

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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November 2018

!!COMMUTE ALL 5,000!: DROP LWOP!!

DROP LWOP is part of a growing movement across the country challenging Life Without Parole and other forms of extreme sentencing. One of the demands of the national prison strike (see the front page of the September 2018 CPR Newsletter) stated: "No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole."

In Pennsylvania, *The Coalition to End Death by Incarceration* (CADBI - c/o Decarcerate PA, PO Box 40764, Philadelphia PA 19107; 267-606-0324) organizing for is working to pass Senate Bill 942, which would make everyone parole eligible after 15 years. In New York, activists have put pressure on Gov. Cuomo to grant more commutations.

DROP LWOP works to improve people's lives right now, within the constraints of existing state laws, and simultaneously works to fundamentally change the system.

DROP LWOP's campaign is gaining momentum throughout the state. Gov. Brown continues to issue commutations for people with LWOP in greater numbers. The latest were the 18 commutations announced on August 17, 2018.

DROP LWOP's goals include:

- > To commute the sentences of all 5,000+ people currently doing LWOP sentences in California prisons,
- > To DROP Life Without Parole sentencing from the Penal Code of California.
- > To REINSTATE the California Code of Regulations Title 15 policy that required parole review for people sentenced to LWOP by their 30th year of incarceration.
- > To END all forms of in-prison discrimination against people doing LWOP, such as: being barred from rehabilitation programs, including the majority of state-run self-help programs; being eligible for jobs that pay only the lowest hourly wage, currently eight cents per hour, even though they are required to pay restitution; and lastly, being ineligible for Elder Parole & Compassionate Release.

The *Day of Action to Drop LWOP!* in Sacramento was sponsored by the *California Coalition for Women Prisoners* (CCWP) and the *Coalition for a Responsible Budget*

(CURB), participating organizations included: *Families United to End LWOP* (FUEL), *Legal Services for Prisoners with Children* (LSPC), *All of Us Or None* (AOUON), *Critical Resistance*, & the *Ella Baker Center*. The day long event included over 100 people on the Capitol steps!

To keep the pressure on and to help expand this campaign, contact the: *California Coalition of Women Prisoners* (CCWP), 440 Market Street, Oakland CA, 9460s; 415-255-7036 ext. 4.

ACTUAL GOOD NEWS!

PA DOC, Harrisburg PA. November 1, 2018

"We have listened to inmates and their families and friends and to publication organizations and we have developed what we believe is a fair procedure that balances our need for security with the inmates' access to books. This policy update allows inmates to have direct contact with book donation organizations through a security processing center and ensures that publications will not be used as a path by which drugs are introduced into our facilities." New provisions are:

- > Book donation organizations will continue to send donated books to individual inmates as they have done in the past.
- > Family and friends may purchase publications through an "original source," which includes publishers, bookstores and online distributors.
- > Inmates may order publications through catalogs.
- > Inmates with tablets may choose to purchase eBooks. The number of eBooks will continue to expand based on input by inmates and the DOC will continue to look for free eBook offerings.
- > Prison libraries will continue to offer thousands of titles and expand their offerings based on inmate requests.

The new inmate book policy requires publications (books & magazines) to be sent to the PA-DOC's new Security Processing Center (SPC) at:

Security Processing Center,
Name, Number
268 Bricker Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823

2nd CALL: SOLICITING CARD DESIGN

Imprisoned readers: Please send us a black and white drawing for the CPR's 2019 New Year's card and calendar. All designs must be respectful of our diversity: We cannot use any with racist, sexist, or religious symbolism. The deadline is still December 15. Submission of a drawing serves as permission for its use and will be credited to the artist. Prize: If at all possible, book(s) by postal mail.

To receive the CPR Newsletter by postal mail monthly, send us up to 12 self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address).

Keep sending us address changes and renewal requests in order for us to maintain our only permanent mailing list-- the one for our January holiday card/new calendar, as accurately as possible.

Also, note that the correct address to be sure to reach us at is: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. Some resource address listings are incorrect in this regard.

And still: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS; for our protection, please do not mark envelopes addressed to us as "Legal Mail."

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for posting our Newsletter on-line or free downloading and distribution. It is at: www.realcostofprisonsproject.org--this is a GREAT site! Thank you for all your support!

¡Conmuten todos los 5000! ¡Eliminen LWOP!

Eliminen LWOP forma parte de un movimiento que esta creciendo en todo el país,retando Cadena Perpetua sin Posibilidades de Libertad Condicional y otras maneras de sentencias extremas. Una de las demandas de la huelga de prisiones a nivel nacional dice, "Ningún ser human debe ser sentenciado a Muerte por Encarcelamiento o servir niguna sentencia sin posibilidad de libertad condicional."

En Pennsylvania, La Coalición para Finalizar Muerte por Encarcelamiento se ha estado organizando por various años y ahora trabaja para pasar el proyecto de ley 942, el cual haría a cualquiera elegible a libertad condicional después de haber servido 15 años. En Nuevo York, los activistas han tomado cuenta de la cantidad de conmutaciones que el gob. Brown de California a firmado para presionar al gob. Cuomo a permitir conmutaciones. Aprendiendo de estrategias en otros lugares de los Estados Unidosq32, así como uniendo fuerzas con estos grupos es esencial para finalizar con esta bararie de sentencia como es la Cadena Perpetua. !CONMUTEN TODOS LOS 5000!

Who is the richest of them all?

Well, the world's 3.5 billion adults each have assets of less than \$10,000. These people, who account for 70% of the world's working-age population, account for just 2.7% of of global wealth.

The share of the world's richest people increased from 42.5% during the 2008 financial crisis to 50.1% of total wealth in 2017. And in November 2017, the richest 1% of people own HALF the world's wealth. This is according to the 8th annual Global Wealth Report of *Credit Suisse*.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS BANNED

The Oregon Department of Corrections has banned all computer/technology related textbooks and materials, regardless of their clear educational value. Censorship by any government agency immediately creates a violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Censorship of educational materials for prisoners also inhibits rehabilitation. In today's highly technical society, the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) is using taxpayer funding to ban materials that would prepare people to handle modern technologies and thus promoting ignorance and recidivism.

In contrast, states like California and Washington are said to have greatly successful programs teaching those imprisoned how to use computers and to write programming code.

--to contact the author for further information, who is imprisoned in Oregon, write the CPR.

IN CONTRAST, SOME EXECUTION SENTENCES

According to the Death Penalty Information Center (1701 K Street, Suite 205, Washington DC 20006), there have been approximately 200 execution sentences given out in Philadelphia since 1974. Nearly 150 of them have been overturned, often because of inadequate representation or because of prosecutors' misconduct. No one has been executed in in Pennsylvania since 1999. The governor instituted a moratorium on executions in 2015.

In Pennsylvania, unlike in New York and New Jersey, incarceration has increased in recent years. In addition, there are more parolees in the state than anywhere else in the country. One-third of the people in Pennsylvania's prisons are there for convictions of violating their probations or paroles.

However in Philadelphia, cash bail has been eliminated for charges of most non-violent crimes.