average of 7.5 years in the Pelican Bay SHU, the only one for which the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has statistics. More than half of the 1,126 prisoners here have been in isolation for at least five years. Eighty-nine have been there for at least 20 years. One has been in solitary for 42 years.

Like many of the others, Pennington has never been charged with any serious prison offenses, like fighting or selling drugs. In 20 years of incarceration, his only strikes have been two rule violations: delaying roll call and refusing to be housed in a dorm-style cell with at least seven other prisoners. While in prison, he became a certified welder, receiving a special commendation for his work on building a rollover crash simulator for the California Highway Patrol. He used to regularly attend religious services and self-help groups, including parenting classes, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous, all of which are forbidden in the SHU.

Pennington's lawyer, Charles Carbone, says his "impeccable prison record" should have him on track for parole. But there is no chance of that—four years ago Pennington was "validated" by prison staff as an associate of a prison gang (one formed on the inside, as opposed to a street gang). That's the reason he and thousands of others are in the SHU with no exit date.

Pennington is not accused of giving or carrying out orders on behalf of any gang. In fact, there is no evidence that he's ever communicated with a member of a gang in his entire life. "I've never been, never want to be a part of no gang," he wrote me. (He is currently trying to challenge his validation in court.)

To validate an inmate as a gang member, the state requires at least three pieces of evidence, which must be "indicative of actual membership" or association with a prison gang in the last six years. At least one item must show a "direct link," like a note or other communication, to a validated gang member or associate. Once the prison's gang investigator has gathered this evidence, it is reviewed in an administrative hearing and then sent to CDCR headquarters in Sacramento.

There is no evidence that Pennington has ever communicated with a member of a gang in his life. His validation as a gang "associate" relies on items such as a newspaper article and a coffee mug.

In Pennington's file, the "direct link" is his possession of an article published in the San Francisco Bay View, an African American newspaper with a circulation of around 15,000. The paper is approved for distribution in California prisons, and Pennington's right to receive it is protected under state law. In the op-ed style article he had in his cell, titled "Guards confiscate 'revolutionary' materials at Pelican Bay," a validated member of the Black Guerilla Family prison gang complains about the seizure of literature and pictures from his cell and accuses the prison of pursuing "racist policy." In Pennington's validation documents, the gang investigator contends that, by naming the confiscated materials, the author "communicates to associates of the BGF...as to which material needs to be studied." No one alleges that Pennington ever attempted to contact the author. It is enough that he possessed the article.

The second piece of evidence was a cup Pennington had in his cell bearing a picture of a dragon, an image CDCR considers an "identifying symbol" of the Black Guerilla Family. The third was a notebook he kept, which the gang investigator alleges "shows his beliefs in the ideals of the BGF." Its pages are filled with references to black history—Nat Turner, the Scottsboro 9, the number of blacks executed between 1930 and 1969, and quotes from figures like W.E.B. Du Bois and Malcolm X. There are also passages in which Pennington ruminates at length on what he calls "the oppression and violence inflicted upon us here in maximum security," referencing a Time exposé. Pennington never mentions gangs or unlawful activity in his writing. But in his validation documents, the gang investigator points out that the notebook contains quotes by Fleeta Drumgo and George Jackson, two former Black Panthers who are revered by members of the BGF and politicized African Ameri-

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can prisoners generally. The single Jackson quote Pennington wrote down reads, “The text books on criminology like to advance the idea that the prisoners are mentally defective. There is only the merest suggestion that the system itself is at fault.” California officials frequently cite possession of black literature, left-wing materials, and writing about prisoner rights as evidence of gang affiliation. In the dozens of cases I reviewed, gang investigators have used the term “[BGF] training material” to refer to publications by California Prison Focus, a group that advocates the abolition of the SHUs; Jackson’s once best-selling *Soledad Brother*; a pamphlet said to reference “Revolutionary Black Nationalism, The Black Internationalist Party, Marx, and Lenin”; and a pamphlet titled “The Black People’s Prison Survival Guide.” This last one advises inmates to read books, keep a dictionary handy, practice yoga, avoid watching too much television, and stay away from “leaders of gangs.”

The list goes on. Other materials considered evidence of gang involvement have included writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal; *The Black Panther Party: Reconsidered*, a collection of academic essays by University of Cincinnati professor Charles Jones; pictures of Assata Shakur, Malcolm X, George Jackson, and Nat Turner; and virtually anything using the term “New Afrikan.” At least one validation besides Pennington’s referenced handwritten pages of “Afro centric ideology.” As warden of San Quentin Prison in the 1980s, Daniel Vasquez oversaw what was then the country’s largest SHU. He’s now a corrections consultant and has testified on behalf of inmates seeking to reverse their validations. As we sat in his suburban Bay Area home, he told me it is “very common” for African American prisoners who display leadership qualities or radical political views to end up in the SHU. Similarly, he recalls, “we were told that when an African American inmate identified as being Muslim, we were supposed to watch them carefully and get their names.” Vasquez testified in federal court in the case of a former inmate, Ernesto Lira, who was gang validated in part based on a drawing that included an image of the huelga bird, the symbol of the United Farm Workers. While the image has been co-opted by the Nuestra Familia prison gang, Vasquez testified that it is “a popular symbol widely used in Hispanic culture and by California farmworkers.” Lira’s validation was one of a handful to ever be reversed in federal court—though not until after he was released on parole, having spent eight years in the SHU. And though the court ruled that the huelga bird is of “obscure and ambiguous meaning,” it continues to be used as validation evidence.

Evidence used to send inmates to solitary indefinitely include . . .

**Continued: Part II may be read in Issue # 35 of
THE MOVEMENT**

Uninvited Guest

I know the answer to my problems aren’t in this bottle,

but every time I choose not to drink the voices get louder.

Telling me “It’s fine go ahead and enjoy yourself”.

I would’ve been better off if I’d left this bottle on the shelf.

As my desires drink the poison the voices disappear, I swear they were there, now the air is filled with fear and emotional abandonment.

When I decide to stop they re-appear and tell me I can handle it.

As the bottle takes over my worries release from my shoulders.

I’m uneducated so my neighbors aren’t safe.

I swear you can see the sins on my face.

This can’t be right,

I feel like I’m in a different place,

like the gravities gone and I’m in space.

I was raised around destruction, criminal thought on my mind.

Now a new voice appears and tells me “It’s fine.”

I listen to the uninvited while thinking that I’m guided,

now I sit in a jail cell while I write this.

Contemplating now, on a 10 to 20,

I swear I should’ve made better choices. Why the hell did I listen to those voices.

Co-author: Edward Lee Addison

Love Knows No Bars



To Mr. and Mrs. Songster,

**May God Bless you with a forever
and fruitful marriage.**

From ,

YLFS

**Your loved-ones, friends, and sup-
porters**

**Love comes when and
where you least expect
it; and God works in
mysterious ways .**

**We could not let another
day come and go
without acknowledg-
ing His greatness.**

**Congratulations to
Ghani and Monay on
their recent marriage.**



HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION
4134 LANCASTER AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104

“

We're not fighting for the idea of human rights, but for the material benefits and better living in the world for ourselves and future generations that we know human rights can bring – like an end to poverty, social injustice, racism, environmental pollution, exploitation, and criminal injustice and prisons. We have an inherent human right to life, liberty, and freedom from oppression.

KERRY "SHAKABOONA" MARSHALL