

Turning Point: The Newsletter of



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Citizens United for
Rehabilitation of Errants

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From the Chair

by Hedy Harden

World on Fire!

Just that quick, the world has changed. COVID-19, or the plague, as I call it, has created a new and scary reality for all of us. Out here we grope around in this new reality, many trying to exist with no income, with fear of going outside, with wearing masks and gloves, with fearing each person we come into contact with, who might have the virus.

In prison, where life is already an altered state of existence, the plague takes on an entirely different meaning. Prisoners have this new overarching fear and uncertainty, with minimal control over their daily lives.

A prisoner's life is suspended in time, some merely marking time, as in waiting for his/her sentence to end, hoping for an early parole, fighting to create a space for hope that a forever sentence might find relief in the courts—or, for some, simply waiting to die.

Now many prisoners wonder if they'll make it out alive. The federal prison in Ohio has had at least 80% of the population infected. Missouri overall has reported a lower number of its population who have tested positive than many other states. "Sentinel" testing is now being done at all prisons.

Missouri prisons have created quarantine units. Testing and quarantine were stepped up at the Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston MO, where an outbreak of the plague has occurred. A reported 20 staff members and 47 prisoners have become infected after testing was completed at SECC. Many prisoners there have been quarantined, some in a newly repurposed housing unit, others in their own cells. Reportedly, 28 men at SECC who were on quarantine status (never positive) have been cleared and moved back to their previous housing unit. However, some were later re-quarantined. Two negative tests are required for someone to be fully cleared. Those still

positive remain isolated. The warden at SECC (newly promoted to Deputy Director) has done a good job of keeping the prisoners informed with regular reporting.

Overall a reported 50 Missouri prisoners have tested positive for the virus. One died in a Kansas City hospital.

Although visiting has been suspended since March and now through at least June 18, prisoners live in fear of catching the virus from guards or medical staff, who leave at the end of their shifts and interact with society, then come back the next day. The vast majority of staff do not wear masks.



Efforts by the DOC

to maintain healthy conditions have faced the raw reality of too many people in too small a space to practice the recommended social distancing.

Masks made within the facilities have been issued to prisoners. However, some prisoners report that the masks, made from old bedsheets, are thin and mostly transparent, and that they sometimes fall apart when laundered.

Adequate and effective cleaning supplies have been slow in coming in some prisons. State-issued soap (a hotel-sized bar once a week) does not allow for frequent and thorough hand-washing, much less keeping their bodies clean. Prisoners with funds on their accounts can purchase soap through the canteen. Reports from different facilities reveal uneven compliance with safety protocol.

Another Plague Goes Viral in 2020:

Amidst this worldwide pandemic, a black man in Minneapolis was murdered by a white policeman on Memorial Day, May 25. Videotape of George Floyd's murder was seen throughout the U.S. and around the planet. Floyd died after former police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly 9 minutes. Floyd could be heard

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pleading with Chauvin, "Please, man...I can't breathe!" until eventually he became unresponsive.

Floyd's autopsy showed the death to be a homicide. Every day since then there have been huge protests in cities around the U.S. and beyond, the like of which most of us have never seen. Countries around the world have seen huge solidarity protests. Protestors in London are also marching against the racism seen in their own city.

The gruesome video of Mr. Floyd's death, together with a pandemic that's disproportionately killing African-Americans, and the

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*CURE is **NOT** a service organization. We are an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization. CURE has NO legal services—please do NOT send legal papers. We advocate for criminal justice reform, but we cannot take on individual cases.*

Mission Statement

CURE believes that prisons should be only for those who MUST be incarcerated and that prisons should only exist for the purposes of education and rehabilitation. CURE is a membership organization. We work hard to provide our members with the information and tools necessary to help them understand the criminal justice system and to advocate for positive change.

Remember May 13, 1985 – The MOVE Massacre

Philadelphia. 5:35 am, May 13, 1985. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor aims his bullhorn at the house at 6221 Osage Avenue and declares: "Attention MOVE! This is Amer-



ica." Seven adults and six children, members of the MOVE organization, were in their home. Outside, hundreds of heavily armed police and city officials surrounded them. Fifteen minutes later the police assault began. By the end, five children ages 9 to 14 were murdered by the police, as were six adults, their bodies mostly in pieces. Sixty-one homes were burned; 250

people rendered homeless. As the neighborhood burned, hundreds gathered in the street, indicting the police and chanting "Murderers! Murderers!"

A Courageous Survivor and Fighter

While the perpetrators of this horrendous crime – the mayor and the police – walked free, the only adult survivor, **Ramona**

Africa, was arrested and spent **seven years in prison** for refusing to



renounce MOVE. The surviving child, Birdie Africa, was seized by the system and taken away from his family. ❖

When Incarceration becomes Normal

For most white Americans, interactions with the police happen rarely, and they're often respectful or even friendly. Many white people don't know a single person who's currently behind bars. In many black communities — and especially for black men — the situation is entirely different. Some of the statistics can be hard to fathom:

Close to 10 percent of black men in their 30s are behind bars on any given day, according to the Sentencing Project.

Incarceration rates for black men are about twice as high as those of Hispanic men, five times higher than those of white men and at least 25 times higher than those of black women, Hispanic women or white women.

When the government last counted how many black men had ever spent time in state or federal prison — in 2001 — the share was 17 percent. Today, it's likely closer to 20 percent (and this number doesn't include people who've spent time in jail without being sentenced to prison). The comparable number for white men is about 3 percent.

The rise of mass incarceration over

the last half-century has turned imprisonment into a dominant feature of modern life for black Americans. Large numbers of black men are missing from their communities — unable to marry, care for children or see their aging parents. Many others suffer from permanent economic or psychological damage, struggling to find work after they leave prison.

A recent study by the economists Patrick Bayer and Kerwin Kofi Charles found that 27 percent of black men in the prime working years of their lives — between the ages of 25 and 54 — didn't report earning a single dollar of income in 2014. "That's a massive number," Charles, the dean of the Yale School of Management, told me. Incarceration, including the aftereffects, was a major reason.

The anger coursing through America's streets over the past weeks has many causes, starting with a gruesome video showing the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. But that anger has also been building up for a long time. It is, in part, anger about incarceration having become normal. ❖



Gov. Parson Urged to Veto SB 600

During the waning days of the legislative session, lawmakers gathered at the state capitol, ostensibly to pass a state budget, which was itself necessary.

During the COVID-9 pandemic, citizens who normally would be lobbying were following stay-at-home orders. But that didn't stop Republicans from ramming through Senate Bill 600, one of several mammoth omnibus bills put before legislators with scarcely any time to even read their many provisions.

They also passed House Bill 1896, which makes anyone caught with even a trace amount of fentanyl – a synthetic opioid pain reliever, the sort of drug whose legal sales the state should be monitoring – liable for prosecution as a drug trafficker.

Few legislators bothered to wear masks. According to State Senator Jamillah Nasheed, “Most of the Republicans did not believe if you had on a mask it would protect you or protect others. To be in a building with people who were not protecting themselves or others, I would not be surprised if individuals get sick with COVID-19 as a result of being in that building. They put a lot of lives in jeopardy.”

It is a violation of public trust to legislate without proper public input.

“During a pandemic, we should have been making sure our healthcare workers have protective equipment, that Missourians who are unemployed are

receiving benefits, that we are providing resources to help our citizens,” said state Rep. Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis), “Instead, they just kept ramming through Republican priorities that hurt the everyday people we are all elected to serve.”

“The legislative impact on the quality of life for African Americans for Senate Bill 600 is to turn back all of the criminal justice reforms we have

Unjust Laws Create Criminals

achieved,” said Nasheed.

It's the tough-but-stupid on crime strategy that has failed for half a century, now appearing as insane politics in an election year.

Letter to Gov. Parson

A June 2 letter sent by more than 15 organizations including Missouri CURE, Empower Missouri, and the ACLU-MO urges Governor Parson to veto SB 600, which would cost taxpayers and communities dearly while not making Missourians safer. The harsh sentencing requirements would cost as much as \$16 million per year in incarceration costs. It is projected to increase the Missouri prison population by 2,500 and require two new prisons to be built at a cost of \$500 million.

SB 600 would undo all the reforms achieved in the last two years by the

data-driven approach to save money and boost public safety, while emphasizing prisoner rehabilitation.

The letter noted that prosecutors already have the tools needed to hold people accountable for serious crimes without adding more mandatory minimums and increasing penalties for vehicle hijacking, conspiracy, possessing firearms, street gangs, and eliminating probation for certain crimes. As Jeanette Mott-Oxford, CEO of Empower Missouri said, “Decades of rigorous studies show that the mandatory minimums and stacking of sentences in Senate Bill 600 will not deter crime or reduce violence.”

Sara Baker of ACLU-MO stated, “Criminal justice reform means more than looking at past wrongs in the law and reassessing, it also means learning what did not work and charting a different path. SB 600 retries mandatory minimums and adds enhancements to existing crimes simply designed to keep people locked up longer. That doesn't keep us safer. We know that. Data confirms that. We must adapt and confront crime with alternative policies that focus on restoration and what it takes to return people to society in a way they can thrive. We must create systems that make incarceration truly a last resort. It fractures families and burdens taxpayers to continue reviving policy mistakes. At the heart of our new policies, we must place a priority on liberty and justice – neither of which are

World on Fire from p. 1

angry, racialized politics that President Trump encourages have created a firestorm of protest.

After weeks and months of fear, wearing masks, sheltering at home, watching the news with wholesale dying around the world from the pandemic, warm weather arrived, and people needed to get outside. Young people needed to release pent-up energy along with their outrage. And the media, with no sports to focus on, with normal news on lockdown, has been riveted to the massive worldwide protests, where millions have taken to the streets. Many thousands have pro-

tested in Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, St. Charles, and other cities and towns throughout Missouri.



While most of the protests were nonviolent, those that included looting,

burning, and encounters with police and National Guard troops predictably got the most attention. While many de-

plored it, violence is what excites the media. Thousands upon thousands of mostly young people of all colors have filled the streets night after night, ignoring curfews in their rage and indignation.

While some police officers walked with or took a knee in solidarity with the protestors, others have responded with arrests, tear gas, rubber bullets, flash bombs, and brutality. Some officers have been injured and notably one retired police captain was killed in St. Louis by a looter.

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Is a Belief in Capitalism Required to be Truly American?

“The coronavirus pandemic may have reminded Americans that they’re all in it together. But it has also shown them how dangerously far they are apart,” writes the New York Times Editorial Board. **“Over the past decade, the wealth of the top 1 percent of households has surpassed the combined wealth of the bottom 80 percent.”** The authors went on to describe many corrosive effects of widening inequality.

While 79% of Republicans view allegiance to capitalism as substantially part of American identity, only 46% of Democrats do.

ANALYSIS

Capitalism has shifted dramatically over the last century. The US economy transitioned from industrial capitalism to finance capitalism after World War II. At that point, rather than deriving most earnings from the manufacture of tangible goods, the economy began producing more profit through explicitly financial activities.

Finance capitalism has since given way to global capitalism. In *A Theory of Global Capitalism* (2004) sociologist William Robinson charted the rise of a new capitalist class and the subsequent

creation of a transnational state. Having grown beyond national boundaries, this new class comprises a global system in which (for example) capitalist investors from every nation are just as comfortable investing in Latin America as they might be in Southeast Asia. Their development of global, interconnected industries and businesses make such capitalist investors drivers of world capitalism.

A good, recent example of these transnational dynamics came to light in a legal dispute between the European Union and Apple. In 2016, after two years of investigation into Apple’s tax practices in Europe, the European Commission found that Apple paid substantially less taxes in Ireland, home to its European headquarters, than it should have for years. By convoluted financial engineering, Apple had lowered its effective corporate tax rate from 1% to just 0.005%, from 2003 to 2014. The agency ordered Apple to pay \$14.3 billion in back taxes and interest to the Irish government.

In a court appeal last September,

Apple’s lawyers argued that the ruling essentially meant that “all of Apple’s profits from all of its sales outside the Americas must be attributed to two branches in Ireland,” Reuters reported. The company is attempting to evade tax liabilities by breaking up their chain of production and distributing it across multiple nations. In such a scheme, it becomes hard for nations to even determine, and harder still to collect, the taxes owed by multinational corporations. Ireland, for its part, wants to refrain from collecting back taxes from Apple, in order to remain an attractive haven

for businesses who want to produce their goods as cheaply as possible.

Under these conditions, it does not make good sense to conflate capitalism with core aspects of our national identity. Global capitalists do not have the interests of any particular people in mind. There is no longer a singular, nation-state specific capitalism in which to believe, per se, or in which to participate.

There do exist positive corporate stories like that of Washington-based Costco, who moved in 2019 to a minimum wage of \$15 an hour. ♦



Prisoners can Help

Statistical data shows that a large number of incarcerated persons have some type of mental health problem. Most of these incarcerated people seek help through Corizon’s mental health department. It is not my place to say whether or not Corizon is doing a good job, but I am saying that they are overloaded with clients. There are prisoners throughout the state that would be willing to help. There are several institutions that have wings dedicated to working with these individuals, but if there is a need at all

MODOC facilities, then why don’t they institute these units statewide? My institution (MECC) has very few programs and could greatly benefit from a program similar to this.

If you are at MECC or want a program that can help those with mental health disorders, please contact the administration at your institution.

For all of the non-incarcerated readers, please contact MECC in regards to this.

—Anonymous Advocate for Justice at MECC ♦

“Continuing to incarcerate someone beyond any purposeful objective of rehabilitation is comparable to punishment of the innocent.”

—The Sentencing Project



Prison Policy Updates

- ♦ Nearly one out of every 100 people in the U.S. is in a prison or jail.
- ♦ All U.S. states have incarceration rates higher than most independent countries.
- ♦ Life-sentenced population exceeds entire prison population in 1970.

Legal immunity for police misconduct may get SCt review

Richard Wolf / USA Today May 29, 2020

Washington — The brutal death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police has re-energized a national debate over misconduct by law enforcement officials that the Supreme Court may be poised to enter.

The justices could announce as early as Monday that they will consider whether law enforcement and other officials continue to deserve "qualified immunity" that protects them from being sued for official actions.

The high court itself established that protection in a series of decisions dating back several decades, letting police off the hook unless their behavior violated "clearly established" laws or constitutional rights. Lower courts have used that standard to uphold almost any actions not specifically forbidden.

But in recent years, justices, lower court judges and scholars on both the left and right have questioned that legal doctrine for creating a nearly impossible standard for victims to meet and a nearly blanket immunity for those accused of misconduct.

The justices have been reviewing more than a dozen cases involving public officials' invocation of qualified immunity with an eye toward choosing one or more to hear next term. If they move ahead, it would indicate that at least several justices want to cut back on such immunity.

"It's a vivid and tragic example of our culture of near-zero accountability for police officers," says Jay Schweikert, a criminal justice analyst at the libertarian **Cato Institute**, one of the leading advocacy groups seeking to limit or eliminate qualified immunity. "People understand that officers are rarely held to account."

In one case the high court is reviewing, a Tennessee man was bitten by a police dog unleashed on him while he was sitting with his hands in the air. In another, a 10-year-old Georgia boy was shot in his backyard by police pursuing an unarmed criminal suspect. In a third, police in California searching for a gang member used tear-gas grenades rather than the house key given to them by his ex-girlfriend.

"You're supposed to have a warrant when you do stuff like this," says Robert McNamara, a senior attorney with

the Institute for Justice, a libertarian law firm representing the California homeowner.

Police usually win

The Supreme Court has given police and other public officials considerable leeway in most cases where their conduct has come into question. In February, the court's conservatives ruled that the family of a **Mexican teenager fatally shot by a U.S. Border Patrol agent** cannot seek damages because of

doctrine has no historical basis. The court, he said in a 2017 case, routinely substitutes "our own policy preferences for the mandates of Congress."

Associate Justice Sonia

Sotomayor, arguably the court's most liberal member, said in 2015 that the court's "one-sided approach to qualified immunity transforms the doctrine into an absolute shield for law enforcement officers."

In one of the cases now pending

before the high court, Judge Don Willett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit complained that the Supreme Court's precedent "leaves victims violated but not vindicated. Wrongs are not righted, and wrongdoers are not reproached."

"Deeply broken"

In several of the lower court cases the justices are reviewing, groups on the right such as Cato and the Institute for Justice have been joined by several on the left, including the American Civil Liberties Union, MacArthur Justice Center and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

"This is one of those issues that really unites left and right, because anyone with a coherent sense of justice can really look at what's going on and see that it's deeply broken," McNamara says.

Even if the justices agree to weigh in, however, it's not at all clear they would abolish qualified immunity or significantly scale it back. **Chief Justice John Roberts**, in particular, prefers baby steps to big changes in court precedent.

The justices earlier this month had a chance to second-guess a federal appeals court that granted immunity to police officers who stole more than \$200,000 in cash and rare coins during a legal search. They refused to hear the case.

"This is essentially a court-created doctrine," says Andrew Pincus, an appellate lawyer who helps direct the Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic at Yale Law School. "They should take responsibility if it's not working right." ♦



the border that was between them.

In 2018, they ruled that an Arizona police officer was within his rights to shoot a woman who refused to put down a kitchen knife. Three years earlier, they ruled that California police were equally entitled to protection after they forcibly entered the room of a woman with a mental disability and shot her.

A Reuters investigation earlier this month found that qualified immunity has shielded police accused of using excessive force in thousands of lawsuits.

And William Baude, a University of Chicago Law School professor and leading scholar on qualified immunity, documented in 2018 that in 30 cases spanning more than three decades, the Supreme Court found that official conduct violated clearly established law only twice.

"Nearly all of the Supreme Court's qualified immunity cases come out the same way — by finding immunity for the officials," Baude wrote.

Two of the court's current justices have pushed back against that trend from opposite ends of the ideological spectrum.

Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's most conservative member, has complained that the

Mapping US police killings of Black Americans

Black Americans are two-and-a-half times as likely as white Americans to be killed by police officers.

31 May 2020 Mohammed Haddad, Black Lives Matter

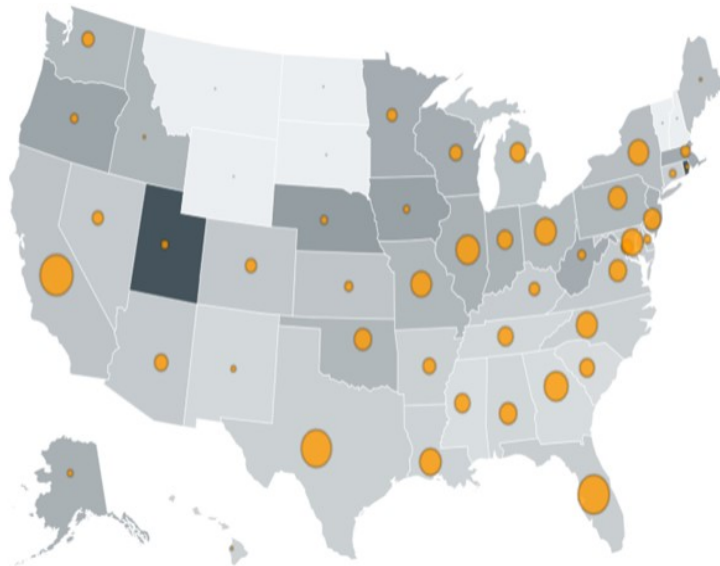
Between 2013 and 2019, police in the United States killed 7,666 people, according to data compiled by Mapping Police Violence, a research and advocacy group. On May 25, 2020 at 9:25pm, George Floyd, a 46-year-old resident of Minnesota, became yet another victim of police brutality as he was killed in police custody while unarmed. Floyd's death has prompted thousands of protesters to march in cities around the country demanding justice and an end to police violence.

The number of police killings in the US disproportionately affects African Americans. Despite only making up 13 percent of the US population, Black Americans are two-and-a-half times as likely as white Americans to be killed by the police.

The map below shows how disproportionate these killings are across the US's

50 states.

Unsurprisingly, the three largest states - California, Texas and Florida - have the highest total number of killings of Black people by police officers. Once these figures are adjusted for the population size and demographics, in nearly every state, African Americans face a significantly higher risk of being killed by police officers than white Americans.



In Utah, the African Americans comprise just 1.06 percent of the population but they accounted for 10 percent of police killings over the past seven years - a disproportional rate of 9.21 times. In Minnesota, Black Americans are nearly four times as likely to be killed by law enforcement, with Black victims comprising 20 percent of those killed, despite comprising only 5 percent of the overall population. ♦

Puppies for Parole...what about People for Parole?

Recently I was placed within the dog wing here at Western Reception Diagnostic & Correction Center in St. Joseph, MO.

I have had a first-hand view of the order of operations, as it pertains to these animals. When the dogs are brought into the institution, the definite major purpose of the staff/administration is to get the dogs adoption (parole) ready, as soon as possible.

A mental assessment is done upon the animals, a personal trainer is assigned to the dog. The personal trainer is already familiar with the dogs' individual needs. If that isn't enough, a representative from the humane society/animal shelter frequently enters the institution to either check up on the animals' progress and give further guidance and/or assistance to those

who are preparing the dogs for adoption.

Rehabilitation is mandated for the animals.....they are put through rigorous training in order to make them "adoption ready" (socially). Each and every issue the animal has, whether it be health-wise or social, is assessed and addressed. The dogs are essentially given two options, to either change or return to the shelter to be euthanized.



It's truly unfortunate that the same time and energy isn't put into the rehabilitation of the men and women who are confined within the Missouri Department of Corrections. Recidivism is an ever-present reality, because there is no requirement to change. There is no mandate to address the is-

ssues that birthed the criminal inclination or actions. There are no staff members on stand-by checking upon your parole readiness. No one.

Everyone who works at this institution stands in direct opposition to our freedom and our dreams. This staff is more concerned with the rehabilitation of the dogs than they are of the men and women inmates. We are being warehoused, while they are being prepared for release.

If those who are in positions of power and influence within the Missouri Department of Corrections truly believed that locking up the physical would change the mental, why would they continue to invest so much time, energy and money into the rehabilitation of actual animals, than they do in the rehabilitation of the men and women incarcerated in Missouri?

Robert Eugene Williams #180397 ♦

When Innocence is Not Enough

by Hedy Harden

"I, Walter 'Arkie' Barton, am innocent, and they are executing an innocent man!!" These were his last words.

Despite strong claims of innocence, Missouri executed Walter Barton on May 19, the first in the country during the COVID pandemic.

I remember Arkie well from the 90's, when I frequently visited my former husband at Potosi. Folks called Walter "Arkie" because he hailed from Arkansas.

Maybe it was the joy of having a visit, but he almost always seemed to have a smile on his face.

The state's case against Walter was so flimsy that he was tried five times, his trials marked by prosecutorial misconduct and an inadequate defense. Three jurors who voted to convict Walter at his last trial now say they would vote differently based on new evidence supporting his innocence.

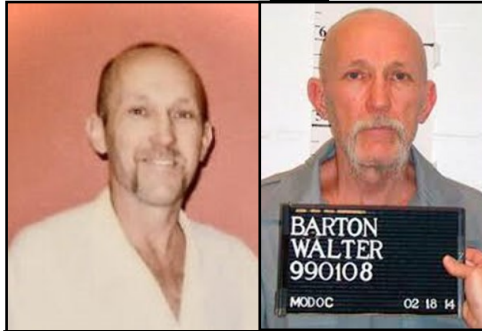
Barton was convicted of a 1991 murder based on bloodstain pattern analysis, the only physical evidence. Yet only a spot of blood was found on his shirt, which Arkie said got there while he was pulling the victim's granddaughter off of her body, which the granddaughter confirmed.

The victim was stabbed 50 times.

New expert analysis reveals that the blood spot was not a result of spatter; the real perpetrator of the crime would have been covered with blood.

In the course of his five trials, two convictions were overturned. His first trial ended in a mistrial, his second in a hung jury. His conviction in the third trial was overturned. Convicted again at his fourth trial, his conviction was again overturned after the prosecution was

found to have engaged in multiple acts of misconduct, including the use of perjured testimony from a jailhouse informant. This same informant testified at Barton's fifth and final trial—at which he was convicted and sentenced to death.



For 29 years he suffered in prison, and then they killed him.

Since 1976, 167 innocent people have been exonerated from death row — which means for every nine people executed, one person on death row has been exonerated. "It is unconscionable," said a representative from the Innocence Project, "that this execution was allowed to go forward without a deep examination of Walter's innocence."

Worldwide online protest was garnered in Arkie's case. Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP) fought hard to save his life. Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) led a vehicle caravan through Jefferson City to raise awareness and express their opposition to the execution.

The Midwest Innocence Project, the Innocence Project, and the MacArthur

Justice Center had asked Missouri Gov. Michael Parson to stop Barton's execution and appoint a Board of Inquiry into his innocence. A stay was issued but lifted two days later, and Parson didn't step in.

Nearly half of all DNA exonerations in the United States involved the use of misleading or misapplied forensic science, like blood spatter evidence. New forensic evidence points to his innocence. The only other physical evidence in the case — hair found on the victim's torso and biological material underneath her fingernails — does not match Barton.

A special unit in the Missouri Attorney General's office prosecuted Arkie's case. That unit is also responsible for the wrongful conviction of at least four other innocent men: Josh Kezer, Dale Helmig, Mark Woodworth, and Brad Jennings, all of whom were later exonerated. Judges ruled that the prosecutors from this unit had "repeatedly misstated the evidence," knowingly presented false testimony, and failed to disclose evidence in their cases. One of the attorneys that represented Arkie has since been suspended from practicing law.

So far, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas have all postponed executions. The pandemic also reduced Mr. Barton's ability to receive due process, as much of the work that should have been done in his defense — including interviewing new witnesses, reinvestigating disputed evidence, and filing new legal claims — had been put on hold due to the pandemic and subsequent shutdown. ♦



Missouri begins Testing all Prisoners, Staff at Corrections facilities

From the Missouri Times by Kaitlyn Schallhorn May 26, 2020

Missouri began the process of testing all inmates and staff at adult facilities for COVID-19 May 26 and will "soon" start testing all incoming offenders regardless if he or she is symptomatic. The testing began Tuesday with the approximately 3,500 staff and inmates at the Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston and the South Central Correctional Center in Licking. Testing is expected to take about four days. Testing at the Algoa Correctional Center in Jefferson City

and the Chillicothe Correctional Center will begin on May 31 and cover nearly 3,000 people, according to the Department of Corrections (DOC).

"Sentinel testing in Missouri is important for the road to recovery for the community, but it's also important for the road to recovery for Correc-

tions," DOC Director Anne Precythe told reporters Tuesday afternoon. Plans

for the other facilities will be announced "in the coming weeks." The Missouri National Guard is assisting with the testing, officials said... And with additional supplies coming, Precythe said the department is expecting to begin screening individuals one week

prior to their release." ♦



Re-entry and De-institutionalization

by Lonnie Lockhart Bey

"Education is the passport to the future, and it belongs to him who prepares for it." --- Malcolm X.

Re-entry is defined as "a second or new entry to a place, space or situation once again."

In my opinion, "Re-entry" is only as good as the conditions in the place that one is re-entering, and the fortitude necessary to sustain that emancipation. For many who were living on the fringes of society, running the hamster's wheel trying to escape the pains of trauma and the blackness of emotional abandonment, prison has become some sort of cabin retreat. An all-expense paid desolate island, free of responsibility and accountability, where these people can be anybody they desire, whether that's Noriega's sidekick, a mob boss, entrepreneur, MMA fighter—I mean, the imagination runs wild. Nevertheless, inside of those Secrets and Lies is a tragedy of "Learned Helplessness."

Many of these men who are preparing to traverse the burning sands of re-entering society find it difficult to adjust to the de-institutionalization that is available within the same institutionalized grounds. There truly are those seeking to encourage others to love themselves, believe in and have confidence in themselves. To accept that change, you must first accept that change is a prerequisite to prosperity.

There is a culture in prison, similar to that on plantations across America 155 years ago, that if a man shares your fate and attire, his mind is somehow disheveled, diminished and wretched. This intentional defacement on the part of the

uneducated is a tactic when he views change as not being an option, and it often leads to ignominious faults, and silly slogans such as: "I don't trust nobody!"

Come to find out, the rebelliously uneducated nomad normally trusts everybody; his survival depends on it.

There are people who are paid thousands of dollars to render a verdict concerning this condition, while they are nothing more than bystanders to a tragic end, sympathizing in the moment, thanking fate that it wasn't them, and moving on to the next accident.

In other words, changing will require learning to trust someone other than those responsible for your conditions in the first place. De-institutionalization is a central component of emancipation, because thinking like a slave will only ensure that you remain in captivity.

Every man would like to think that his reformation was due to his ingenuity and stamina to stay the course, but the fact is that character is the sum total of what we've experienced and what we have been taught to be.

When I entered the Prison Industrial Complex two-and-a-half decades ago, I was taught to defend myself against those who were fighting tenaciously to extend my stay. So I began learning the law, because "Law governs all events." Ultimately, freedom must be obtained in a conflict that cannot

be told in words.

Real change requires reconnecting with past traumas, finding the source of one's inner critic, and reeling in those anchors (core beliefs) that have kept so many stuck in a state of Emotional Arrested Development—fully grown, but thinking and acting like a child.

It is time to start challenging the vicious cycle of going to prison, getting slicker, leaving prison with no job skills, getting high, catching a new case ("The P.O. was tripping"), coming back to prison,

taking more programs, then going out and repeating the cycle once again.

Programs can be extremely helpful, but programs can't fully address the shame, guilt or self-pity that comes from a defeatist attitude. Change and forgiveness are not just reserved for the wealthy and powerful aristocrat; they are for every person who believes in the worth and value of him or herself.

In order to end mass incarceration, we must first end recidivism. Since you've come to realize that it's difficult for a newly released disenfranchised prisoner, then you should also bear in mind that preparation for freedom begins with a conscious recognition that neo-slavery leaves no room for error. Struggle is personal; make yours count!

Napoleon Hill said it best:

"...When you take knowledge and make it practical by organizing it to work for you, it becomes power." ♦



World on Fire from p. 3

However, some of those fomenting violence were reportedly white supremacist "Antifas," (supposedly meaning anti-fascism, but actions speak louder than words. And by their deeds we shall know them.

We saw them in Ferguson in 2014, covertly setting fire to businesses, looting and destroying property. Whenever and wherever there are people protesting with a righteous cause, these hoodlums are sure to be found inciting violence and

giving others a bad name.

Agent provocateurs are nothing new. They fought to destroy the Panthers and other groups in the 60s and 70s, and they have not disappeared. President Trump belatedly declared them terrorists after encouraging violence and virtually commanding police to fire on crowds of protesters with his tweets. He now threatens to deploy active military to put down the protests.

The anger of protesters is different this time. After years of black people in the U.S. being killed by the police —

more than 1,000 per year, for as long as statistics exist — something has changed since May 25.

Initially all four officers on the scene of the murder in Minnesota were fired. Derek Chauvin was charged with third degree murder. Now Chauvin's charge has been upgraded to second-degree murder, and the other three former officers are charged with aiding and abetting murder in Floyd's death.

It is sincerely hoped that true and lasting change will result from this movement for justice. ♦

Spring Activities & Events

March

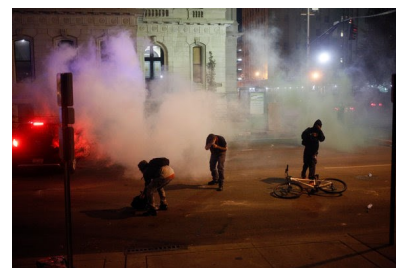
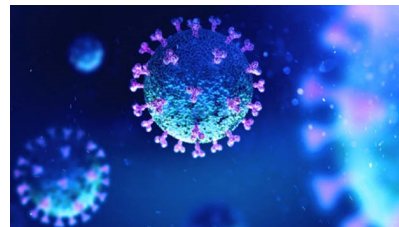
- 13 Gov. Parson issues State of Emergency in response to COVID-19
- 16 KCMO CURE Meeting
- 27 STL CURE meeting

April

- 15 Launch of OBS/Missouri CURE **Prison Families Project**
- 18 Brother Bob (Zakub Danjel) died at age 77 in St. Louis
- 22 Statewide Missouri CURE phone conference meeting

May

- 8 Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), EXPO-MO, and the Campaign for Youth Justice held a caravan protest at the Juvenile Detention Center on Hogan Street in St. Louis, calling for release of the youth to protect them from the spread of COVID-19.
- 13 35th Anniversary of the MOVE Massacre 1985
- 19 Malcolm X's birthday; OBS ZOOM meeting (Hedy)
- 20 Statewide Missouri CURE phone conference meeting
- 22 Sankofa for KCMO protest regarding KCPD assault on Brianna Hill (Keith)
- 25 George Floyd killed by police in Minneapolis MN, setting off worldwide protests
- 26 Missouri begins statewide COVID-19 testing of all prisoners and staff, starting at SECC and SCCC ♦



Protesters sprayed with tear gas

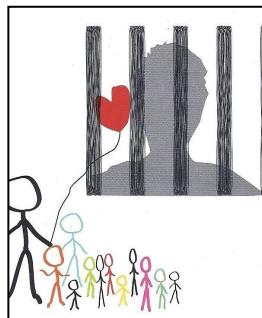
Prison Family Project Connects Families During COVID-19

Missouri CURE has teamed up with the Organization for Black Struggle to do our small part to keep prison families connected during COVID-19.

Prison visits have been suspended since Mid-March. Connection with families is one of the primary ways that prisoners maintain their sanity and humanity. Without this family bonding, the anxiety of the coronavirus spread throughout the prisons would be even more heightened.

Missouri CURE Co-Chair Keith Brown El understands all too well the importance of staying in touch with loved ones. Brown El spent 36 years incarcerated in Missouri prisons.

"Prisoner communication with family members and loved ones is important because it carries with it the hope of one day being re-united with them, no matter how the remote the possibility may seem," stated Brown El. He went on to say that it also lets



Prisoners know they have someone on the outside who cares and is monitoring their situation.

Both OBS and CURE have been active in prison reform for decades. Prisoners with membership in the two organizations, totaling nearly 300, will be beneficiaries of the project's fundraising efforts. We have put \$10 on the J-Pay account of each member.

Many have expressed thanks. One prisoner called it his stimulus check.

Here's another response:

"I recently received a postcard and ten bucks on my account to support me in maintaining contact during this COVID-19 crises, and I'm grateful and appreciative!!!"

"On this very day, my sister had a small surgery to cut out some cancer (and it was a successful surgery). However, I was able to find out those results immediately based on that \$10 on my account!!!"

We hope all prisoners and their loved ones stay safe and healthy during this time of great fear and uncertainty.

May those who test positive for the virus recover without serious illness. ♦

George Floyd protest in D.C.



important because it carries with it the hope of one day being re-united with them, no matter how the remote the possibility may seem," stated Brown El. He went on to say that it also lets prison offi-

From the Marshall Project: COVID-19—A Survival Guide for Prisoners

Tips on how to protect yourself from the virus within the limits of prison or jail.

COVID-19 has spread throughout the world with deadly impact. In the U.S., many communities are scrambling to treat the sick with limited resources, the streets are empty, and people are trying to stay healthy under challenging circumstances.

The most common symptoms include fever, dry cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, loss of smell and body aches. More severe symptoms include high fever, severe cough, shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, sudden confusion and bluish lips or face.

People infected with the virus may not show symptoms for two to 14 days after exposure. The Centers for Disease Control and other reputable public health organizations have issued safety practices to help people avoid infection that you've probably heard about by now:

Wash your hands with soap frequently, for at least 20 seconds each time. Cough and sneeze into your elbow. Regularly clean surfaces that multiple people touch daily. Practice "social distancing," which means staying 6 feet away from other people as much as you can.

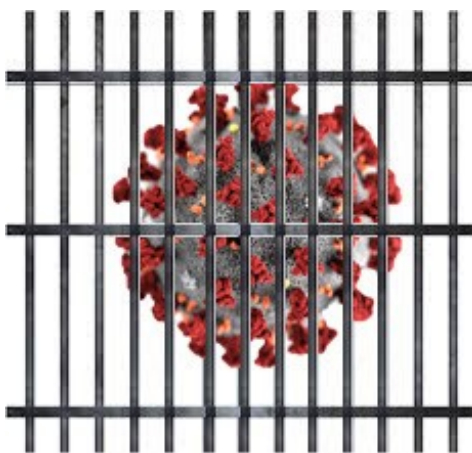
Refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth—all parts of your face where COVID-19 can enter your body.

Incarcerated people would be best served to use the same prevention practices, but the actual nature of prisons and jails, combined with restrictions on supplies can make it more difficult to ward off the virus. That's why News Inside teamed up with Brie Williams, M.D., M.S., and Leah Rorvig, M.D., M.S., medical experts from the University of California, San Francisco, who specialize in criminal justice. Williams also runs a prison reform program called Amend at UCSF. Here, we answer your coronavirus questions while being considerate of your unique circumstances.

Should I be scared about getting released?

Medical Advice: Most places outside of prison have a lower risk of

infection than any type of group-living situation. This is because it is easier to stay 6 feet away from people you don't live with when you are out in the community. Also, it might be



easier to get cleaning products and to stay away from others who are sick.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: This is a scary time, but you've improvised while incarcerated. In the free world, you will have more space and access to safety and cleaning equipment.

I've heard that handwashing is the best defense against getting and spreading the virus. How do I keep my hands clean if hot water is unavailable or inconsistent in my cell or dorm area?

Medical Advice: While hot water is better than cold for hand washing, your technique matters most: Wet your hands all the way up to and a little past your wrists. Rub soap on the front and backs of your hands and wrists, and scrub for 20 seconds. If you have access to clean paper towels, use one to turn off the faucet and throw it out immediately.

If soap and water aren't available but hand sanitizer is, it has to be at least 60 percent alcohol to work. Use the same technique: Cover the fronts and backs of your hands and wrists with sanitizer and rub them together for 20 seconds.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: Fill bottles in the shower specifically for hand-washing. Heat your water using a hot pot, stinger, slop sinks or a bowl you

place on the radiator. Insulate buckets of warm water with blankets and towels for longer-lasting use. Try to wash or sanitize your hands every time you leave and return to your cell.

How can I shower safely in a communal setting?

Medical Advice: Try to stay 6 feet away from other people, and be sure your hands are clean before touching your face.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: If it's possible, remain 6 feet apart in the shower. Skipping showers isn't ideal, but if you live in a cell, wash up in your sink using soap, water and a rag.

Is it safe to sit on a toilet that 200 people in my dorm share?

Medical Advice: Getting COVID-19 from sitting on a toilet seat is unlikely. However, the toilet handle, stall divider and sink faucets could be dirty. Be sure to wash your hands before and after using the bathroom. The toilet handle, faucets and other frequently touched items such as the door should be disinfected at least daily.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: Before and after toilet use, clean the seat and flush handle with bleach diluted with water if it's available. If you don't have bleach, do the same with a rag lathered up with soap. When possible, place a clean towel on the seat. Wash and dry the towel after use. Place it directly in front of a fan—if you have access—to speed up the drying process.

How do I protect myself from COVID-19 when I am outside of my cell or off my bunk? Do I need a mask?

Medical Advice: Wash your hands frequently, don't touch your face, try to avoid crowded spaces and stay at least 6 feet away from others at all times. If there are some people you can't distance yourself from, try to keep this group as small as possible.

Some research suggests that a mask you make out of two layers of cotton cloth (from, say, a sheet) can reduce the risk of **you and others** spreading COVID-19 to each other.

See Survival Guide page 11

Survival Guide from page 10

Prison/Jail Adaptation: *Against the rules, but it might be worth asking the COs on your tier/unit to make an exception:* Before leaving your cell or bunk, protect your eyes with shades or glasses. Cover up your nose and mouth with a clean—cotton if available—T-shirt, do-rag, scarf or knit hat with the top seams torn open. Women can repurpose headscarves and bras into masks.

If your prison industries program is making masks and other protective gear, consider signing up for it.

Can I get COVID-19 from an object someone has sneezed or coughed on?

Medical Advice: It is possible to get the virus by handling an item that someone with the virus has coughed or sneezed on and then touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: Don't touch your face. As often as you can, wear disposable gloves over your washed hands and remove them after you touch surfaces. If you lack disposables, wear your exercise or winter gloves over clean hands. After you remove your gloves, wash and dry them. Speed-dry gloves by placing them directly in front of a fan, if you have access.

Many of the items I purchase from the commissary or canteen are packaged in cardboard or plastic. How can I protect myself?

Medical Advice: The virus can stay "alive" on plastic or metal for up to 72 hours and on cardboard for up to 24. Try to disinfect or wash with soap any packages. Remember to wash your hands whenever you touch things from a common area.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: Wear disposable gloves while handling your items. If you don't have any, use your exercise or winter gloves. Throw away any cardboard boxes and plastic packaging before you enter your cell or bunk area. Store exposed food in small garbage bags.

Wash and air dry the net bags you use to carry the items you bought after you unpack them. And wash and dry your gloves and hands before relaxing on your bunk.

I live in a cell with bars for doors or an open dorm. How do I protect myself from people coughing and sneezing at night?

Medical Advice: Unfortunately, reducing risk in open-air dorm rooms is difficult. To protect oneself and others, anyone with symptoms should be immediately evaluated by medical

staff and housed alone until they have received results from COVID-19 testing.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: *Against the rules, but it might be worth asking the*

COs on your tier/unit to make an exception: Before going to bed at night, cover bars with a clean sheet, garbage bag or the plastic from a new mattress.

In double-bunked dorms, people at the bottom can hang the barrier from the top bunk to create a tent. Top bunkers should lie under a sheet as much as possible.

What's the safest way to use the community phone?

Medical Advice: Phone receivers, buttons and cords should be disinfected at least daily. Still wash your hands before and after you make a call.

If you choose to wrap the receiver with a clean sock or piece of cloth, don't touch your face with the side that covered the receiver. If you take your makeshift cover back to your cell, wash it with soap and water thoroughly. Don't use it again until it is completely dry; germs thrive on moisture.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: Wash your hands before and after you make your call. If you have access to disinfectant, clean the receiver, buttons and cord before and after you use the phone. If you cover the receiver with a clean sock or cloth, follow the medical advice.

We have community TVs here. If I don't watch television, I'll go crazy.

Am I putting myself at an outsized risk?

Medical Advice: It's important to do the best you can to reduce the amount of stress that you are feeling and to get enough sleep. Watching TV may help you do both.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: *If you feel compelled to convene around the TV, ask your CO if you can try to keep yourself safer by:* Covering eyes with shades/glasses, use T-shirts, or scarves to cover nose and mouth.

Should I purchase stolen mess hall gloves?

Medical Advice: Proper handwashing is more important than wearing gloves. If you do wear gloves inside your cell, make sure that you don't touch your face. The gloves will have the same germs on them that your hands would.

If you wear gloves outside of your cell, throw them out when you get back or wash them with soapy water and let them fully dry before using them again.

Prison/Jail Adaptation:

Ask the CO in your area if you can wear plastic or rubber gloves provided by the facility. If you cannot, wear your exercise or winter gloves before touching surfaces. After taking off the gloves, wash and dry them. Place them directly

in front of a fan, if you have access, to speed up the drying process.

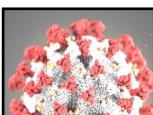
What should I do if someone who prepares food has symptoms of COVID-19?

Medical Advice: Currently there is no evidence of transmission of coronavirus through food. However, anyone with symptoms should be immediately evaluated.

Prison/Jail Adaptation: Respectfully ask the food handler to consult with the medical department. Remember that we are all in this together. There is no need to be rude to symptomatic people who may be afraid and vulnerable.

If you want more information about COVID-19, please consult with your facility's librarian. ♦





Fight Mass Incarceration—and CURE the Madness!

Disclaimer: The articles in this newsletter are for informational purposes only. Nothing in this newsletter is intended to “promote, incite or advocate disorder or the violation of state or federal law, nor to promote, incite, advocate, facilitate or otherwise present a risk of lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against a government authority”...or any of the other ridiculous excuses that the Department of Corrections frequently uses to reject Turning Point, the newsletter of Missouri CURE, simply because they don’t want prisoners to have access to the information we are trying to provide.

Asante!

Many thanks to the following people for their generous contributions: Danny Adams, Dennis Baker-Bey, Kenneth Beck, Deborah Campbell, Demosthenes Hill, Michael Jarvis, Fredrico Lowe Bey, Bert Mace, Larry Maserong, Kenneth Pickens, Joe Preis, Patty Prewitt, Roosevelt Price, Robert Ross, Myron Sanders, Gary Sonnenberg, Carlos Tureaud and Belvin Williams. Special thanks to Jeff Humfeld for his gift of \$300. As always, we are so grateful to our super donor, Carol Corey, for her continued support.

In Memoriam

On Tuesday April 21, 2020 a true warrior, Brother Zakub Danjel, also known as Brother Bob, was laid to rest at Lakewood Park Cemetery in Ballwin Missouri. He expired on the afternoon of Saturday, April 18th, 2020. Funeral services were provided free of charge by the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis.

Brother Danjel PBUH, or Brother Bob, as he was commonly known, graced this earth with his presence and in the service of Allah for 77 years. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, his daughter, a brother, a sister, and a multitude of Islamic sisters and brothers from the Nation of Islam and other Muslim communities.

Donations to help pay for the cost of the gravesite (which were not free of charge) were made by the following people: Bro. Fareed, Bro. Qasim, Bro. Lafayette, Big Chubb, Ms. K. Franklin, Masjid Omar, Ms. C. Roby, Bro. Amiyn, Bro. T. Holmes, Bro. Tacuma, Missouri CURE, & Bro. Brown El.

Thank You, Everyone.



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Make checks payable to Missouri CURE.

Donations to Missouri CURE are gratefully accepted and will be used to benefit prisoners and their families and loved ones.