

Forum for Understanding Prisons (FFUP)
A 510c3 non profit

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December 15, 2016

Re: kamau Damali,(Raynell Morgan) 279380, CCI

Hello,

I am writing you at the request of Kamau Damali,(Raynell Morgan) a prisoner in CCI . I have been working with prisoners and their families for over 16 years and have known Kamau most of that time . He spent over 14 years in solitary mostly in the then Boscobel Supermax and finally displayed symptoms so severe they did transfer him out . He is now in general population . I have several purposes here. First, to let you know that through letters and visits, I was aware of a decline in Mental stability and repeatedly wrote and called the authorities trying to get him out of solitary and to get treatment for him. The symptoms that were most dramatic are: crawling sensations all over his body and what he calls "snap crackle popping noises" in his head. Less obvious is the fact that he washes incessantly and cannot touch or be touched, now wears gloves most of the time etc.. Kamau is convinced that the more obvious symptoms(, the head noises and crawling sensations) are caused by implants inserted by the CIA. I am convinced from my reading, that these are classic symptoms caused by extreme sensory deprivation. Kamau does acknowledge that he has Obsessive compulsive disorder(OCD) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)and is okay with our disagreement on the other symptoms.

My second point is that these symptoms did not go away when leaving isolation. Kamau says " I'm still suffering,only more so... in fact its much worse out of seg than it was in seg, in particular my OCD germ and contamination fears". I work closely with other activists and there is a general consensus from experience with trying to help newly released prisoners, that many of those leaving prisons are suffering from PTSD caused by long term solitary and this makes their transition to society much more difficult . Your solitary confinement policies from punitive seg to AC are making our communities much less safe. I believe it is time for an honest reevaluation of all isolation policies. This should be done in the light of the many fine programs used in some other states like Colorado where solitary confinement is used only in extreme cases and then with the focus on healing and releasing to general pop as soon as possible. We have a web site of expert reports for the CA litigation and many other studies, Statements by the supreme court and UN here: <http://prisonforum2016.blogspot.com/> Solitary confinement more than 15 days is considered torture by the special UN Rapporteur. Everyone should try at least one day like former Secretary Rick Raemisch did.

Finally, an accurate account of Kamau's condition is important now because after he filed the complaint CCI Dr Gambaro asserted numerous times that Kamau is malingering and Kamau believes the Doctor is trying to turn the staff against him, he thinks in retaliatory mode. He is a long sufferer, for example, for awhile he was unable to eat because of fear of germs and now wears gloves all the time except when eating and gets special sandwiches wrapped in plastic. I am grateful that the prison has gone this far to see that he eats.

I have talked to and written many of the health care staff in Madison and was favorably impressed with the level of awareness. Generally I ask you to listen to Kamau . He is very honest and is suffering daily . Please look into his case and see that he continues to receive proper treatment and that there is no down grading of his illness. He is especially afraid of being sent back to Boscoble. He needs help and the prison policies need to be changed from constant punishment to healing. To move defensively and with retaliation when prisoners file suit, which is their only recourse to justice or relief, just further entrenches the DOC in destructive activities. It is time to take a strong leadership position and reclaim the DOC mission: to rehabilitate and keep communities safe. Neither is happening now.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely
Peg Swan
29631 Wild Rose Drive
Blue River, WI 53518

Psychological Services
CCI. PO Box 900
Portage, WI 53901

December 5, 2016

Re: Kamau Damali #279380; Raynell Morgan

Hello,

I am writing this letter after reading the "psychological services clinical contact" reports of 10 -03-16 and 11 -25 -16 . There seems here to be a concerted effort to prove that Kamau is faking his symptoms("malingering"). I have known this man for many years and used to visit him when he was in Boscobel. I assure you, he makes nothing up. I helplessly watched while his symptoms got progressively worse-my letters to authorities went unheeded as did his many complaints and requests for treatment. This is no game or attempt to better his situation.

There are extensive studies and reports on the effects of long term solitary and I have put many of them on the web. Here is the address: <http://prisonforum2016.blogspot.com/>. One post has reports and statements from organizations like the UN and the other post is studies on the effects of solitary by experts in the field of psychology. The UN states that anything over 15 days in solitary is torture. As you probably know, Rick Raemisch, Former WI DOC head ,stayed in an isolation cell in CO for almost a day- (I believe he cut it short as the day was too long.) He has since transformed the CO prison system and seems to be taking his message to other prisons- long term solitary is torture and it puts us all in more danger. Over and over I get reports from inmates , especially TIS inmates, who have endured long term isolation and received no effective treatment and are much worse off than when they came to prisoners and will soon be released.

I first I started visiting the then Supermax soon after it first opened and everyone I visited was in Administrative confinement(AC). Over the years I watched a number of people with fine minds degenerate into paranoia, hate and fear. The people who withstood the effects the best were litigators and that holds true today, for keeping the mind actively problem solving is vital if one is to endure endless hours of solitude.

So all the above is my way of telling you that the idea that Kamau is making up his symptoms is absurd. I watched the progress of his disease which was entirely brought on by the torture of years of deprivation. The whole world is looking at the abuse and abominable human rights violations we are doing with our isolation policies. I recommend strongly that you read some of these reports linked above and quit this witch hunt. This man needs treatment not more abuse.

Thank you for your attention.

Peg Swan
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c.c. Kamau Damali