



Prisoner Narratives

Obstruction of Justice

*“I wish your black ass would have died in medical!
Obama Care can’t help you, bitch.”*

Anthony N. is an African American male serving time in the Supermax wing of the Jefferson City Correctional Center (JCCC) in Jefferson City, Missouri. JCCC has become infamous for its maltreatment and abusive staff, particularly regarding retaliation tactics and obstruction of justice stemming from prisoner complaints. Anthony is permanently confined to a wheelchair, stemming from a gunshot that severed his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. Since his transfer to this facility, Anthony has experienced a disturbing and wide-ranging pattern of abuse. He reached out to Missouri CURE in January 2017, seeking justice and relief.

Dear Missouri Cure,

*Since being housed in JCCC, I've been discriminated against, retaliated against, denied serious medical treatment and attention, and denied basic needs and resources. I've been beaten—the victim of excessive use of force and the victim of sexual assault by a male nurse. Now, I was transferred to this supermax facility of JCCC from NECC in February. Since my arrival it was very clear that I had a pressure sore. **It was ordered** that I have the dressing changed and that I would take showers in the Trauma Care Unit because housing unit showers were unfit and the benches are too hard causing my sores to bleed.*

*I'm also diagnosed with a bone disease which causes excess bone growth in the joints of my hips, thighs, belt line, and waist. Doctor Khengar and Nurse Practitioner Pamela Swartz are both aware of my condition, yet **the doctor has discontinued all of my pain medications!** In the beginning of 2014 **I broke my legs in the housing unit shower, which is unsafe and unfit for me.** I should not have been in there anyhow. **I receive no attention**, and/or very poor treatment for my broken legs. It wasn't until **State Representatives** and family members started calling the facility that medial decided to house and treat me in the T.C.U.!*

*On August 26th, **I was assaulted** (by two officers) and **later prosecuted for an alleged assault with a static (immovable) wheel chair!** So, after being admitted to TCU I developed another pressure sore on my left leg. Sores are supposed to be sprayed twice a day (with medication). A homosexual nurse who had been making advances and gestures towards me opens my cell, stating, “I guess it’s time to spray your wound.” He sprays Granulex (medication) into the palm of his hand and starts rubbing in on my thigh, buttocks, and hips! I asked him, “Man, what are you*

doing?" He stated, the other nurses are not doing it right; it's supposed to be rubbed on." **Then he gave my buttocks a final pat.** Then I saw the doctor and I asked him, was this the correct way of applying Granulex to the wound? He stated, **"No, because it could lead to infection, which could lead to amputation. Why do you ask me this?"** So, I told him the whole situation and that while the doctor was here I would like to address the issue. Doctor Khengar said, "No, I will address It" but he did not because Nurse [] kept making homosexual advances towards me during catheter changes, asking, "Can you feel that? You like that?" etc....so I reported him by P.R.E.A. (Prisoners Rape Elimination Act). I first told **Sergeant Carothers** and he **refused to document the report out of favoritism for nurse [Jeffrey Bolton].** Then I wrote the **Inspector General's Office** and spoke with a **Psychologist.** **Sergeant Carothers and medical personnel started retaliating immediately.**

After Anthony's thwarted attempt to report the sexual assault, he stated he was then taken out of T.C.U. without further treatment for his bedsores and other medical attention his condition required, such as dressing changes and assistance with putting on clothing. Anthony reports this left him vulnerable to extortion and the theft of his property. "I can't bend at the waist. I'm forced to depend on cellmates. I've had cellmates extort me. Make me sleep on the floor! **Take my food and make me pay for assistance.**" Anthony also reports an increased pattern of racist abuse. "I've been called a **crippled nigger** by officers, and my chair taken away so I had to crawl on the floor. Since I've been in this current cell, I've had no assistance. My cell hasn't been cleaned. I'm only able to do so much. **They only give me a toilet brush.**"

All of the reported sexual and racial abuse and inadequate medical treatment culminated in a **lawsuit**, which **resulted in even greater retaliatory abuse**, the removal of legal materials from his cell, physical assault and increased racial abuse from staff. One staff member reportedly rammed him into the wall and doorframe of his cell, stating, "You'll be okay, crip. Did you even feel that?" another officer (reported to be **Col. Hall**), while leading him back from T.C.U. for observation, threatened to flip him out of his chair, stating, **"I could flip your black nigger ass over in the snow, piss on you and you'll catch hypothermia. I wish your black ass would have died in medical! Obama Care can't help you, bitch. You're going to die in prison as a crippled old nigger."**

Missouri CURE reached out to the Missouri DOC on Anthony's behalf with the following letter:

Dear Ms. Williams, Mr. Dormire,
In my function as Missouri CURE Prisoner Health Committee Coordinator I

hereby address you with numerous issues of great concern regarding Mr. [], a wheelchair bound, 39 year old paraplegic, paralyzed from the waist down from a gunshot wound that severed his spinal cord, who serves a 15 year sentence and is currently housed at J.C.C.C., Jefferson City, MO.

Mr. [] informed us of very detailed events regarding being the victim of racially motivated assaults and excessive 'Use of Force' by correctional staff, retaliatory medical negligence, and of sexual assaults by nurse Jeffrey Bolton, **the latter backed by high ranking J.C.C.C. correctional staff and the Corizon physician.**

Mr. [] indicates that when transferred from NECC, Bowling Green, to the maximum security facility J.C.C.C. in 2012, he was already suffering from a pressure sore that he developed due to being given an inadequate wheelchair.

After breaking his leg in the housing unit shower, "which he received very poor treatment for", and only after massive interventions of family members and a state representative, the facility doctor and H.S.A. Wanda Laramore ordered that he receive dressing changes and showers in the T.C.U. He states: "Housing unit showers are unfit and the benches are too hard causing my sores to bleed".

Mr. [] is also diagnosed with "H.O." (heterotopic ossification), "a bone disease which causes extra bone growth in the joints, hips, thigh, belt line and waist". He states that this condition impairs his range of motion and is very painful, relating that Dr. Kenghar "discontinued all pain medications the beginning of August 2014".

Mr. [] informed us that upon admission to T.C.U. on 8/26/14 he was "assaulted by Sgt. Leonard and Lt. Pendleton on arrival and later prosecuted on an alleged assault with a state wheel chair", his wheelchair being taken on 5/13/16 "because he allegedly struck an officer with the arm rest". Mr. [] states that prior to the incident he had been "**beaten, and called 'crippled nigger' by racist officers Lt. Pendleton and Sgt. Leonard**".

Mr. [] reports that on 10/21/16, when escorted out of the case worker's office into the hall in H.U. 6 (C/D), and later at his cell door (6-C 102), Sgt. Hightower verbally threatened him, using abusive ("crippled ass bitch") and racially charged language, stating that "it's niggers like you I hate the most, you drive-by shooter motherfuckers". Mr. [] filed an IRR. He still requests that the camera footage be reviewed, as Sgt. Hightower denied having been in H.U. 6 on that date. Mr. [] was advised by H.U. 6 C.C.M. Ms. Wonderlick, and on other occasions by C.C.M.

Obi, that “cameras are only used against offenders as evidence, not as [their] witness.”

*Mr. [] informed us that after assignment to H.U. 8 on 10/21/16, "the tormenting never stopped", indicating that Sgts. Carothers, Dinnis and Hightower sprayed mace under [his] cell door" although he suffers from asthma, and took his wheelchair so that **he “could only crawl around the cell.”** He states that he receives no assistance with keeping his cell (particularly floor and toilet) clean. I take the liberty to comment that such abusive, A.D.A. violating treatment of wheelchair bound prisoners is not the only case we are aware of, particularly targeting African Americans.*

*Due to sleeping mainly on his left side in order to “decrease the pain” Mr. [] developed another pressure sore on his right leg, the doctor ordering it to be sprayed with Granulex 2x/day. Mr. [] indicates that **nurse Jeffrey Bolton, who had already been “making homosexual advances and sexual gestures” towards him, sprayed the Granulex on his [Bolton’s] palm and started “rubbing it on my thigh, buttocks and hips!”***

When questioned about the correctness of this kind of application, nurse Bolton insisted that the spray was "supposed to be rubbed on, then gave [Mr. []'s] buttocks a final pat!" while CO1 Tennyson "laughed and made fun of [Mr. []]." Mr. [] states that upon his inquiry, **Dr. Kenghar confirmed that Granulex has to be “sprayed directly to the wound”**, but discouraged that Mr. [] address the issue by filing a complaint, indicating that “he would take care of it.”

*This apparently did not happen. Mr. [] had to endure nurse Bolton’s continued “homosexual advances”, particularly during catheter changes. He tried filing a P.R.E.A. report but Sgt. Carothers “refused to document the report.” Mr. [] states that after he wrote the Inspector General’s Office and spoke with the institutional psychologist, Ms. Jennifer White, “Sgt. Carothers and medical staff started retaliating immediately”, **the doctor discharging him from T.C.U. although his pressure sores were not healed.***

*Mr. [] states that “to this date 12/31/16” he still has sores on his buttocks and new ones forming on [his] legs behind the knees.” Mr. [] informed us that **NP Swartz discontinued giving dressings to him on 10/24/16, which were finally re-ordered by DoN Krystal Houston on 11/29/16 after his mother’s intervention.***

Mr. [] states that until 12/31/16 he has received only two dressing changes and

now is given patches to self-apply which is difficult for him due to his impaired mobility.

Mr. [] informed us **of being unable to dress himself with pants, socks and shoes as he "cannot bend at the hip due to the H.O. bone disease"**, thus being "forced to depend on cell mates", who use his disability to "extort me, make me sleep on the floor, take my food and make me pay for assistance", as he writes. Being at cell mates' whim, Mr. [] is often forced to miss out on recreational activities and, what is even more concerning, on meals at chow hall. Not accommodating Mr. []'s disability by providing him with a daily living assistant is an A.D.A. violation.

Mr. [] informed us having been scheduled to finally see the doctor on 11/22/16 **after several cancellations by Corizon staff within the past 5 months**, but only NP Swartz was available, who had discontinued his Versiva patch. Mr. []'s request for appropriate medical care for the old and newly developing pressure sores caused by the inadequate wheelchair was responded to "in a sarcastic manner", NP Swartz indicating that she "could do nothing about the bullet in [his] rib cage, and that he would "not be getting Bental and his asthma inhaler back." – Bental helping with forming "fuller bowel movements instead of many smaller ones", thus indicated for paraplegics.

Both medications, as well as Gabapentin (which Mr. [] **had taken for 8 years to relieve "excessive spasms and nerve pain" characteristic for paraplegics**), had been prescribed by Dr. Kenghar, yet were discontinued by NP Swartz out of "open racism and retaliation", because he "filed a P.R.E.A. and law suit ('[] vs. Laramore', Case No 2:16-CV-04254-SRB), with all parties mentioned named as defendants."

Mr. [] further reports that on 10/31/16 CO1 Hall, while pushing his wheelchair to the H.U. 8-D handicap shower, **"purposely ran [him] into the wall and door frame of his cell 8-D 101"**, making derogatory remarks geared at Mr. []'s disability, then denying him medical attention. Mr. [] filed a grievance, requesting review of video footage, which was refused by H.U. 8 case manager Obi who stated that "'cameras are only used as evidence', while laughing." When requesting to be pushed to/from the shower by another officer, due to CO1 Hall's prior assault, he was issued a conduct violation.

Mr. [] informed us being held in administrative segregation since 10/21/16 "for a minor conduct violation", but that "the administration is making [him] do 9

months to a year, all this being done to hinder me of progression from the law suit filed.”

Mr. [] states that on 11/23/16 CO1 Hall “came to [his] cell and took legal paperwork” and has continued doing so while he Mr. [] takes a shower - again on 12/19/16.

*In this context I take the liberty to confirm **that obstruction of justice by means of such abuse of power appears to be common practice in M.O.D.O.C. facilities**; it has been reported to Missouri CURE many times, raising the question, how “correction” – not even speaking of rehabilitation – can be achieved in a setting where arbitrary treatment and abuse by correctional staff are rampant.*

Mr. [] indicated having gone on hunger strike “for the administration classification etc. refusing to get my law suit out of property and not reviewing cameras, and the doctor not coming to see me in over 5 months”, relating that he missed “31 meals, attempting to draw attention to all this mistreatment and retaliation.”

*Mr. [] states that upon discharge from T.C.U., where he had been admitted for observation from 12/16 to 12/19/16, CO1 Hall escorted him back, stating “I could flip your Black nigger ass over in the snow, piss on you and you’ll catch hypothermia! I wished your Black ass would have died in medical! Obamacare can’t help you bitch! **You’re going to die in prison as a crippled old nigger!**”, then adding that he “re-arranged” Mr. []’s cell (H.U. 8 D-101), who, back in his cell, noticed that “all legal documents either gone or shuffled together in a mess, purposely done.” Mr. [] also noticed “orange looking smudged spots on his mattress and sink that, when laying in the bed, caused a “feeling of burn, and watering eyes”, adding: “I knew I had been maced, but my emergency call button wasn’t answered.”*

Furthermore, Mr. [] informed us being diagnosed with “Orchagia/Orchitis” which causes “great pain” and remains untreated.

In this context Mr. [] explained having been taken off the pain medication when “caught with some on 6/12/15”, stating that he had been “extorted”, therefore wishing to return to the T.C.U. because he did not have any problems with his medications there.

Missouri CURE requests that:

1.) Mr. [] receive appropriate treatment and care, including medications for his

heterotopic ossification, asthma and orchitis conditions, the cause of the latter to our knowledge unidentified, thus needing proper diagnosis;

2. be re-admitted to T.C.U. until his pressure sores are healed and that he continue receiving showers there;

3.) receive all necessary A.D.A. accommodations, particularly a well-fitting, padded wheel chair as well as a permanently assigned daily living assistant, also while in solitary confinement;

4.) Video footage of all mentioned incidents be reviewed by an independent authority;

5.) Nurse Jeffrey Bolton be dismissed and held legally accountable under P.R.E.A.;

6.) All other medical and correctional staff involved in above mentioned unprofessional, racially-biased, discriminatory and retaliatory actions and abuses be disciplined and demoted or dismissed.

I will appreciate your investigation and intervention as well as a timely response.

Sincerely,

Angelika Mueller-Rowry

Missouri CURE Prisoner Health Committee Coordinator

The response by the state failed to acknowledge or explain the very serious claims of sexual assault, excessive force, racism, video evidence and the seizure of legal papers. It also did not address the excessive use of adseg for minor conduct violations.

Dear Ms. Mueller-Rowry:

Your correspondence dated January 16, 2017 in which you have requested information related to the medical care being provided to [] currently housed at the Jefferson City Correctional Center, has been received for review and response.

A thorough review of [] medical records indicates he has a Lay-In for a R.O.H.O. cushion for his standard-issue wheelchair. Documentation notes []'s personal-issued wheelchair was confiscated due to his receiving a Conduct Violation for storing contraband inside the wheelchair cushion. He has a skin assessment up to three (3) times daily while receiving wound treatment [] is enrolled into the Cardiovascular; Chronic Pain; and Mental Health Chronic Care Clinics and monitored on a routine basis.

In regard to A.D.A. accommodations, [] is assigned to a Housing Unit with a handicapped shower.

Records indicate [] has not been very compliant with his medical treatment plan. Currently, [] is on a Hunger Strike. He has been educated on several occasions regarding the need to consume adequate calorie/protein for wound healing.

Findings of my review reveal [] delivery of medical care has been responsive, appropriate and consistent with community-based standards.

Please encourage Mr. [] to comply with all medical treatment recommendations to allow the best treatment outcomes for him.”

Beyond the abuse, the obstruction of justice, the racism, and the malicious maltreatment of a vulnerable person, one of the very first questions that sprang to mind while reading Anthony's letters, and what strikes as particularly inhumane, was why is there a paraplegic man sitting inside a Supermax facility? A facility specifically designed not to rehabilitate, but to punish through an environment of deprivation and spirit-crushing isolation. "The objective of a Supermax-and all adseg units-is to provide long-term, segregated housing for inmates classified as the highest security risks in the prison system, the "worst of the worst" criminals and those who pose an extremely serious threat to both national and global security." What are the risk factors in terms of national or global security posed by a paraplegic covered in bedsores who cannot even dress in the morning without assistance?