The Better News is:

**Too Cruel, Not Unusual Enough**

The Other Death Penalty Project announces its new book, *Too Cruel, Not Unusual Enough*, an anthology of writings by life without parole prisoners and others depicting why life without parole is the death penalty. The anthology is the culmination of two years of work by the Project, including conducting a nationwide writing contest.

All proceeds from book sales will support the ongoing work of The Other Death Penalty Project. Interested incarcerated people can contact us at: The Other Death Penalty Project, PO Box 1486, Lancaster CA 93584. Its also available through Amazon.com in Jan 2013

**Opportunity for Parole**

In September, governor Brown of California signed a bill allowing juveniles with a sentence of Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP) allowing reconsideration of their sentences after a minimum of 15 years. Judges could then reduce the sentence to 25 years-to-life if remorse is shown and steps toward rehabilitation are found.

There are currently 309 people doing life-without-parole sentences in California for murders they are convicted of committing when they were younger than 18.

California is one of 39 states that allow judges to impose LWOP sentences. More than 2,570 people are currently doing LWOP sentences in the U.S.

**Re Shackling Those Pregnant**

Also in September, governor Brown signed a bill that bans the most egregious forms of shackling of pregnant women in California's state prisons, juvenile detention facilities and county jails. As of January 1, 2013, no such woman can be shackled around the belly, ankles or handcuffed behind her back during her pregnancy.

**The Graying Prison Population**

As we know, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with more than 2.2 million people jammed into its prisons and jails. As of 2010, state and federal prisons caged more than 26,000 people 65 and older and over 125,000 aged 55 and up. From 1995 to 2010, when the U.S. prison population grew 42%, the number of prisoners over 55 grew at nearly seven times that rate. Long term incarceration is said to add 10 years to a persons physical age. Today, roughly 1 in 12, or 8% of state and federal prisoners is 55 or older.

It is estimated that by 2030, the over-55 group will number more than 400,000-about a third of the overall prison population. One in ten state prisoners nowadays is a lifer and about the same proportion of federal prisoners over 50 are doing 30 to life. This will result in more than 100,000 prisoners currently estimated to die in prison. Yet, for example, 65% of the older prisoners are sentenced for nonviolent acts. By age 50, arrest rates drop to 2%, in contrast to the arrest rates for 16-19 year olds of around 12%.

Each prisoner over 50 costs the taxpayer an average of $68,000 per year, twice as much as it costs for younger incarcerated people. Which come to a total of $16 billion. For what? And the older the prisoner, the greater the average cost. In addition, as we know, prison facilities are not designed for people with mobility problems. The few available activities are open only to people who can walk long hallways or climb stairs.

To compound the ironies, older prisoners are resources for each other, but often, the prison systems do not allow those imprisoned to help each other....

**Resources**

ACLU: National Prison Project, 125 Broad St--18th floor, New York NY 10004, 212-549-2500

Human Rights Watch: 350 5th Ave--34th floor, New York NY 10118, 212-736-1300
EL mundo ya no es digno
--por Javier Sicilia
poeta de México

El mundo ya no es digno de la palabra
nos la ahogaron acentro
cómo te asfixiar, cómo te desgarro
a tu los pulmones...
y el dolor no se me aparta
sólo queda un mundo
por el silencio de los justos,
sólo por tu silencio, y por mi silencio, Juanelo.

[quando se mataror a su hijo, otro
victima de la guerra de drogas]

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To receive the Newsletter each month,
send us self-addressed, stamped
evelopes (with the CPR return address)
--up to 12 at one time.
Please continue to send us address
changes and renewal requests, in order
to receive the yearly holiday card/ new
calendar.

Also, please note that the only
address to use to be sure to reach us
continues to be: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe
NM 87504. And remember: NONE OF US ARE
LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS.

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of
Prisons Project for making our
Newsletter available on-line for free
downloading and distribution. It is at:
http://www.realcostofprisonsproject.org/
coalition.html This is a GREAT site!

We continue to depend on our readers'
financial contributions to be able to go
on with our work. Stamps, checks, and
money orders made out to us should be
sent to our address above. Thank you so
much for your ongoing support!
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“We are so far over the edge and so
far beyond any reality of participatory
democracy....We are a plutocracy owned
and operated by a tiny corporate elite
and their right-wing soldiers....
Unfortunately, the choice for voters in
November is not between good and bad.
Not even between bad and worse. It is
simply a choice between which expression
of the corporatocracy and war machine we
will choose.” --In “Hospitality,” a
publication of The Open Door Community,
910 Ponce de Leon NE, Atlanta GA 30306.

MORE SOLITARY

By Age
A 141--page report entitled Growing Up
Locked Down: Youth in Solitary
Confinement in Jails and Prisons Across
the United States has recently been
released by the ACLU and Human Rights
Watch (HRW). It calls for a ban on
solitary confinement for young people; a
prohibition on housing adolescents with
adults; and limits on the amount of time
youths can be isolated.

The report estimates that in 2011,
more than 95,000 youths under age 18
were held in prisons and jails. Many of
the facilities use solitary confinement
--for days, weeks, months or even year--
to punish, “protect,” house or “treat”
some of the young people. It further
states: “We should invest in youth, not
banish them.” Instead of, “the deep
and permanent harm it causes to kids caught
up in the adult criminal justice
system.” Nearly 100,000 youth under the
age of 18 pass through adult prisons and
jails annually. The overall rate of
solitary confinement in U.S. prisons is
thought to be between 3% and 5%--those
underage maybe isolated at even higher
rates than adults.

By Geography
Nearly 4,500 prisoners in New York
State are held in segregated housing on
any given day, about half in solitary
confinement and half in cells with
another prisoner--according to a recent
New York Civil Liberties Union report,
entitled Boxed In, The True Cost of
Extreme Isolation in New York’s Prisons.
From 2007 to 2011, New York issued more
than 68,100 classifications to isolation
for violations of prison rules,
averaging five months each. There were
35,095 sent to isolation for failure to
obey an order, 6,019 for loss or
destruction of state property, 4,008 for
failing to follow movement regulations
and 3,788 for lying, misleading or false
information. Of these, 3,151 were double
celled, out of a total of 4,286 in
disciplinary confinement.

Most of the men end up at either
Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone,
near the Canadian border or Southport
Correctional Facility, in Pine City.
Both of these prisons are dedicated
entirely to isolation cells.
At the beginning of October, there were
a total of 54,537 New York State
prisoners. New York State spends an
average of $60,000 per year per prisoner
or $2.7 billion total annually.