

EXILED IN PURGATORY: WHO IS THE CRIMINAL

AND WHO IS THE GUARD?

The Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) doesn't seem to have improved much under the current Secretary of Corrections, Michael Crews. Crews' two predecessors had the distinction of being fired, investigated, and at least one of them, charged for corruption. Under their rule entire FDOC facilities have been under federal criminal investigation from the warden down for prostitution, drug smuggling and corruption rings.

Under Crews' rule the prison system has continued its culture of corruption and violence. Recently two prisoners were shot by a fellow prisoner with a smuggled pistol — presumably brought in by guards. In another incident a prisoner was killed after being beaten, sprayed with pepper spray and placed in a shower so hot it burned the skin from his body in chunks. Several prison guards were placed under investigation for it.

Just another dead prisoner. According to new accounts, Florida has a higher guard on inmate murder rate than inmate on inmate murder rate. The highest in the nation.

Violence in prison starts and ends with the guards. Think back for a minute to the Iraq war and the prison scandals there with U.S. soldiers. Who were ~~those~~ those soldiers? All of them were prison guards by trade in the U.S. before going over seas to "serve" the U.S. They didn't go to Iraq and turn bad. All of them had histories of abuse in U.S. prisons. They simply went to Iraq and applied their U.S. training on Iraqi citizens.

I can safely argue that many U.S. prisons are the worst in the world. Worse than Russian and, yes, even North Korean gulags.

The Florida prison system has the distinction of living up to that ideal...