

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504

August 2015

Progress Against Solitary Confinement



The struggle to reduce California's use of solitary confinement has always been a prisoner-led movement, as the September 1, 2015 positive settlement of the federal class action *Ashker v. Governor* lawsuit illustrates. Under the settlement, prisoner representatives will continue to meet regularly with prison officials to review the progress of the settlement. Monitoring will be in effect for at least two years.

This settlement fundamentally alters all aspects of the use and abuse of solitary confinement policies and practices in California.

The system will change from status-based to behavior-based. Validated gang affiliates with a SHU-eligible offense will enter a two-year SHU step-down program. SHU prisoners will be reviewed within one year, and most are expected to be go to general population. There will be a new Restricted Custody General Population Unit. Very prolonged solitary confinement will be severely limited and those in it will be out-of-cells more.

Anti-solidarity confinement groups are organizing in Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, among other places. The Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) which began in 2011 can be contacted at: prisonerhungerstrike.solidarity@gmail.com or call 510-426-5322. Organizing materials are available on their web site. The National Religious Campaign Against Torture, through its *Together 23 Campaign*, also has materials on its web site.

Another resource is *California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement* (CFASC), whose mission is to stop the inhumane treatment of those imprisoned within the California Penal System, especially those held in solitary confinement and administrative housing units. Contact CFASC at: 8018 E Santa Ana Canyon Road, Suite 100 #213, Anaheim CA 92808, or call 714-290-9077.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

> **Families for Justice as Healing (FJAH)** a national network by and for formerly incarcerated women was formed to create alternatives to mass incarceration; it rejects the current U.S. street drug policies. Contact at: PO Box 14, Boston MA 02121, call 617-905-2026.

> **Reproductive Injustice: the State of Reproductive Health Care for Women in New York State Prisons** Executive Summary of the Report of the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York. It is based on interviews with 950 incarcerated women with data from over 1,500 surveys. "The report details the woefully substandard reproductive health care and massive human rights violations women in New York state prisons face on a routine basis, and offers concrete recommendations for change." Contact: Correctional Association of New York, 2090 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr Blvd., Suite 200, New York NY 10027, call 212-254-5700.

> **Mothers in Charge** Its mission is violence prevention, education and intervention for youth, young adults, families and community organizations. It advocates for families affected by violence and provides counseling and grief support services for families when a loved one has been murdered. Contact at: 1415 N Broad Street, Suite 229, Philadelphia PA 19122, call 215-235-7283.

> **Essie Justice Group** Ninety percent of people incarcerated are men. Today, 1 in 4 of all women and 1 in 2 of Black women have incarcerated family. They face stigma and isolation and are regularly left to care for kids and finances alone. Through the use of collective power, the Group focuses on trauma healing, managing money through crisis, and advocacy. Contact: Essie Justice Group, c/o the Women's Foundation of California, 300 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612, call 510-740-2502.

CRIME OF THE MONTH

Jimmy Carter won a Nobel Peace Prize for his work "to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts..." And Carter has received countless accolades from the corporate media for his post-presidency involvement with a variety of human rights and charitable organizations.

However, Carter also: armed the Khmer Rouge which slaughtered two million Cambodian civilians during the Cambodian Genocide. He provided weapons to the Indonesian Military during the brutal occupation of East Timor, where a third of the population was obliterated. His administration trained death squads in Nicaragua, armed the El Salvadoran military as they massacred tens of thousands of civilians there, and funded the Islamic fundamentalist Mujahideen in order to entice the Soviet Union to invade Afghanistan, resulting in the complete devastation of that country.

In addition, Carter supported the Shah of Iran during that brutal reign, dictator Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, bloodthirsty Pakistani General Zia al Huq, and Saudi King Faud, among others.

Apparently, Carter's interest in "peaceful solution[s]" wasn't a priority during his Presidency. How many Habitat for Humanity homes would he have to build to compensate for the carnage during his tenure as shepherd of the U.S. Empire?

The Crime of the Month is Carter's adulation by our willfully ignorant corporate media.

To receive your Newsletter by postal mail monthly, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address) -- up to 12 at one time.

Keep sending us address changes and renewal requests to get the yearly holiday card/ new calendar in January.

Also, note that the only address to use to be sure the reach us is: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. Despite what some other resources listings might say.

NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS, so for our protection, please don't mark your envelopes to us as "legal mail."

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for making our Newsletter available on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: <http://www.realcostofprisonsproject.org/coalition.html> -- this is a GREAT site!

We depend on our readers' donations & thank you for your support! Mil gracias!

Terminar con el conducto escuela-prisión

Hay una tendencia nacional por la que los niños--la mayoría de las veces son personas de color ("minorías") so atrapados por políticas de "cero tolerancia" en las escuelas públicas, que criminalizan infracciones menores del reglamento escolar.

En el pasado, el director de la escuela o el decano manejaba esas violaciones internamente. Pero el aumento de personal de las fuerzas del orden en las escuelas condujo a castigos exagerados, que ponen a los niños en peligro de tener más encuentros con la ley y, en última instancia, acabar en el sistema judicial de menores y penal.

En todo el país, la utilización excesiva de suspensiones para mantener la disciplina estudiantil en las escuelas públicas hizo que los estudiantes estadounidenses perdieran casi 18 millones de días de instrucción, y entre los estudiantes suspendidos el número perteneciente a personas de color es desproporcionadamente mayor.

En 2011-12, los estudiantes negros constituían un 15.9% de la población estudiantil total, representaban el 36% de los estudiantes expulsados. Además, los estudiantes negros representaron el 34.6% de aquellos sometidos a castigos corporales, el 30.1 % de los arrestados y el 27.4 por ciento de los referidos a las fuerzas de seguridad.

No debemos usar métodos que no castiguen más a los alumnos por su raza o etnia que por su mala conducta. Pero, los datos indican que las disparidades son muy, muy grandes y no merecidas. Las investigaciones muestran que se castiga a los estudiantes negros con mayor frecuencia y mayor dureza por las mismas infracciones. La gran mayoría de esos castigos son por infracciones menores y subjetivas.

VOICES FROM INSIDE

Eloy AZ August 19, 2015

In Re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT), Anti-Trust Litigation (MDL No. 1917)

Consumers in 21 states and the District of Columbia who indirectly purchased CRT products are eligible to receive payment from the settlement. CRT products include CRTs and products containing CRTs, such as TVs and computer monitors. Get someone to go to www.CRTclaims.com by December 7, 2015. Must have purchased a CRT product between March 1, 1995 and November 25, 2007. Expect at least \$25 per claim.