

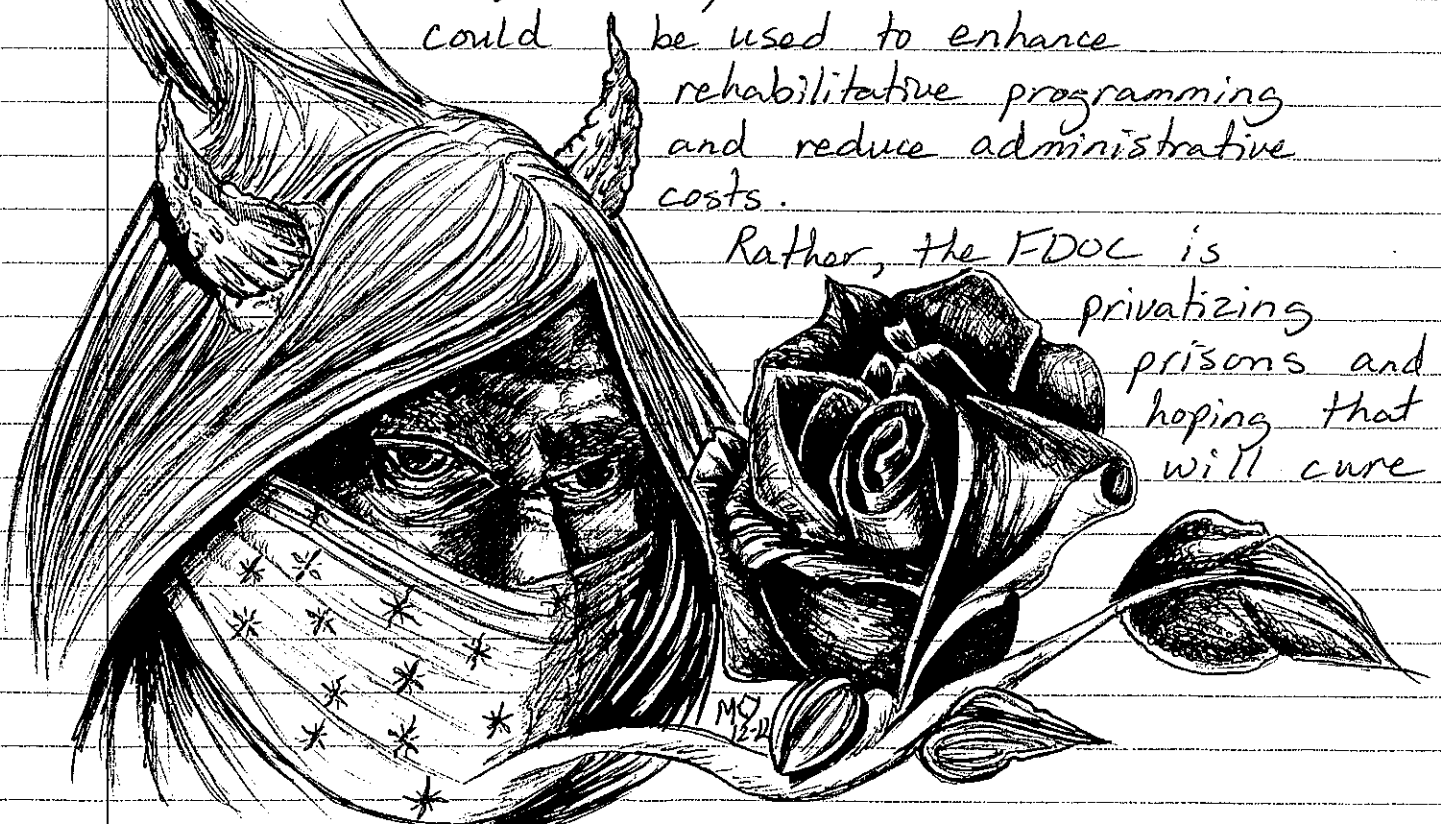
EXILED IN PURGATORY:

HELLO FLORIDA

Dec. 28, 2012

Just when life in prison doesn't seem like it could get worse — it does. I was transferred from New Mexico to Florida. I've been here a month with no way to call or write my daughters or family. I'm in the Reception Center — always a hassle, but my first impression is the state is poorly ran and in a very depraved state. I'll have more to write on later, but it is enough to say it is a state stuck in racist plantation mentality. It is also the first state I've been in where prisoners cannot have t.v.'s — which impacts Rehabilitation and funding. A state the size of Florida could gross more than 1 million the first year in t.v. sales and more than \$300,000 a year after that which could be used to enhance rehabilitative programming and reduce administrative costs.

Rather, the FDOC is privatizing prisons and hoping that will cure



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their problems.... It won't. Prison systems in the U.S. have become so dysfunctional that they put the cart before the horse and refuse to accept that cannot work.

But dysfunction is the norm in the five states I've been in. Most prison systems are stuck on stupid as much as the criminals. And in some states, like Florida, it's becoming hard to tell ~~criminals~~ criminals from cops...

Jan. 4, 2013

EXILED IN PULLEATORY:

NO CAMERA NO CRIME

The Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) has some of the worst security I've seen in five states. There are absolutely no camera's to monitor prisoners on the units or the compound. That is an open door for crime and staff abuses.

A few days ago a prisoner was smoking on the unit — a no-no. After the Unit Supervisor, Sgt. C., couldn't locate the source of the smoke he pulled all of us out into the dayroom and told us, in no uncertain terms, to assault the prisoner or the next time he came into the unit would be with a search team and they would tear up and ruin everyone's property.

Sgt. C. assured everyone no trouble would become of the ~~an~~ assault. He then pointed out there were no camera's on the unit and said: "No camera, no crime, that's how we do it here." As he left the unit he said: "Now, I'm going to let you all handle this."

Within moments several prisoners went to the smokers cell, beat him with a lock and stole all his canteen and property. The Sgt. was right. No investigation was done, no one was in trouble. The prisoner was taken to the infirmary then put

in Protective Custody. That is why prisoners often carry shanks and weapons. They know that you have to be ready at all times to protect yourself.

Florida is one of the worst systems I've experienced (with Oklahoma in a close second). So, I've learned: No camera, No crime. That is what Sgt. C. is sending back to the community when people get released. Commit all the crimes you want, because No Camera, No Crime. In other words, Don't get Caught.

Prison guards are suppose to be the standard bearers for proper and civil behavior. More often than not they just reinforce criminal thinking.

EXILED IN PURGATORY:

30 DAYS OF HELL

February 15, 2013

While at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) I was given a misconduct report for disrespect to staff and placed in disciplinary segregation — what Florida prisoners call "The Box". The misconduct report was false (but that's another story) and I was given 30 days segregation. I ended up doing 36 days. It was 30 days of Hell.

First, I did 9 days in the CFRC "Box". It was filthy. Staff never brought around cleaning supplies — even though they were required to. The toilets had crust built up in them that was black, green, red, white and looked as if it had been there for years. The floors had a black film on them from years of neglect. The walls — originally white — were stained brown from years of ~~toad~~ hands and bodies rubbing on them. Boogers, spit and other substances coated the walls.

All of that, plus even more, is directly related to the deterioration of the facility and the spread of diseases such as staph infection. It was also compounded by other deficiencies in how the prison is ran.

Second, for example, all the cells had no hot water. Prison administrators turned it off. Part of the "punishment" of Disciplinary Segregation. So prisoners couldn't wash their hands after using the bathroom — before eating meals or anything else. Prisoners also could not have a towel in their cell or a wash rag to clean themselves or wash up before and after meals or using the bathroom. Combined with the no cleaning supplies it was a dirty mess.

Third, this was further compounded by how the prison

handled clothing. I didn't receive a change of outer clothing — called blues — for three weeks while in the Box and not at all while in the CFRC. Prisoners had no sox and the underwear were changed only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at shower time.

Those first 9 days were only the primer to what was to come. I would see and experience even more when I was transferred out of CFRC.

After nearly 45 days in CFRC (and 9 days of that in the Box) I was transferred to the Franklin Correctional Institution (FCI). Since I was still on Disciplinary time I was placed immediately into the Box at FCI and the brew of stink continued to grow.

EXILED IN PURGATORY:

TRANSPORT

March 4, 2015

I was being transported from the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) to the Franklin Correctional Institution (FCI). I would finish my Disciplinary Confinement time at FCI — so I was told.

The first thing I was struck by was the total lack of security on the transport bus. Prisoners have only leg shackles on. With your hands free you can easily assault other prisoners, pass drugs, weapons or other contraband. In every other state I have been in prisoners are placed in belly chains and "Black boxes" (a black box that goes over hand cuffs to restrict hand movement and connected to the belly chains). This is the standard used by nearly all prisons in the U.S. Not in Florida, just leg shackles. But leg shackles can be unlocked and removed with a pen and staple.

The second thing I was struck by was how prisoners carry their own property onto the bus with them. Coupled with no hand cuffs it allows freedom to pass contraband — or, if a prisoner wanted, to free up his feet. Every other system I have been in places a prisoners property in a transport bag and puts it under the bus in the cargo holds. In a few instances I was

Informed prisoners removed razors from their property and cut other prisoners. On my transport a prisoner slipped off his leg shackles, took the lock from his property and began hitting another prisoner.

The transport officer seen the assault and yelled at the prisoners to stop. The prisoner did, sat back down and that was that. The bus didn't stop, no one got in trouble, it just kept moving along. You realize in Florida that prison staff do not care for your life or safety. They do not care if another prisoner does you harm — as I will tell you another story in my next blog relating to that — and they do not care if other staff hurt or kill you.

If you go to Prison Legal News (PLN) and read the articles about Florida prisons you will see how corruption is cultural here — but I assure you that those articles only scratch the surface. What I have seen and experienced personally, I know it is far, far worse.

Florida is a broken system. It is morally broken, culturally broken and broken from the grass roots to the top.