

Forum for Understanding Prisons ( FFUP)  
501c3 non profit

WCI Warden Foster  
DOC Secretary Litscher

Extortion by gang members of Native Americans at WCI  
Victims: Cody Long 558710 and Mathew Garcia 302643

September 19, 2017

Hello,

I have a serious matter to discuss here and it has taken me awhile to see the full picture. For many letters Cody Long has been complaining about harassment, beatings etc by “enemies” and many cell searches by “enemies and guards”: with items taken. Envelopes I sent him have not been delivered or have disappeared. At one point Cody said the guards told him they were contraband.

Warden Foster has exchanged letters with me on this as well as with Cody. The information I did not have came from Mathew Garcia who told me that Native Americans are being targeted by some gangs because they think they have lots of money. They are beaten, stuff taken, threats on life made and told they have to write their families for money. Cody has since confirmed that his situation is one of extortion because he is half Native American. His story of Guards ransacking his cell regularly is bizzare- Are they under directions from the gangs?

Mathew Garcia’s last letter was from seg and he was to get out on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He was terrified and afraid he would have to fight and then get a CR and be put into seg.

Cody is on hunger strike after letting all authorities know that he could and receiving no help. I am alerting further. He is staying in his room 24/7 because he fears for his life. He says his family will not visit him because they fear Cody will be beaten on transit to and from visiting room.

Neither of these men are equipped mentally to handle long term solitary and it is wrong that this is the only solution you offer.

I have never encountered this particular scene before although I have dealt with gangs and victims of and have found that there is no real help- the only solution offered is to put the victim into solitary. The guards generally do nothing to protect, spns are denied.

I ask that you 1) Give both these men “red tags “so they can be fed in their cells and 2) move these man out of WCI as soon as possible- to any other prison and it should be to general population. The gangs may regroup and again harass but these two men have a chance for a new start – neither want physical fighting but are being forced into it and I imagine what happens is many “gang up” to beat the man and to “SEND MESSAGE” to others. Cody says he used to belong to a gang of Native Americans and others mixed by has left that and that is why the targeting- he is vulnerable.

A broad solution is needed for the wholesale refusal of guards/prison to protect just escalates the danger and encourages the gangs. But for now, please help these men find safety and remain nonviolent. 1) let them eat in their cells; and 2) move them to another prison ASAP.

Sincerely, Peg Swan  
29631 Wild Rose Drive; Blue River, WI53518;pgswan3@aol.com

CC. Senator Chris Larson  
Senator Risser