

MARCH 31, 2020

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LBCI

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DEAR MR. SWAN:

The CORONAVIRUS puts everyone in danger. yet the way this disease comes down echoes the howling inequalities and intense forms of oppression that run through the heart of U.S. society.

IN MARCH 20, two months into the crisis, an aid bill was finally passed. who gets what aid and when they will get it is still unclear, and we will cover this next week as that becomes clear.

But even if every single person in the U.S. get an equal share - which will not happen - death, disability and hardship will still hit some sections of people for harder. Nearly half the people in this country live paycheck to paycheck. over 40 million people routinely go hungry, including at least 6 million children. Because of the historic and present-day bitter oppression on which America is based, 1 out of 5 Black, Latino or Native American people live in poverty. 27.5 million Americans

lack health insurance, and another 45 million are underinsured. Poor people are 10x likelier to have a chronic health condition like diabetes, or heart disease. Such chronic conditions make the coronavirus up to 10 times as deadly if you get the disease.

The virus has already hit the prisons, and the homeless encampments. It's hitting the immigrants and their children locked up in detention centers, where conditions are horrible and there are few doctors and nurses. Once the virus is into the prisons, detention centers and juvie homes, what will happen in these overcrowded, understaffed hellholes? Hellholes that hold over 2 million people?

It is important to take this pandemic very seriously. That means we have to take care of ourselves - washing hands, keeping our distances and not being in large groups, isolating ourselves if we get sick, and other things.

But we also have to ask: why, when disaster strikes, must the savage inequalities and forms of oppression built into this society disproportionately determine so much of who lives and dies, who gets treated and who doesn't, who ends up in a seriously worse situation and who is able to "make it through" in decent shape?

MS. SWAN, I WROTE A LETTER TO GOVERNOR
"TOMY S. EVERS" ON MARCH 20, 2020, EXPLAINING TO
HIM THAT THE DOC OFFICERS HAS BEEN ROUNDING
PRISONERS UP FOR MONTHS - PLACING THEM IN SOLITARY
CONFINEMENT AS THEY SUFFER FROM COVID-19, BEATING
AND TASSING INMATES WHO ASK WHAT IS GOING ON; RAIDING
INMATES CELLS WITH SWAT TEAMS, ETC.

THEY ARE RUNNING THE PRISON SYSTEM LIKE WE ARE
HITLER'S GESTAPO. IN WHICH INMATES ARE BEING
TERRORIZED BY FEAR OF RHC...

THE CONDITIONS HERE AT GBCI ARE INHUMANE AND
DISEASES ARE LEFT TO BREED. GBCI IS CROWDED AND
UNSANITARY CONDITIONS, POOR VENTILATION, LACK OF
ADEQUATE ACCESS TO HYGIENIC MATERIALS SUCH AS SOAP
OR HAND SANITIZERS, POOR NUTRITION, AND FAILURE TO
ADHERE TO RECOGNIZED STANDARDS FOR PREVENTION,
SCREENING, AND CONTAINMENT.

* MS. SWAN, I WROTE YOU REQUESTING FOR STAMP
ENVELOPES. IF YOU DID ORDER THEM I NEVER
RECEIVED THEM.

PLEASE STAY STRONG AND SAFE DURING THESE HARD
TIMES.

TOMMIE CARTER