WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Protecting Those Imprisoned Is Necessary

"The virus outbreak in the Cibola County Corrections Center is a shame and a stain on New Mexico’s ability to take care of people in its institutions. Incarcerated people are human beings. They deserve good health care, a safe environment, an opportunity for rehabilitation, and a prison administration that recognizes and follows through on its responsibility to care for the people in its prisons. . . .CoreCivic reported more than $1.9 billion in revenue in 2019, about half of it from federal contracts.

"And yet the for-profit company cannot or will not use their considerable wealth to take care of the people incarcerated in their [note: NOT OUR] prisons.

"CoreCivic has also collected $150 million from Cibola County, one of the poorest counties in New Mexico. What is CoreCivic doing with all this money? Why hasn’t the company taken action to prevent and protect the incarcerated people from the virus? Why are so many people denied testing and treatment?

"As of October 17, there were 357 (latest available number) cases of the virus, which accounted for more than 80% of Cibola County’s cases. CoreCivic is not only putting incarcerated people at risk, but also those who work at the prison and their families.

"This facility needs new management and immediate oversight to protect the health and well-being of those incarcerated and the communities they are in.

"The appropriate governing body of New Mexico needs to hold CoreCivic officials accountable for the way they are treating those incarcerated as well as their use of the money provided by Cibola County and the federal government.

"Just because people are in prison does not mean we do not have to care for and about them."

-reprinted with permission of author N.K., from the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper, October 2, 2020.

DOING SOMETHING PROACTIVE

Justice is about providing people with the things we need for a sustainable life. There is no justice for, for example, for Breonna Taylor—among many, many others—at this point. Although the record financial settlement her family recently reached with Louisville KY does include some elements of police reform. However, there is no justice in arresting and indicting the police who killed her; because what we’re doing then is relying on a system that is built to inscribe injustice in our society to deliver justice: the idea that prison would be a just result. Punishment is not justice. We need to do something much harder. That is setting up a new organizing principle for our society that would not require, at the very least, the type of policing that we are all too familiar with in the first place.

The idea of public money subsidizing Black death is nothing new. This is routine. And they are willing to pay this amount of money in order to continue the system. Police are going to kill again, over a thousand people every year, and they’d be willing to pay $12 million for each of those deaths if that means that they can go about their business continuing to do that.

It’s a structural problem. We cannot think that justice means monetary compensation for Black death.

Resource: Michael Denzel Smith, Type Media Center, New York NY, 212-822-0250 (no postal address available).

A Tiny Step

Iowa was the last state that continued to ban all people with felony convictions from voting. Their voting rights have now been restored by an executive order of the governor. Parole and probation must be successfully completed, but restitution payments related to convictions do not have to be fully paid back to vote. This will affect about 52,000 people—which includes 10% of the state’s African American adults.
SEND US: HOLIDAY/CALENDER CARD DESIGNS
Imprisoned Readers: Please send us a black and white drawing for the 2021 New Year’s card & calendar. All designs must be respectful of our diversity: We cannot use any with racist, sexist, or religious symbolism. The deadline is December 15. Submission of a drawing serves as artist’s permission for use, and will be credited. Prize: As possible, book(s) of choice.

September 2020 Federal Executions
09/22 William Emmett LeCroy, Jr.
09/24 Christopher Andre Vialva
We mourn your loss.

THE LEAST READ PART OF THE NEWSLETTER
To receive the CPR Newsletter by postal mail monthly, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope for every month’s issue you are requesting, up to 12 at one time. Put the CPR return address on the upper left-hand corner of each envelope you send. Continue to send us address changes to help us keep our annual calendar mailing list as accurate as possible.

NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS.
Letters to us marked “Legal Mail” can hurt our access to the prison they come from.
Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons project, which posts our Newsletter on-line monthly for free downloading and distribution. All issues since 2009 are at: realcostofprisons.org — a great site!

Aumentan las hospitalizaciones por Covid-19 (desde 16 de octubre de 2020)
Estados Unidos se está acercando a los ochomillones de casos confirmados de coronavirus tras haber superado los 64.000 nuevos casos el 15 de octubre por primera vez desde julio. Además, se informaron más de 1.000 muertes por COVID-19 durante las últimas 24 horas y todas las regiones del país registraron un aumento en las hospitalizaciones.

El 15 de octubre, el estado de Wisconsin fijó otro récord estatal de contagios al registrar más de 3.700 nuevos casos de coronavirus. Este estado tiene una de las tasas de pruebas positivas más altas del mundo, que ahora excede el 20%. No obstante, el presidente estadounidense, Donald Trump, planea realizar acto de campaña repleto de gente el sábado en la ciudad de Janesville WI.

Y, durante toda la pandemia, la Casa Blanca han realizado ediciones de la guía oficial de salud, alterando renglón por renglón el lenguaje escrito por científico sobre el distanciamiento social...