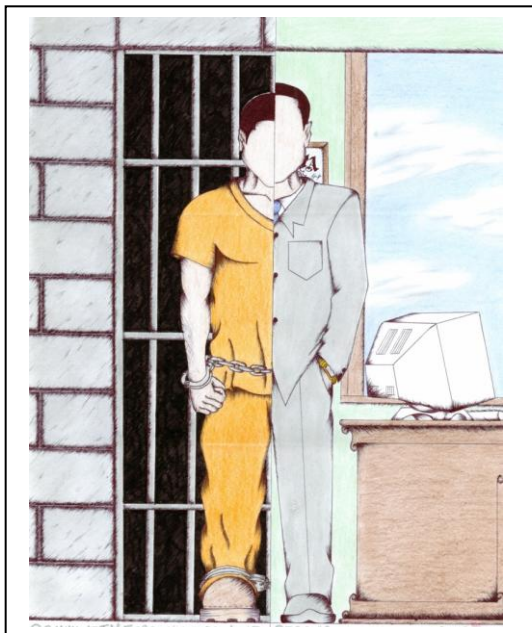


LET OUR PEOPLE GO: *At no other point in US history-even when slavery was legal, has there been so many people held against their will. Between 1970 and 2010 the number of people incarcerated in this country grew by 700%. As a result, the US incarcerates almost a quarter of the world's prisoners while we have only 5% of the world's population.*



WISCONSIN CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Release Rehabilitated Old Law Prisoners

Update: The Campaign goes forward on many fronts. Our petition drive is launched and we will introduce that here along with other actions you and your friends and families can do to help create a movement that has clout. Despite rumors to the contrary- it appears that the DOC is perfectly comfortable with the status quo and unless the average citizen becomes aware of what is going on in our prison system and its consequences in our streets and schools and pocketbooks, there will be only the same dribble of released Old law prisoners. There was a brief thawing and statement by Chairman Stensberg that he was going to release more inmates and that he would do a media interview but that thaw in the parole commission's hard line was brief and by early June the parole news was dismal.

The only people who know about old law prisoners is our small corner of activists ,a few legislators and a few media people and this must change. One good thing that is happening is Wisdom's drive to collect your stories and send them to Parole Chairman Stensberg. FFUP has also been asked to send stories to WISDOM and we do so in hopes that this will also help raise awareness.

Next, **clearing up a few confusions:** Lately FFUP has been getting many huge packages of documents from freedom hungry prisoners and I have been posting them as quickly as I can. However that is not quick and there seems to be a confusion here, in that

many people are calling ffup WISDOM and asking me to give their tasks to my "Staff." I have been doing this work for over 15 years and although we started as a group, ffup now is just me, prisoners and their families. There is no staff and the funds are mostly from me and your donations. I cannot acknowledge receipt for most of your documents because stamps and time are in short supply, nor can I pay the 5.60 plus usually charged to send a large volume of paper back to you. SO be wise-if you expect quick response, write a summary only and send me what I request in addition later. Large Unsolicited packages will be dealt with but the outreach campaign and human rights advocacy takes priority.

For all those who send their information: Your parole stories have gone or are going on our blogs, to WISDOM, and if you are participating in the petition drive explained below, they are linked to that. At this time we are only doing petitions for prisoners who have family or friends who will spread the word about the petition through email , facebook etc or paper .We have a few petitions up there for those without support but until we get a coalition going, they just sit there. Here is the blog for your parole stories: www.parolecases.blogspot.com. There are also many individual blogs for prisoners. The site takes count of viewers and both this blog and the main campaign blog are very popular. And here is the address for the main campaign and links to petitions are on this blog also :www.secondchancewi.org.

FFUP has also received many letters inquiring about the "new parole guidelines Stensberg put out"- Another confusion- there are no new guidelines. In April FFUP send a 27 page Petition for Parole Rules Changes using statute 227, a collaborative work between prisoners and I. By law, he had to address the issue and he replied basically saying he was going to do new rules but they would not be the ones we proposed. FFUP has compiled a list of people who have agreed to testify at the legislative hearing that is required if the Parole Chairman does present new rules and you will be kept posted. Among these are experts in parole law and families, friends of prisoners. No comments are allowed by the committee until and unless the rules are presented and your input is certainly welcome and needed. Through our petitions and outreach campaign we are now pushing mostly for a change in attitude and practice that allows the statutes to work the way they were intended.

Finally, this edition is going out to around 200 prisoners- when FFUP learns of the successful delivery of this edition, we will send another 200 to different people. This will contain updates to this so please spread both around.

FFUP's Parole Efforts and What You Can Do

1) MOST EFFECTIVE ACTION YOU CAN TAKE: LETTERS TO YOUR LEGISLATORS

First thing is to write your own legislators- yes you the prisoner. Legislator's aides are tasked to answer all their constituents. You need to write to the legislator from the district where you resided before incarceration. IF you do not know your legislator have someone who call 800 362-9472 (state switchboard) or go google "who represents me in WI?" **IF you cannot get the info, write the letter and send to me with you address (zipcode is enough) before incarceration and I will forward it.**

Please ask your friends and families to also contact their legislators also. Your representatives need to know that they will be supported if they act smart on crime.

Finding your legislators and suggestions: Parole Chairman Dean Stensberg needs to be pressured to make changes in the way parole is done. There need be no law changes- either policy changes or rule changes will do it. Please contact your legislators and ask them to contact Stensberg, the parole chairman and DOC secretary Ed Wall. Remember one of the most effective things you can do is get to know the aides of own legislators-educate the aides and you educate the legislators and the aides are paid to help their constituents. Get to know the aides and let them know your personal stories- on whatever the subject. These are powerful people and CAN and DO help.

WHO REPRESENTS ME?

Here is the website to find out your legislators' contact information:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/-you> give them your zipcode and they will give you your legislators and their emails and phones

phone number to get contact info on legislators is: 800 362-9472 (state switchboard)

address for senators: PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707

address for representatives by last name

a-l : PO Box 8952, Madison 53708;

m-z : PO box 8953; Madison 53708

Here is a template to get you started:

Senator and or Representative _____

Date _____

RE: Please Contact Dean Stensberg, Parole Chairman with concerns about lack of parole for
Our nearly 3000 Old Law Prisoners

Hello,

I am writing you to ask that you contact Dean Stensberg and ask that he see that parole works as it did before truth in sentencing was enacted. There need be no new laws. Parole rule changes, like the ones submitted to him in April, will do or a simple directive to his staff will fix the system . This is far too expensive in money and in wasted lives. Families are devastated and we are all made more dangerous by present policies.

All Old Law prisoners have been in prison at least 15 years, many for decades longer, and were eligible for release after serving 25% of their sentences. Nearly 3000 still sit in prison. Besides the devastation the present practice causes families and communities, there is the financial cost. The continued incarceration of these parole ready men and women is draining both the DOC and the Wisconsin budget. The dangerous overcrowding we hear so much of in the news is completely unnecessary since so many prisoners are overdue for release. Many of the inmates coming in under truth in sentencing (TIS) are released untreated and untrained because there are too few openings in treatment programs. HOW does that make us safer? Treatment for the mentally ill is virtually nonexistent and as crowding worsens, conditions for everyone become more dangerous. Professional staff is hard to keep and we hear a lot about the guards quitting in droves. What kind of job satisfaction can there be in an environment like this?

I am especially concerned about - Write about the prisoner you want to especially push here. Use the petition itself for ideas. Name and number and prison

Please help us. We believe that people who have changed and rehabilitated themselves should get a second chance. We want the DOC to remember its mission to rehabilitate and heal. The Revenge Forever is the present policy and it is hurting us all.

I thank you for your attention.

Your name

Street address (you must be in their district and they check),

Email

Petition Drive Overview:

Here is the process: 1) Family members and /or friends agree to use their facebook, email etc to spread the word about their loved one's petition. Usually I write the first draft of the petition and then there is a back and forth to get it okayed. We will send the petitions to all the DOC powers of course but the main target for the petitions is our legislators, asking them to contact Dean Stensberg and Ed Wall to pressure them to either with memo to change practice or with new rules- make the law do right. We also have two general petitions- one delineating the most important rules for the legislative committee on rules, the other just stating the general idea.

2) We post all petitions on one sight: moveone.org. Each petitioner spreads the word about their petition, gets signatures and signs the other petitions they agree with. They give the link to their signers so they can decide to sign other petitions

3) We have access to all emails of signers and addresses so we let them know each step of the campaign. The next is emailing legislators. Each petitioner emails their own legislator. This is one of the most powerful tools a citizen has and we have a template and addresses later in the newsletter.

4) Then step by step. We build awareness of the horrible state of our prison system through letters to the editor and all out reach we are courageous enough to do. . Because I get letters from everywhere in there- I am well aware of how much the interminable incarceration of (2) old law prisoners effects all. The first necessity to getting the message out of the little bubble it is in, is to build a sense of "We-ness" where all supports all- that is a big work. Without it we can never get strong.

Instructions on petitions:

IF you want to post a petition and have family or friends who will support it, Have your people contact me pgswan3@aol.com, 608-536-3993 and you send me a letter answering the questions I list below. I will help put together the petition and we will go back and forth until all are satisfied, then we will post it. As I stated above, your story will also go to WISDOM in the hopes that they too, help to spread it widely. Each family will also get a paper copy of the petition so they can be spread that way too. The families will be able to download the signatures at anytime and use for parole hearings, with sentence modification applications and we will send them all together with the general petitions and to legislators, parole commission etc. We will email the signers, introducing them to the wider campaign and problems and asking them to write their legislators etc, always hoping to ever widen the now tiny circle of awareness.

Your Information needed for petition: *Name Number age prison and address/ age when crime committed/age now/ years on prison/Convicted of/date eligible for parole/ how many parole hearings/reasons for denial/programs, courses taken&other evidence of rehabilitation / paragraph on yourself on anything/ Please send me your last parole hearing decision if you have not, I will scan and send right back. Also good is a photo of you- I will use the one on the web if you have none. Photo with family or friends is especially good. All this will go on web and to Stensberg, with your permission.*

Petition linked to blog post: *petitions are short and sketchy in details. Each petition will be linked to a blogpost on that specific prisoner- so documents and data will go on a blog post for those who want more information. Also here will be the parole commission comments; this is important that we give the full story- and most of these statements are absurd in that they show the entire emphasis is on the crime- almost no mention of rehabilitations.*

FINALLY: we need to get to the media .

Needed:1) Templates for letters to the editor in local papers and statewide

2) 8X11 posters for grocery stores, bulletin boards, libraries

3) Help gathering and making usable the loads of data FFUP has and that exists for presenting pro parole arguments to the media and legislators.

4) It has been suggested we petition Obama and get on CNN- all good ideas but only if we have a coalition of people out here and in there is this possible.

We must better reach the general public IF we will achieve real parole reform. You can help by writing a sample for letters to the editor that we can spread to families to send to their newspapers and online media, We need posters to put up on grocery store bulletin boards and library counters etc. We do not need great art- we need the message to be clear. CAN you help? We also need our pamphlets widely spread about-if you have people who will distribute them , Let us know if you are interested in any of the above. FFUP can supply lots of data if needed. All help in getting or message to mainstream media is welcome. We hope that the gradual widening of the circle of awareness through the petition drive will be one help.

Here are some dots that need connecting in articles for media and posters and letters to legislators:

1) RECENT UPTICK IN VIOLENCE IN MILWAUKEE is being blamed on returned inmates getting hold of guns. The expected "solution" is a new bill increasing penalties and revocations. More prison time.

2) Message we need to get out there: Truth in sentencing prisoners are being released without treatment> Yes they are allowed to refuse treatment but FFUP has received a lot of letters for TIS inmates who are begging for treatment and are released with nothing. I talked to my legislative guide, Aid to Senator Harris Dodd, and she said there are always at least 150 people on waiting list for drug treatment.

3) Why is there no treatment for TIS inmates requesting it? LACK OF FUNDING BECAUSE of expensive health care for the Old law elderly. Everything is connected-all out of one pot-60 to 100,000 a year per inmate for the sick elderly-taxpayers pay it all. This is the big cause for no treatment for mentally ill and lack of programming for everyone; also a big part of the WI budget deficit and lack of school funding and the DOC budget crisis.

For those of us in this work the solutions are no-brainers:

- a) Release OLD LAW Prisoners who are rehabilitated to relieve crowding
- b) Release Old LAW prisoners to free money for treatment of the mentally ill and drug treatment, for programming and all the other essentials.
- c) Mandate the DOC take up its rehabilitative mission seriously: Treatment and prevention in the prison and in the community

LEGAL NEWSLETTER COMING

Greetings FFUP Friends: Much has taken place in the past year with *FFUP*, its allies, and those that assist Ms. Swan. In an effort to effectively reach those actively pursuing litigation, as well as those contemplating doing so in the future, I have decided to assist *FFUP* with the production of a legal news letter which we hope will be of great assistance to all who receive it. Like most endeavors in their early stages the production, and distribution of the *FFUP* legal newsletter will be an up-hill battle, but it's a battle we are willing to take on.

Not all those that currently receive the *FFUP* newsletter will receive the Legal newsletter as initially it must be circulated to those that can immediately benefit from its resources. As many of you know there is no government, or outside funding of *FFUP*, but instead Ms. Swan uses her own resources and funds to produce and circulate the current newsletter many of us receive. It is with this in mind that we must take the initiative to make copies of the legal news letters we receive and share them with our fellow comrades who are also in need of the information provided therein. As the means and resources come available for the distribution of more copies the number of inmates receiving this resource will expand. But we ask that all *FFUP* friends, allies, and assistants understand that if you happen to receive the legal news letter, but have no immediate need for it please notify Ms. Swan so that someone whose in more dire need of it may receive it's blessing.

Within the legal news letter we intend to cover a variety of legal issues, only some of which include Sentence modifications, Wis. Stat. §974.06 motions, 42 U.S.C. §1983 Civil Rights suites, Juveniles sentenced to Life without Paroles, Fourth Amendment violations, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment Ineffective Assistance of Counsel Claims, and 28 U.S.C. §2254 Federal Habeas Corpus Petitions and Remedies. These are but a few of the areas we will deal with in the first few issues of the legal news letter. In order to provide the broadest resources and information possible I welcome suggestions from readers of the newsletter for future issues. Please remember that if you make suggestions of legal issues you would like to see addressed in a future issues it may take time, as research must be conducted, but eventually we will try and cover the widest variety of issues as we can.

Brothers and sisters, we must take the initiative to help ourselves whenever possible to do so. There is currently a push by many members of society(pg4)

for prison and justice reform, but as we've seen in the past sometimes that flame burn out as other community issues arise. Ms. Swan has been a tireless advocate for those of us confined to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and I am sure she will continue to be. However, the reality is Ms. Swan will not be around forever to assist in our cause of justice and equal treatment under the law. So, each one must teach one so as to equip one another to vindicate one's rights whenever and wherever they are violated.

For those of you that have written to me within the past six months, only to have your letters returned stamped "Refused" I would like to hear from you as I will need an affidavit attesting to your effort to reach out to me and the response you received. I have not rejected anyone's mail, but instead it would appear that there is a concentrated effort to prevent me from receiving select inmate's mail. I currently have a lawsuit pending addressing what I deem retaliatory conduct on the part of prison officials and your affidavits or declarations attesting and declaring that your mail was return will be used during my civil matter. In closing I want to encourage FFUP friends to remain strong and continue to focus on bringing about change through the court system. It is important to remember that the only thing which will beat resistance is persistence, let's stay persistent. In Solidarity, Damali

Black Lives Matter

Black lives Shattered, Black morals scattered. The value of our lives doesn't make sense so a change for a dollar isn't spent. It is a genocide of our people as well as self inflicted wounds so it is lethal injections of hatred, police brutality **Michael Brown**.

Eric Gardner cried "I can't breathe" as they wrestled him to the ground! Walking down the streets while minding his own **Trayvon Martin** was killed that night he did not make it home- this is the same ole song, **Jordan Davis** was maliciously shot for playing his music too loud. Nine innocent lives in **South Carolina** while praising God, was viciously gunned down. Why is it that we only make up about 14 percent of America's population while more than 50 percent of young Black males are losing their lives to incarcerations with no education.

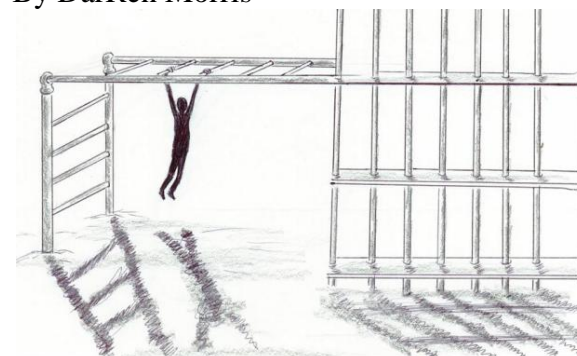
"What a devastation!" This nation is supposed to be the land of the free. Yet death and prison seem to be the only "just us" for you and me. **Martin Luther King** had a dream. Yet I doubt if he saw his vision becoming a night mare. It doesn't take a genius to see that justice has become deaf, blind and ignorant. "Something isn't right here!" **Tamir Rice** was shot and killed for playin with a fake gun just having fun. **Derrick Williams** pleaded for his life while in the back of a police car. His cries was taken as a joke his hope to live evaporated like smoke. **Ramero Kidd, Dontae Hamilton, Mike Bell, Bo Morris, Tony Robinson and countless others** who died for being Black. Lives that were taken we can never get them back. Will we ever win? It seems like we're constantly under attack. The way we are killing and hating each other you would think that we are not proud to be black. Although the confederate flag has come down there is still a confederation of the heart. Racism is a prison of darkness to see no color is an art; formed by God in the minds of his people. Yet we are still being killed and the equation is subtraction -minus black lives being equal. There is no multiplication-just division amongst our own people.

Demonstrations and rallies as many gather against this evil. Will lack lives be worth more than a 60 second commercial on TV? Or will we forever be judged by the pigment or our divine beings? Every time you turn on the news the depiction of black images are severely bruised and battered. When will it come a day that **BLACK LIVES REALLY MATTER?**

By Echo Devon, Tyrone D Munson

Monkey Bars to Prison Bars

By DarRen Morris



**Senator Nikiya Q. Harris Dodd/6th Senate District
2015-17 Biennium Budget**

CORRECTIONS

Wisconsin leads the nation in the incarceration of black males. Many of these individuals return to prison after being revoked from supervision. Unfortunately, the budget eliminated funding to re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals, including an elimination of \$50,000 to Project Return. In addition, under state law, the Department of Corrections (DOC) now has additional authority to determine the fee to charge offenders on supervision, eliminating previous law which set fees based upon an offender's ability to pay. This could detrimentally affect individuals on supervision who are already struggling to find and maintain employment.

Substantial changes were also made to staffing at the prisons, with a reduction in staff for third shift tower positions and increased overtime funding to correctional officers. After receiving projections from the Fiscal Bureau that the prison population would be increasing in 2015-17, DOC allocated an additional \$5 million to pay for housing, food, and healthcare for the projected incoming prison population.

Unfortunately, this state budget failed to invest in necessary reforms to combat mass incarceration. I stay committed to coming up with ways to reduce our prison population and invest in reintegration services for those who are being released into our community.

[Historian Says Don't 'Sanitize' How Our Government Created Ghettos](#)

“But African-American wealth is about 5 percent of white family wealth. And that difference between 60 percent of income and 5 percent of wealth is entirely attributable to federal housing policy”

The following is bits and pieces of very long article, transcript of interview of Richard Rothstein on his article ““The Making of Ferguson: Public Policies At The Root Of Its Troubles.” This story is for me the most gripping story of the last few months. We all know a lot of this but most are not aware of how conscious the policy of segregation was and that integrated neighborhoods were dismantled to enforce segregation and it was a Federal policy. Whites got home buying loans that now gives them 100’s of thousands of equity and Blacks got rental units in building complexes that accrued nothing. It goes on- very extensive and I have both the rest of this interview and the Fergusson article. In order to get out of this mess, it is important I think , to know its origins.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/05/14/406699264/historian-says-dont-sanitize-how-our-government-created-the-ghettos>

May 14, 2015 NPR This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross. The recent unrest in Baltimore is the legacy of a century of federal, state and local policies designed to quarantine Baltimore's black population and isolate its slums, according to my guest, Richard Rothstein. He says that the effects of these policies continue today. Rothstein has spent years studying the evolution of residential segregation nationwide. Last summer, after Michael Brown was shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo. and some of the protests turned violent, Rothstein wrote the report, "The Making Of Ferguson: Public Policies At The Root Of Its Troubles." He's also written extensively about how poverty affects education. Rothstein is a research associate of the Economic Policy Institute and senior fellow of the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the University of California Berkeley.

FROM THIS INTERVIEW

GROSS: I think the American public, including the people trapped in poverty in inner cities, don't understand how literally ghettos were legislated into existence. Do you consider it part of your mission now to explain that, to put some of the anger that's happening that we are seeing now in context?

ROTHSTEIN: Yes. We've forgotten all this history. It's not that we never knew it. But we've forgotten it. We have a myth today that the ghettos in metropolitan areas around the country are what the Supreme Court calls de facto, just the accident of the fact that people have not enough income or - to move into middle-class neighborhoods - or because real estate agents steered black and white families to different neighborhoods or because there was white flight. But the truth is that while those things existed, the major reason we have ghettos in every metropolitan area in this country is because federal, state and local governments purposefully created racial boundaries in these cities. It was not the unintended effect of benign policies. It was an explicit, racially purposeful policy that was pursued at all levels of government. And that's the reason we have these ghettos today, and we are reaping the fruits of those policies.....

ROTHSTEIN: There were many, many policies, as I said, at the federal, state and local levels. Probably the chief ones, the most important ones, were public housing, which began in the New Deal for civilian populations. And the federal government, under the Public Works Administration of the New Deal, had an explicit segregation policy. Its policy was that public housing could be used only to house people of the same race as the neighborhood in which it was located. **But in fact, most of the public housing that was built in the early years was built in integrated neighborhoods, which they razed and then built segregated public housing in those neighborhoods. So public housing created racial segregation where none existed before. That was one of the chief policies.** The second policy, which was probably even more effective in segregating metropolitan areas, was the **Federal Housing Administration, which financed mass production builders of subdivisions in the - starting in the '30s and then going on through the '40s and '50s, in which those mass production builders - places like Levittown, for example, and Nassau County in New York and in every metropolitan area in the country - the Federal Housing Administration gave builders like Levitt concessionary loans through banks, as they guaranteed loans at lower interest rates for banks that the developers could use to build these subdivisions, on condition that no homes in those subdivisions be sold to African-Americans. The Federal Housing Administration even provided model language attached to the deeds that builders could use to ensure that no purchaser could resell to an African-American.** So while there was an initial civilian housing shortage in the '30s, '40s and early '50s, which meant that public housing was built as a segregated policy both for whites and for blacks in separate projects and separate buildings, as that period developed, **the subdivisions in the suburbs were built for white families. They were lured away from the (pg6)**

public housing. Public housing became all black in the inner city. And these two policies, of public housing and Federal Housing Administration's subsidization of suburbs, are the two major factors that created the segregation that we know today.

GROSS: I suppose one should never be surprised by the extent of racism in America. But it's still shocking that that would be legal in the North, where there wasn't legal segregation.

ROTHSTEIN: But there was. This was not legal; it was unconstitutional. But this was the policy the federal government followed. As I said, it was once well known. You know, in 1970, George Romney, who was the secretary of housing and urban development under Nixon, the father of the recent presidential candidate, announced that the federal government had created a white noose around African-American neighborhoods - Negro neighborhoods, he called them - in central cities. And it was the federal government's obligation now to untie that noose. And Romney implemented a series of policies designed to integrate the suburbs, to reverse the policies that had been pursued in the previous 20 years. He proposed to withhold federal funds for all kinds of things, sewer projects or water projects or parklands, from any suburban community that didn't desegregate, by repealing ordinances that prohibited the construction of multifamily units or that didn't take their fair share of public housing throughout the metropolitan area or that didn't accept subsidized housing. And he actually - **Romney actually did withhold federal funds from three suburbs as his first round of this policy. He called it Open Communities. And there was such an uproar in the country about it that President Nixon reigned him in.** Romney was forced to cancel the Open Communities program. He was eventually forced out as secretary of housing and urban development. And we've had nothing since from the federal government that was anywhere near as aggressive in trying to reverse the policies that the federal government had pursued to create segregation.

GROSS: So for anyone thinking, sure, but that's all in the past - but we've made progress, so segregation in housing isn't as extreme as it was in the past or even in the recent past... What would you say to those people who think that?

ROTHSTEIN: Well, let me give you an **example of how these policies persist into the present** and their effects persist into the present. I mentioned Levittown before as one of these developments. And they were all over the country. They were in St. Louis. They were in Baltimore. They were in San Francisco. Well, at that time - the early 1950s, late 1940s - when Levittown and the Daly City development and others around the country were built, they sold for about, oh, seven, eight, \$9,000. In today's terms, that would be about \$125,000 or about two times or two-and-a-half times the national median income. Returning war veterans were able to afford homes like that. Black and white could have afforded them, but only whites were permitted to buy them. **Well, today, homes in places like Levittown or Daly City or the suburbs in places like St. Louis and Baltimore and other cities around the country that were built in this fashion sell for 400, \$500,000, about seven times national median income. Well, in the intervening period, in the 50 years following the construction of these homes and their purchase by working-class, lower-middle-class white families, those white families gained appreciation - equity appreciation - of about 350, \$400,000. They used that money to send their children to college, to send their grandchildren to college. If they sold their homes, they gained that bonus and bequeathed it to their children and grandchildren. African-Americans, who were denied the opportunity to purchase those homes at a time when they could have afforded it just as easily as white families could, they gained none of that appreciation. The result is that today, African-American average incomes, family incomes, are about 60 percent of white family incomes. But African-American wealth is about 5 percent of white family wealth. And that difference between 60 percent of income and 5 percent of wealth is entirely attributable to federal housing policy.** Now, in 1968, we passed the fair housing law, the Civil Rights Act, in which we said, OK, African-Americans, you now have the right to buy into places like Levittown or Daly City or any of the places in between; we can no longer prohibit you from doing so. **But that's an empty right because those homes are no longer affordable to working-class and lower-middle-class families. The white families who bought into them when they were working-class and lower-middle-class moved up the economic ladder as a result of their opportunity to live in places like that. And black families were prohibited from doing so. So simply giving people now the right to live anywhere they please is an empty right because the economics have changed so much in the last 50 years.**

This goes on to explain details of the isolation strategy which included being deprived of the GI Bill which put an enormous amount of returning servicemen through college> It s heartrending reading> FFUP has the Fergusson, original article and the NPR summation. Both are long.

Some new resources for released prisoners and soon to be released prisoners

A)I have been hunting for groups that would connect with prisoners before they leave prison. Some success:

1) PAN (Prison Aftercare Network) this is a very active group in Green Bay and is a coalition of groups. I asked particularly for people who would mentor prisoners while they are in prison. They also have a penpal writing group and a group that corresponds with sex offenders. They gave me one address for all. Let me know what comes of it:

PAN (Prison aftercare Network ;) 100 Primrose Lane ;Green Bay, WI 54311

plus this one, a penpal program: Brother Bobs Outreach, Inc; P O Box 12;Mukwonago, WI 53149-0012

2)Circles of Support- this is a Madison group. They are funded and can help with basic needs after release. There is an application process so start applying now if you will be going to Madison. Write them for more information. Here is their support group blurb but I did ask specifically for someone to mentor while you are in prison. "Developed in 2003 MUM's Circle of Support program utilizes groups of four to six community volunteers, recruited, screened and trained by MUM, to meet weekly with someone newly released from prison. The person newly released, or "Core Circle Member" finds a new community, a support network to welcome him or her home. The Circle of Support offers a respectful, positive and supportive environment for the Core Team Member as they adjust to the demands and challenges of everyday life on the outside. The Circles of Support Program is effective because it provides a space for the Core Team Member to be heard, to be encouraged and to be respected. John Givens: Circle of Support coordinator; john@emum.org, or (608)256-0906, c/o MUM, 2300 S Park St, Suite 2022; Madison, WI 53713"

3)Finally Project Return AND VOICES BEYOND BARS are both good for anyone leaving prison but they are also setting up a mentoring projects for inmates before leaving prison. This is new for them so we have to be patient.)

Project RETURN Office; 2821 N. 4th Street, Suite 202;Milwaukee, WI 53212;Tel: 414-374-8029.They have great support groups for all returning inmates . IF you are requesting correspondence with someone before leaving prison address your letter to Wendel Hruska,Executive Director and you can refer to me and our conversation Again, This is new for them so we have to (pg7)

be patient.\

Voices Beyond Bars; 2300 South Park Street; Madison, WI 53713 ; attention: Jerome Dillard or Talib Akbar /group of ex-prisoners giving speaking tours and now ready to reach inside the prisons.

GENERAL RESOURCES:

1) **Wisconsin Books to Prisoners** c/o Rainbow Bookstore 426 W. Gilman Street, Madison, WI 53703 free books to prisoners, give list of interests, takes awhile but they are diligent and dedicated.

2) **Cuban Embassy** United States in Washington, United States : 2630 16 St. , N.W.D.C. 20009

Phone +1-202-797-8518; 1-202-797-8519; fax +1-202-797-8521 Email secretaria@sicuw.org

traduccion@sicuw.org; Website URLrepcion@sicuw.org; <http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu/sicw>

3) **For those not getting treatment: One solution-** have family or you write YOUR legislator- using address where you were before prison- they will help and also you will make them more aware. My advisor here was Aide to Senator Harris Dodd. She said the fact that they did not shorten sentences for TIS prisoners (they were supposed redo the codes) when they switched from Old law to TIS and those two together have made this mess. We are aware and concerned about the overcrowding and all the rest- it is a long struggle.\

. Question: why is FFUP getting so many letters from TIS inmates soon to be released begging for treatment and to be sent out still drug addicted? Although TIS inmates are not required to take the treatment prescribed by the court, even IF THEY WANT THE TREATMENT there is always at least 150 on the waiting list so they many are released without any treatment. This is also why OL have to wait infinitely as the prison tries get TIS in first.

4) **good to know: USDOJ:** Send here: USDOJ c/o Kyle Smiddie; 601 D ST NW, 5th fl; Washington DC 20004. This is the Wisconsin section. I recently got an email from them that they cannot tell me whether they are doing an investigation but he assured me they are still collecting and reading documents. I am way behind in supplying them so please send reports.

5) **WI segs:** -been a long time and they thank you for your patience. A comprehensive suit will be filed soon and I will reveal the details I have as soon as I can.

6) **Disability Rights;** 131 Wilson St, Suite 700; Madison, WI 53404; 608-2677-0214. Very small group of lawyers working very few hours but they are good. For those with disabilities

From article on Pell Grants- interview with Education Secretary Arne Duncan august 6, 2015 (lengthly article REALLY cut)

Atlantic, august 6, 2015 (<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/arne-duncan-pell-grants-prisoners/400565/>)

If there's an argument against giving Pell grants to prisoners that particularly galls Education Secretary Arne Duncan, it's the suggestion by some Republicans that the Obama administration is taking money intended for hard-working students and giving it to criminals.

"Having an inmate receive Pell grants doesn't take a nickel from anybody else. This never pits one group over another, and it's not robbing Peter to pay Paul. It's just trying to have a few more people have access to what could be a life-chance-forming opportunity."

Last week, alongside Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Duncan announced the launch of a pilot program that would make a limited number of inmates eligible for federal college aid while they're still in jail. Congress banned Pell grants for prisoners in 1994, but the administration is relying on a provision of the Higher Education Act to resume the practice on a trial basis. The idea—backed by a 2013 Rand Corporation study that found prisoner education is a cost-effective way to reduce recidivism—is one that has bipartisan support.

The Tricky Politics of Educating Prisoners

Yet the Obama administration is clearly taking a risk by launching the pilot program now, without waiting for full congressional approval that could come through the passage of criminal-justice reform, which has gained momentum on Capitol Hill in recent months. Already, some Republicans are accusing the administration of going around the law—an argument that Duncan similarly dismissed. "I think waiting on Congress is almost never a good bet "Quite candidly, Congress often doesn't do much until we do something, and then they react to that," Duncan said. "So it kind of spurs them to take action. But anyone who says this stops them from doing something or stifles debate—it's just patently false."

The administration is now waiting for proposals from universities who want to participate in the Pell grant initiative. Duncan said that while there are no plans to restrict eligibility based on the type of crime an inmate committed, it would be focused on prisoners scheduled for release "in the next couple of years." About 700,000 inmates are released from prison in the U.S. each year, which Duncan likened to a "tidal wave. They're either going to be released and go back to the streets and go back to a life of crime ... or they're going to be released with some real skills and possibly even a college degree. And as a parent, as a taxpayer, I know which one I would prefer."

In the interview, Duncan also addressed a more fundamental goal of education: keeping kids out of prison in the first place. The administration last year stepped up its efforts to close what is often described as the "school-to-prison pipeline," and Duncan said the government had spent about \$5 billion on grants to turn around failing schools. He tied that effort to the push in many states and districts to reduce out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, which disproportionately affect people of color. "We've seen many states and districts start to change their policies, moving away from zero-tolerance, moving toward restorative justice and peer juries, and working with kids rather than putting them out into the street," he said. "That's a big, big step in the right direction."

Here's a transcript of my interview with Duncan, edited for clarity and length. (really cut-goes on for pages)

Russell Berman: Just getting Congress to reauthorize Pell grants for non-criminals has been a struggle under Republican control. What do you say to families of students who have worked hard, still are saddled with student-loan debt and may wonder why inmates should get government assistance for education?

Arne Duncan: To be clear, this is never haves-versus-have-nots or whatever. Having an inmate receive Pell grants doesn't take a nickel from anybody else, and this is really about trying to help individuals get back on their feet. And ultimately why Republicans should— (pg 8)

and some will—love this is it's a huge way to reduce recidivism and save money over time. This never pits one group over another, and it's not robbing Peter to pay Paul. It's just trying to have a few more people have access to what could be a life-chance-forming opportunity. Look, when this program was in place 20 years ago, it was something like 0.1 percent of all Pell money, so the budget conversation here is not a real debate or a real issue.

Berman: So it's not coming from some pool of money that is limited? **Duncan:** Exactly. The opposite of that.

Berman: How many prisoners are likely to receive Pell grants as part of this program?

Duncan: We really don't have any idea yet. To be clear, what we're going to be doing is putting out a [request for proposal] for universities who want to partner with prisons. We don't know how many are going to step up. We're only going to pick ones where we think there's a good chance of success, where there's a high quality. We do hope that many universities across the nation will step up and apply. And we think, again, this has a chance to have a very significant impact. And [for] Congress, which we hope chooses at some point to take this to scale, hopefully that evidence base that we build will help to inform that conversation. So we're hopeful, and we'll have a strong evaluative piece to this, and we'll sort of learn over time what works and what doesn't. **Berman:** Would violent offenders be eligible? **Duncan:** The short answer is that we're first going to look to work with folks who are going to be released back into society relatively soon, in the next couple of years. So I think we distinguish less on the type of crime and more on the, 'Are you coming back into society?' And I kept quoting, you know it's sort of a stunning fact: We have 5 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the world's prison population. It's staggering, and because we have this mass incarceration system which is not working on any level—I think everyone acknowledges that—we release 700,000 prisoners from jail back into our society every year, like a tidal wave of inmates being released. And they're either going to be released and go back to the streets and go back to a life of crime, and go back to being a menace to society, or they're going to be released with some real skills and possibly even a college degree, or credit towards a college diploma. And as a parent, as a taxpayer, I know which one I would prefer. People don't want to admit it but it's happening every single year, and so it's really up to us as a society. Do we really want to arm them with skills and a chance to be productive citizens who are going to be taxpayers, or do we just want to perpetuate a system where the costs are mind-blowing and the costs to society beyond the financial are—just the fear factor on this thing is just very real. **Berman:** So what happens if a prisoner gets his or her release before getting a degree or certificate? Will they be able to continue their education with the Pell grant after they get out? **Duncan:** Absolutely. They can either stay with the same university, or transfer those credits or whatever, just like any other student. They may be pursuing an associate's degree. They may be pursuing a bachelor's degree. We want to see two-year options, we want to see four-year options. We want to see liberal arts programs. We want to see more skill- and technical-based programs. And we'll get a sense of what happens.

"LIFE IS SERVED, WREN HUMANITY IS RESTORED." By: Juan Quentin C. Ward

We grieve and suffer as a community because another violent death has taken place in our inner-city, and the media is filled with sensationalized Story's of pain and sorrow, we grieve in protest as a community, our minds are filled with countless questions and the first question we have is why? "Why, God?"

Why has another Unarmed Black died by those whom are sworn to protect? Why did that mango on the military base assassinate innocent lives because he claim not to be feeling fine? Why did 'a young boy walk into a House of Worship and murder nine Black lives while wearing patches and symbolism of hate in the land of the great? Another question we ask when we grieve the loss of life of another is what do we do with this pain? Our stress, our strain, As things within our community, our society remain the same? Why has young Americans been persuaded to side with fanatics -claiming a religious Jihad when the very people they are killing for has no heart.

Have We' allowed Our frustration and rage to get the best of us as we lash out like the mentally insane, seeking retaliation and trying to inflict more and more pain, even though it changes nothing 'and the routine remain the same. Another fallen victim' as the muzzle flash as the trigger is pressed stamping away' we think of what could have been- maybe one of our finest doctors, lawyers, teachers or maybe even an engineer. If only someone stopped and truly investigated in that brain and removed the stain of hatred, hopelessness, violence and the lack of self-esteem. Showing that girl, boy, woman, man that there really is a chance.

There are those who say that the politicians ought to do something. There has been politician's and police who have said the parents ought to do something, there have been citizens that live in fear cry that it begins at home, But I ask, have you ever heard the story about the Body family? There were three people in the body family, and their names are somebody, everybody, and nobody. They were a good a family, but whenever the time came for something to be done, they always fought. And this Body family was always fighting because whenever an important need came to surface. Everybody was sure that somebody would do it, but in the and Nobody did it, and things remain the same the same. No longer can they say, Somebody will do it! If anything is going to be done to save humanity either Everybody or Nobody **will do** what's necessary and our **kids will** continue to die in the streets, or find themselves dying a slow death inside a prison cell.

There is too much negativity in our community. There is too much violence in our community. There is too much hatred, and harm in our world, too many rich men creating hopelessness in our lives as the politicians latch on like leeches siphoning off our life blood through lies and false indoctrinations and propaganda meant to sow division as we claim Red and Blue States aligning ourselves with forces of evil. But if we really want to See positive change take place in our(pg9)

communities, our World; if we really want to see lives saved, business thrive, violence ended, prisons emptied, schools filled we must stop leaving it up to politicians who don't do our will and time for the people to do something about it!

And the first thing we as a people need to do is we all need to "Wake UP."

It seems to me that too many people in our communities have been asleep like a fairy tale far too long as if we have stepped off the cliff and fallen into a coma, While we are sleeping 2,2 Millions people has been incarcerated, States has created laws returning us back to the past, where women had no voice as to what occurred with their bodies as suffrage was a word not spoken openly ... Voter ID laws claiming its to combat voter fraud when in truth its a power move to further disenfranchise Black and Brown citizens, as Gerrymandering and districts are re-zoned making it difficult to remove Republican incumbents.

While we are sleeping political leaders are placing more and more guns in our communities, Right to carry and conceal Stand your Ground, our music has taken a catastrophic turn as sex is liberated to hypnotize the young, as drugs like ecstasy help lead them like lambs to the slaughter.

We've fallen asleep and now instead of music, songs, and videos and Reality Tv shows that celebrate Sex, Violence, and Drugs! It's time to wake up ... we must be alert and realize that we all have a part to play. "Wake up Church!" Let us work the Work of Rim who sent us for night cometh when no man can work.

Wake up Fathers! Let's wake up and start being leaders in our homes, communities providing for families biological and adopted."Wake up Mothers!" Lets begin to teach our children to make the right choices so that they will be able to overcome the wrong paths."Wake up children!" Lets wake up and stop doing the things we see on Tv and hear people sing in songs or rap about it raps just because we think its the popular thing, misunderstanding is just a lyrical dream. Beyonce says to the left to the left there's another of you at the back of the shelf. Unfortunately this isn't always true as our kids are dying and perishing from crime. As the mother can't walk to the left to the left and grab another child off the shelf.

Life is served, When Humanity is Restored and we advocate for policies and programs that end hunger and provide better employment opportunities, better wages, provide **skills** and technical training, affordable housing, Restore the Black Male back to his place as the head of the home, to support and raise our children in healthy ways so they don't end up being raised by the prisons and streets. NetFlix says "Black" is the New orange. so I ask:Is Blue the New White?" South Carolinian's claim Confederacy Flag is their Birth right and Heritage. Yet, it was the Klan which made this symbol a brand as it crept in the night with sheet covered head terrorizing Black Homes, murdering and torturing black lives hoisting the confederate flag as they shouted the supremacy Battle cry. Sadly the missing element in this generations development is a desire to love one another, removing the color consciousness or nihilistic indulgences of believing one is better than the other, understanding that the lack of love has created this divide which continues to take lives.

Love is a spiritual discipline. Love is the power that God has given. One might call it Old school love...the kind of love that recognizes it takes a village to raise a child. The kind of love that says "good morning" with a smile. The kind of love that teaches kids to say "No ma'am and yes sir!"The kind of love that says pull your pants up--..and stop showing your butt!" The kind of love that says" don't curse in front of elders. The kind of love that builds within a respect for our mothers, and the lives and property of Others!

If we want to stop the **violence**; If we want racism to end; If we want Justice to be served; If we want a better and brighter future; then we better learn. Life is Served, When Humanity is Restored and we lift each other up in Love!

IN honor of Mustafa for his heroic effort in court

On August24th, Mustafa El Ajala appeared before a jury trying to prove that the whole sale transport of the Black petition organizers to administrative confinement (AC) in Boscobel during the GBCI lockdown in 2007 was racist and not founded on any imminent danger. I saw first day only but thought he proved his case brilliantly, eliciting responses and facts always with questions- a skilled art, The next day was the DOC turn and Mustafa lost the case. We were not surprised as the subject was difficult and involved looking though conduct reports and redacted confidential informant statements (all names removed) and no one on the jury had ANY experience with the prison system. I am happy to say there was one mixed race woman on the jury and an Asian in the pool. One thing that would improve the court system is to widen the jury pool so it does not only include mostly professional middle class and 99% whites.We also need to redefine "objective". I have seen many jury selection processes and it seems only people with the standard middle class notions are allowed on. Real diversity seems not to be tolerated and certainly no one with experience with the poor or who questions the justice of our "just us" system.

Bravo to Mustafa El Agala and thank you from all of us!!

Final note: I apologize for my lack of response to so many letters. I do read all and respond to emergencies I can help with and do my best with the others. The campaign web work and outreach have taken enormous time and energy and will for some time. It is my hope that families, prisoners, ffup, Wisdom and other activists can begin to reach beyond their comfort levels and let the rest of WISCONSIN know of the outrage that is happening here- not only with old law but with all of it. We are frightened to go to our neighbors so the messages go only to those that already agree. So please ask your families to write their legislators with their concerns about prisons, to take the huge step of sharing their prison experience with their neighbors and internet friends. The petition drive is meant to make the first steps in doing this easy. It is hard, so hard to talk about prisoners in a positive way to those that do not understand; for scapegoating of prisoners and the poor is the national pastime. But we must bust the myths in order to succeed and that takes personal commitment and action.

On donations: a few prisons have refused to allow donations to FFUP. On writing letter of complaint to the warden of one of the prisons, I received an apology and assurance that FFUP donations are allowed- a mix-up. Send much needed donations to FFUP, address below.

Best to all. Peg Swan, FFUP founder, 29631 Wild Rose Drive, Blue River WI 53518, pgswan@aol.com

