

### **Griffin El's Story:** First-person account of daily oppression

Much love, honor and unity to my beautiful Missouri CURE family. Your love, support and teachings have kept me sane, and wanting to do more for fallen humanity. I'm still getting adjusted to my new plantation. Recently I was placed in ad seg because I refused to continue working in food service after I was denied the right to go to sick call about my back. I was given ten days, but as soon as they try to put me back in that chow hall I will put on a defiant resistance to state repression and racial oppression. That kitchen is the nastiest I've ever worked in. Bugs, mice/rats and roaches are everywhere. Once I found bugs in bread, and one of the head square cooks tried to have me serve prisoners that bread—until I slipped and dropped the bread on the floor; I get clumsy sometimes. There are also 3 prisoncrats/overseers who rule that chow hall with a racist, fascist and oppressive iron fist. They have no regard for policy and procedure, and they are backed by a good ole boy systemic impunity structure that supports their Jim Crow state. Both have had physical issues with prisoners, and yet they still remain posted in that kitchen, while prisoners continue to complain about the disrespect and mistreatment they receive. I've seen more physical issues in one month than my whole prison bit, and it's been staff vs. prisoner—and every time it's the prisoner who's looked at with skepticism when we complain about mistreatment and conditions of the prison and prison staff.

It's easy to see that if female employees of the state are complaining about mistreatment, abuse and racism from other staff, just think about the inhumane treatment that's displayed by MDOC staff toward prisoners. I will expose the race and class bias of the entire capitalist judicial system with words of truth and facts that are not hard to see. Those in the judicial system are not concerned with justice, as they claim. It's an illusion. They exploit, intimidate, harass, persecute and destroy the mind and the body if you stand up for yourself. How can I reform to a model citizen in an environment like this?

I hear people say that the criminal justice system doesn't work. It works perfectly, just as slavery did, as a matter of economic and political policy. It just doesn't work for the common people. Think about it. If released, there are certain jobs I can't obtain because I'm a felon, but the state gets almost \$30,000 a year for me being in prison.

You've got architects, food and medical providers, correctional officers and administration, etc. getting paid. Just like chattel slavery, there is a class of people dependent on the bodies of the poor and people of color as a source of income. Prisons bring money to poor white areas, and this is how the capitalist gives back to those he took jobs from when he went overseas for cheap labor. The US Criminal Justice System, the politics of the police, the politics of the courts, and the politics of the prison system are all manifestations of the racism and classism which govern the lives of all of us. Every part of the criminal justice system falls most heavily on the poor and peoples of color, including the fact that slavery is mandated in prisons by the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This is why the prison system is a powder keg ready to pop off because the prisoner is growing into a knowledge of prison slavery in the form of involuntary labor. The time is now for prisoners to set aside any past or present differences, to formulate a humane and positive plan of programming and living for the prisoner class and

lumpen, because, simply put, these people won't do anything to lift us up. It's their plan to keep us poor and divided. We have turned our fear, frustrations and anger away from our true adversaries for too long! Missouri Department of Corruption, Plantations and Repressions has to stop the sanction of torture and racism and stop retaliation against those who report it.

I was framed early this year for a bogus violation that got me shipped further away from my family because I'm trying to bring an awareness to this outdated, corrupt, racist system. I will not be silenced. I'm not shocked about the inhumane treatment because I knew not to trust MDOC. We have to force reform ourselves because if they are not treating us right, how will they teach us right?

History shows us the actions of the master/overseer. We have a historical obligation and duty to carry on the legacy of struggle of those who put in a good faith effort to end the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment/Mass incarceration. Others have shown us the way. We can lead by example to better conditions of the prisoner class we live in. The time has come to refute those who have placed the yoke of constant despair, dejection and hardship on our necks—along with their boots!

I don't want to come back to prison once released, but I see so many coming back and I know they didn't want to come back either. This should be a national issue, but as long as the rich capitalist is a beneficiary of this money boom, the common people will continue to suffer. The Lion and the Lamb can never lay in the pasture together, especially in times like this. I hope and pray that the people are beginning to understand what prisoners have been saying to the public about the oppressive tactics of the U.S. Government. The DOC is more than a set of institutions—it's the state of mind which has expanded the use of isolation, the use of devices of torture and the counterintelligence program, as part of Homeland Security, against activists, both inside and outside the walls. My love goes out to Missouri CURE staff as a whole. All Power to the People!