

# Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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## PARENTS IMPRISONED

The treatment of those imprisoned who are parents, as well as the treatment of their children, is yet another glaring, infinitely painful and destructive-to-society oppression faced by the majority of prisoners.

There are a plethora of both legal and logistical problems that must be struggled against on a daily basis, causing harm to those most vulnerable and least able to defend themselves: the children. It is extremely difficult for those imprisoned, stripped of so much power over the conditions and future of their own lives, to gather the strength and resources to maintain the bond with their children from a distance.

On the legal front, lack of ability to pay court ordered child support, loss of parental rights and loss of custody are

among the big issues. A handful of states--including Colorado, Florida, New Mexico and Massachusetts--have developed programs designed to serve fathers while they are in jail or upon their release to strengthen their role as fathers and to help link them to employment.

Being kept in ignorance of the very location of ones children is a frequent problem. On the logistical level, visiting with children and maintaining contact during the long times between visits are major challenges.

Fortunately, there are some useful resources, a selection of which appear on the next page. One of them is *The Incarcerated Fathers Library*, of the Family & Corrections Network, which is currently comprised of over 20 publications, and may be downloaded without charge.

Only with struggle will we win!

(continued on next page)



## **SELECTED RESOURCES FOR PARENTS**

### **Aid to Inmate Mothers**

PO Box 986

Montgomery AL 36101, 800-679-0246

At Tutwiler prison, runs the *Storybook Program* for imprisoned mothers and their children and the production of a book, *The Right to Remain Silent*.

### **Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)**

70 East Lake Street, Suite 1120

Chicago IL 60601, 312-675-0912

[New Address]

Provides legal and educational services to maintain the bond between imprisoned mothers and their children. Advocates for policies and programs that benefit families of imprisoned mothers and reduce the incarceration of women and girls.

### **Family & Corrections Network & National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (NRCCF)**

93 Old York Road, Suite 1, #510  
Jenkintown PA 19046, 215-576-1110

For and about families of prisoners. Publications include pamphlets of the Incarcerated Fathers Library. Also offers information regarding children of prisoners, keeping in touch, returning to the community, impact of court system on families, and prison marriage. Download from [fcnetwork.org](http://fcnetwork.org) over 20 free pamphlets and other materials.

### **Foreverfamily [New Name--formerly**

AIM - Aid to Imprisoned Mothers)

691 Garibaldi St SW

Atlanta GA 30310, 404-223-1200

Focuses on children with an incarcerated parent(s) and

supports them as they, their parents, caregivers and extended families work to remain a family.

### **Hope House DC**

PO Box 60682

Washington DC 20039, 301-408-1259

Creates programs for the children and families of DC prisoners.

### **Companions, JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

PO Box 457, Western Springs IL

60558, 773-406-9127, [cjtincl.org](http://cjtincl.org)

Provides networking programs serving imprisoned parents such as Aunt Mary's Storybook Project, newsletter *Journeynotes*.

### **JusticeWorks Community**

1012 Eighth Avenue

Brooklyn NY 11215, 718-499-6704

Through national grassroots organizing campaigns, such as *Mothers in Prison*, *Children in Crisis*, advocates for just, humane and effective criminal justice policies, emphasizing alternatives to incarceration for women with children.

### **Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC)**

1320 Market St, Suite 490

San Francisco CA 94102, 415-255-7036

Advocates for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members and people at risk of incarceration. Focuses on women and fighting racism. Publications include *Incarcerated Parents Manual*, disponible en español.

### **"Sara Visits Her Dad in Prison"**

Channing Bete Company, Inc.

One Community Place

South Deerfield MA 01373

This booklet is meant to be read aloud to children. Item no. PS8550



# DEATH PENALTY UPDATES

The moratorium on executions in this country has now lasted more than six months. In September 2007, the United States Supreme Court decided to hear *Baze v. Rees*, No. 07-5439, in which two death row prisoners in Kentucky argue that lethal injection as a method of execution violates their constitutional right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment.

The prisoners have pointed out that the method of injection used in most states cannot be used to put animals down because it is too painful. Most human rights groups consider the unnecessary infliction of pain to be torture. A less painful alternative is a large dose of barbiturates. This is the method used in Oregon for physician-assisted suicide.

The U.S. Supreme Court will probably decide the *Baze* case before July 1, 2008. That case does not challenge the constitutionality of executions, only the method of execution--lethal injection as it is currently used. Once the case is decided, each state that uses similar lethal injection drugs will need to figure out the effect of the decision on its procedures. Whatever happens, it will take time to see what each state does in response to the decision.

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The United States Supreme Court has recently voted 7 to 2 to reverse the execution sentence imposed on an African American man in Louisiana. In *Snyder v. Louisiana*, No.06-10119, the Court held the exclusion of an African-American juror was unfair. In fact, the prosecutor had used his challenges to exclude five African-

American jurors in a parish that is 20% African-American. The Supreme Court did not address the exclusion of the other four jurors; the exclusion of the one was sufficient to overturn the conviction and execution sentence.

The prosecutor in the case was said to have kept a toy electric chair on his desk. He has sent seven men to death row while working as an assistant district attorney in Jefferson Parish. All seven sentences have been overturned on appeal.

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This March, the Georgia Supreme Court in a stunning decision ruled against Troy Anthony Davis. On death row since 1991, Davis is now believed to be innocent by seven of the nine original so-called eye witnesses who testified against him. The murder weapon was never found and there was no physical evidence linking Davis to the shooting death of a police officer in Savannah. The shooter has been identified as another man altogether. Some who in the original trial was one of the state's witnesses against Davis. Nevertheless, the court went 4 to 3 against granting him a new trial, thus voting for finality over fairness.

The next step is an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. If that is not successful, Davis will once again be at the mercy of Georgia's parole board.

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In the last 3 years, the number of executions in Texas has been at 23 or so a year. But the state's share of executions has increased--to 62% of the total in 2007.



# Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter



**VOICES  
FROM  
INSIDE  
since 1976**

## **RESTORATION OF PRISONERS' PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY**

Cameron MO

January 28, 2008

This is to advise you of a resolution ratified by the NAACP which calls upon the Congress of the United States of America to enact legislation to restore prisoners' Pell Grant eligibility; and to its members to meet with, educate and urge Congress to restore prisoners' Pell Grants especially in view of the encompassing socio-economic benefits of providing higher education opportunities to prisoners....

## **ONLY PROCESSED AND CANNED**

Maury NC

January 29, 2008

North Carolina inmates need to flood their prisons with grievances about the food and flood our governor's office (214 West Jones St, Raleigh NC 27603) with letters of our tiredness of eating poor food and our wish for fresh food, real meats and beggies. If we leave our voices unheard, NCOC will continue to serve us foods that aren't worthy of a dog dish. Michael Fields, 0549918, PO Box 506, Maury NC 28554. No mail from other inmates.

## **COMPLAINTS**

Las Cruces NM

February 2008

Direct possible Keefe group complaints to their local state officials:

Attorney General's Office  
Consumer Protection Division  
Old Post Office Building  
815 Olive Street, Suite 200  
St Louis MO 63101

Consumer Protection and  
Trade Offense Division  
207 West High Street  
PO Box 899  
Jefferson City MO 65102

**4/08**

## **RECIPES**

Livingston TX

February 6, 2008

I am compiling a book of inmate recipes. If you have any you'd like to contribute, send them to: James Dutton, 1148195, Polunsky Unit, 3872 FM 350 South, Livingston TX 77351. I cannot receive mail from inmates, but your famly or friends can write.

## **PRICE LISTS**

Adrian MI

February 7, 2008

Please send me store price lists from other state prisons which sell Keefe items. L.D. Boise, 118723,HCF, 2727 E Beecher St, Adrian MI 49221



Mailing list additions and address changes should go into effect within two months from their postmarked date. Our goal is to answer requests for referrals and other correspondence within six weeks. Letters intended for publication must say "Do Print." If requesting responses, state if you can receive mail directly from those imprisoned. The Coalition makes information available on resources and services for prisoners. We strongly urge readers to keep copies of all papers, especially legal papers, sent to those offering assistance, and be careful about sending money. In most cases we do not have direct experience with the quality or reliability of the services provided by the groups mentioned. NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS.

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### **NATIVE AMERICAN CIRCLES**

Frackville PA February 8, 2008

The Pan-American Indian Association is offering a long needed model affiliate fellowship Prison Hoop program for Native American inmates based on traditional principles and practices that will accommodate most Nations and help alleviate quarrels over differences and will promote meaningful religious services consistent with Prison Administrators' security concerns nationwide. For information, have your institution's Spiritual Advisor, Head Chaplain, Superintendent, or Corrections Commissioner contact: Pan-American Indian Association, 8335 Sevigny Drive, North Fort Myers FL 33917; 239-543-7727; e-mail: panamia@msn.com

### **P.L.R.A.**

Abilene TX February 8, 2008

On January 18, 2008, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas held that a prisoner is not required to appeal a favorable Step 1 grievance response in order to satisfy the PLRA's exhaustion requirement. That is, if the grievance department takes some action or orders some relief in response to your Step 1 grievance, you have exhausted, in satisfaction of the PLRA's purpose. See *Rosa v. Morvant*, case No. 9:06-CV-252 (E.D. Tex.).  
Eds.' Disclaimer: None of us are lawyers.

### **HB 4154**

Tamms IL February 11, 2008

IL Rep. Eddie Washington has sponsored HB 4154 which provides that a committed person who is at least 50 years of age and who has served at least 25 consecutive years of imprisonment in the IDOC and is serving a sentence other than death, may petition the circuit court for an elderly sentence adjustment. Illinois' lifers and long-termers need to work hard to support its passage. Have friends and family members (and yourself) write their individual state representatives and senators and ask that they support its passage and sign on as co-sponsors. You can obtain their addresses and information from the Illinois Handbook of Government in the law library. A complete copy of the bill can be obtained by writing to the Illinois Legislative Information System, 705 Stratton Building, Springfield IL 62706, or on the internet. Also write Rep. Washington expressing appreciation and support.





## **BEARD AND PRAYERS**

Susanville CA

February 13, 2008

The California case that won us the right to wear a 1/2" beards and to attend Friday Islamic prayers is *Mayweathers v. Newland*, 314 F.3d 1062 (12-27-2002). Its other citations are *Mayweathers v. Newland*, 258 F. 3d 930 (8-2-2001), and 2002 DJDAR 14672. The 258 F.3d 930 (8-2-2001) citation will give you the Californis Department of Correction and Rehabilitation rules governing grooming. Grooming standard CDCR title 15 section 3062 (n) facial hair, including short beards, etc. A web address for more information on this Cal. Ruling: [http://www.suitel01.com/print\\_article.cfm/islam\\_in\\_the\\_us/23444](http://www.suitel01.com/print_article.cfm/islam_in_the_us/23444) (6-3-2007).  
Eds.' Disclaimer: *None of us are lawyers.*

## **GBTs**

Oshkosh WI

February 16, 2008

Attention all Gay-Bi-Transsexual linmates. If you are being harassed by staff and/or inmates, write me ASAP. I'm doing an article in a gay mag. You must be able to write a prisoner. James Hinkle, 253820, Coshkosh Correctiona Institution, PO Box 331`0, Oshkosh WI 54903.

## **COMMISSIONS**

Reidsville GA

February 13, 2008

In regards to the phone commissions; Being that all states' Departments of Corrections are government agencies, are they not in violation of the RICO Act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) for accepting kickback's (disguised as commissions) and for awarding contracts to any phone company that pays them a commission for that contract? Why does the United States Attorney General not prosecute? The families of incarcerated people should demand the U.S. Attorney General prosecute and should contact their U.S. Representatives to have them demand a prosecution.

## **CAR POOLS**

Daytona Beach FL

February 14, 2008

I've heard of people carpooling to visit their incarcerated loved ones. I haven't seen any of my family since I've been extradited to Florida five years ago because my family lives in Tennessee. If you know of any info about carpoolig for visits to prisoners would you be so kind as to send it to me? I'm not allowed to receive mail from other prisoners. James Leslie, V20504 D1 129L, Tomoka Correctional Institution, 3950 Tiger Bay Road, Daytona Beach FL 3212.

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**AL FINAL LA VERDAD VENCERA.**  
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## VOICES IN SOLIDARITY

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**THANK YOU FOR THE PROMPT RETURNS OF SUB RENEWALS & FOR STAMPS**

**This is the last reminder before the deadline.**

To continue to receive your CPR Newsletter, return your whole Sub Renewal Form by May 1. If you did not receive a form, send us: your last name; first name & middle initial; and, if currently imprisoned, your ID number; street address; city; state & zip code. Please write clearly and DO NOT include any extra information or requests on the form.

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### **PRISON ART GALLERY**

When in Washington DC visit the Prison Art Gallery, 1600 K St NW Suite 501, 20005, 202-393-1511. "Even in a prison, or in a concentration camp, I would persevere in my own world of art, even if I had to paint my pictures with my wet tongue on the dusty floor of my cell." Pablo Picasso. Prisons Foundation, 1719 M St NW #151, Washington DC 20036.

### **SAGEWriters 1ST ANNUAL BOOK COMPETITION FOR WRITERS IN PRISON**

Entry deadline: September 1, 2008. Categories: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, memoirs, biography, autobiography, essays, political, inspirational, urban fiction, historical fiction. Prizes: 5 honorable mentions; and 3rd, 2nd, 1st place. Write for further details about: preparing your entry, judging and notification, and the official entry form and fee to: Sagewriters', Box 215, Swarthmore PA 19081, 610-328-6101

### **THE FAMILY TELEPHONE CONNECTION PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 555**

Will amend the Communications Act of 1934 and direct the Federal Communications Commission to consider prescribing rules regulating prisoner telephone service rates. For updates about H.R. 555, contact: Pauline Sullivan, International CURE, PO Box 2310, Washington DC 20013, 202-789-2126 or the office of Representative Bobby Rush, 2416 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, 202-225-4372; for more information about efforts to improve prison telephone systems, contact: eTc Campaign, c/o MI-CURE, PO Box 2736, Kalamazoo MI 29003, 269-383-0028

### **WRIT Writer: One Man's Journey for Justice**

512-476-0930, writwriter@gmail.com, www.WritWriterMovie.com

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# Crime of the Month

aka Crimetoppers

The Nazis called it *verschärfte Vernehmung*, "enhanced interrogation," the exact same phrase used by Bush and Company to describe interrogation techniques employed by the U.S. in prisons around the world. After World War II, Japanese soldiers were hanged for the "war crime" of water boarding. This brutal practice of filling a person's lungs with water to bring them to the brink of death by drowning has been defined as torture for centuries.

To correct this error of history, Bush recently vetoed a bill outlawing water boarding. Our corporately owned Congress can't seem to override that veto. Perhaps Bush will also issue posthumous pardons to those Japanese soldiers to make amends for the poor judgment we exercised back then--you

know, before we had humanitarians like Bush to clarify our moral standards.

Esteemed Attorney General Michael Mukasey refuses to initiate criminal investigations into the use of water boarding by the Bush administration or to say under oath whether or not he considers it torture. Though he has stated privately, "Whether its torture by anybody else's definition, for me it would be torture." Now there's a thought. Anyone who argues in favor of water boarding should be required to undergo the procedure themselves. One can imagine a change of heart on the part of such monsters afterward.

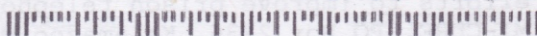
Our crime of the month is Bush's defense of torture; techniques we hope are never used on him or any of the criminal chicken hawks in his government

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4/08

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