

Revolutionary by Action: advocating oppositional consciousness inside an Indiana control unit

...a high restrictive, high-custody housing within a secured facility, or an entire secure facility, that isolates inmates from the general population and from each other due to the grievous opposition, to violation against their humanity...

Politics of Imprisonment

Amerika is currently experiencing a recession that's been felt by almost all of its citizenry, from local small businesses to prisons. From the year 1931 until the beginning of economic recovery and the decline of relief programs in the 1940s, the relationship between economic relief expenditures and incarceration. This special relationship, like the one between unemployment and incarceration underscores the economic basis of the prison problem in the United States.

Maximum use of the US prison system as a weapon of class warfare was part of the neo-conservative agenda initiated during the Reagan Administration. United States associate attorney general in 1981, Rudy Gulliani, articulated the new policy in classical terms: "In the beginning", he said, "man formed government to protect against the dangers of invaders from without as well as predators from within. National defense and domestic defense are, therefore, the two primary functions of any government. Our criminal justice system is charged with one of these two primary tasks". No subsequent administration, including that of past democratic president Bill Clinton, has deviated from the prison policies established in the early 80s.

The prison population, as high as it is, is only the tip of the iceberg. There are millions more who are under "correctional control". The total adult population now under correctional control exceeds 6.6 million. There has been a corresponding upward trend in the cost of operating the criminal justice system in the United States. Between 1982 and 1997, expenditures on corrections increased 381 percent. Total direct spending on the criminal justice system in the United States for the period rose by 262 percent. The layout for criminal justice in the United States approached \$130 billion in 1997.

Four million jobs have been lost in Amerika since last year. In Great Britain, over two million people are out of work. Millions more in Germany, France, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. But these losses pale in comparison to the twenty million jobs that China has lost since the start of the downturn, and the Great Recession is only the beginning.

Unexpected Changes Inside Indiana Prison Policies

There is an overcrowding prison problem inside the state of Indiana. A recent article describing this, released information of construction underway to accommodate additional bodies.

116 laws enacted by the legislature since 1989 that create new crimes or enhance penalties. 269.4 is the number of prison years those laws added to Indiana's sentencing laws. 7,365 is the number of male maximum security inmates in DOC custody in 2008. 6,186 is the number of maximum security beds now available.

Highlighting a recent escape, Indiana Department of Corrections Commissioner Edwin Buss states that this is why there is a need to build additional maximum-security cell block at two of the prisons here. A debate ensued in the political community about the state-system's priorities. Like Kenley's Senate appropriations committee chairman (R) Nobelsville stated "we clearly have attendance to want to show that we are strong on law enforcement by passing more crimes and elevating things to felonies. That's some what of a contagious disease around here".

Bill Crawford, House ways and means committee chairman stated "it would be difficult to justify an expansion of prison beds at a time when Governor Mitch Daniels' proposal to sort of flat line education. It emphasizes incarceration over education. That's not rehabilitation at all." Senate Majority

leader Vi Simpson (D) Ellettsville said she'd rather see those prison dollars going to education, including Indiana University at Bloomington, which is her district.

So, it seems that rehabilitation programs and opportunities to obtain higher education falls on the back burner to facilitate prison expansion. Terry Baumer, director of criminal justice and public and environmental University, Indianapolis, blames the war on drugs for filling up prison space that should be used by more violent offenses. He noted that the crime rate is going down, from a high of 525.1 violent crimes per 100,000 in 1994 to 33.6 in 2007, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics.

Larry Landis, executive director of the Indiana Public Defender council said at it costs \$54.28 per day-or more than \$19,000 annually- to house and feed prisoners. Indiana needs to find better alternative measures than mindless prison construction. They're building more prisons to keep space, more space and more bodies equals more money. Period.

Revolutionary Oppositional Consciousness

Indiana's prison system is home to all sorts of men/women who share commonness to one another. They all similarly situated inside a prison. Prison, as many of you know or not know, is maintained through the enforcement of policies, rules, procedures and executive directives. These guidelines for maintaining a prison are enforced by correctional officers, some of which display real professionalism, while some others see it as an opportunity to carry out repression disguised as correction.

By nature those groups of prisoners who are strong minded, and strong willed, will oppose any guideline that dehumanizes them in some way. These types of prisoners are health conscious, motivated to educate themselves, demand their respect from staff or fellow prisoners. ~~They~~^{they} oppose any system of thought that goes against what they hold dear to their hearts. So they are constantly engaged in internal/external wars. Not to be defeated by the environmental deteriorating conditions of prisons. Whether in the general population or solitary confinement, isolated on control units, these wars are survival, mental stability, staying connected to the streets, building or re-building greater relations with family. There are some procedures that only serve the purpose of breaking people down, to discourage supporters from remaining connected.

Prisoners who stand tall and never surrender their will to be free in any way to me share an oppositional consciousness. They share knowledge, wisdom, and guidance with the young elements to help straighten out their path. These prisoners, men or women, are revolutionary by action. The state prison system as early as February 9th 2009 and February 11th 2009 surprisingly changed some of its procedures appearing on it's face to bringing solutions to out of control disciplinary problems. We have fought long and hard submitting proposals requesting modifications in the way disciplinary hearing boards were excessively handing out sanctions for placement in disciplinary segregation or demotions, resulting in more prison time for prisoners.

In executive directive #09-07 it states:

...it is the intent of the department that the facilities will reduce the amount of disciplinary segregation time that offenders are ~~given~~^{given} for most offenses...

...however, for those offenders who commit the most serious (egregious) offenses, such as batteries (A-102), escape (A-108), rioting (A-103), etc, the disciplinary segregation guidelines for 2004 shall remain in effect. Accordingly, most serious offenses an offender may receive up to 1 year in disciplinary segregation...

Under this new progressive directive, time deprived due to prison infractions is now given back 90 days earlier, ultimately resulting in some cases of prisoners being released much earlier than expected. 90% is now being restored, which is good.

The maximum allowable sanctions for each class of offense for adult offenders are as follows:

<u>Sanction</u>	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>	<u>Class D</u>
1) dis. Seg.	30 days	15 days	5 days	none
2) reduction in c/c	1 grade	none	none	none
3) restriction of priv.	45 days	30 days	15 days	5 days
4) extra work	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	10 hours
5) restitution	amount of loss		\$10	none
6) Room confinement		15 days	5 days	
7) Bldg. Confinement		30 days	15 days	
8) reprimand	written	written	written	verbal
9) suspension from work	30 days	15 days	5 days	

Now on the additional directive of 09-11 effective date February 9 2009 which constitute lesser-included 'charges or conduct infraction that can be given. Doing so really allows the chairman/members of the disciplinary hearing board to consider alternative sanctions, because sometimes prisoners are charged with things that do-not fit the incident.

It states the following:

“It should be noted that to help staff in determining whether an offender has been charged with the correct offense, the new list of offenses include “less and included” offenses. If it appears that the original charges offense is not the most appropriate charge”.

Exposing Overzealous Prisoncrats Aspiration of Power

In my 22 years of incarceration sadly enough, I have had to witness with my own eyes. Indiana's Prisoncrats create situation after situation inside these prison environments. Just so the can come in, resolve it, and somehow gain the Brownie points for being a problem solver. Many of these prisoncrats have been promoted in rank, status, and position. Having used ^(real) life incidents, inside these prisons “pre conditioned” as they may be and advanced individual careers. The exaggerated gang problem inside these prisons across the US is one example. The mere mention of a gang problem opens the flood gates for funding to organize a stronger safety and security measure.

Prisoncrats will go to any lengths at the expense of one prisoner or as many as it takes. To accomplish the premeditated agendas that ultimately ends up benefiting the prisoncrats. The use of administrative segregation units are where most prisoners have been or are warehoused. Because of their presence being potentially threatening to the prison in some way. But in some cases, a manufactured, unjustifiable claim made by prisoncrats to permanently warehouse prisoners who 'do not' cooperate with their manipulations.

Prisoncrats will severely punish the uncooperative prisoners, but rewards the elements that opportunistically allow themselves to be participants in the games prisoncrats play. Prisoners have had their names and reputations destroyed simply by engaging in “good intended measures” that ^{were} made to look like bad or unprincipled prison politics.

Placing prisoners into new and ambiguous situations for which the standards are kept deliberately unclear and the pressuring them to conform to what is desired in order to win favor and a reprieve from pressure. Speaking, however, for prisoners who by choice have worked hard and long to not be victimized by ^{their} actions of overzealous prisoncrats. These are the true “revolutionaries by their own actions of displaying a oppositional consciousness. Refusing all forms of dehumanization these men are stand up.

-All Power to the People-

In Solidarity,

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