



AMERIKKKAN IMPRISONMENT

2010:

FROM FORCED MANAGEMENT CONTROL TO **CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT**

- (1) Long Term Isolated Segregation
- (2) Torture techniques: The seen and unseen damage
- (3) Chemical warfare and instruments of restraints
- (4) Conditions that exacerbates instability
- (5) Deadly consequences behind overcrowding and forced double celling.
- (6) Food deprivation

Amerikkkan Imprisonment 2010:

(From forced control management to cruel and unusual punishment)

(An Indiana Prison Release)

(THE OPENING)

My name is Bro. Khalfani Malik Khaldun. I have been confined to a prison cell for 23-24 years straight, 16 ½ of these years have been spent in forced controlled management “isolated segregation”. The following release is my first hand knowledge and words of my experiences in these units and what I witnessed with my own eyes. (May you enjoy)

(LONG TERM ISOLATED SEGREGATION)

Inside U.S. prisons across this country or adjacent to or similarly situated next to, are isolation units; these units are modeled as small maximum security prisons. Prisoncrats here inside the Indiana Department of Corruption utilize these units for multiple reasons. However, the primary function is designed to warehouse administrative segregation prisoners. Westville Correctional Unit and the Special Confinement Units, are currently Indiana’s only long-term housing units where prisoners cannot be released from these spots until it’s approved by the prison system’s commissioner or a designated staff-person, someone prisoners rarely if ever see, or get to address problems on conditions that pave the way to “internal staff” in charge to make objective reviews; instead are arbitrary in their determinations (which ones) come up for release or go to isolated segregation. If you’re not a likeable passive prisoner, in most cases, you may be slighted by a candidate who is.

Long-term “indeterminate” stay on units such as these, and are the active prison element, i.e. jailhouse lawyers, revolutionaries, political prisoners, agitators, a thorn in their sides; are who get left behind. These undesirable elements such as me, who end up warehoused and tucked away for years, can expose that long-term isolation has only limited recreational stimuli.

Here inside Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's (Special Confinement Unit) (S.C.U.), every time a prisoner leaves a cell, we are placed in handcuffs (behind the back), with a Lead-Strap (dog leash) held by a prisoncrat guard. Before the cell door is opened, we put our hands through a slot for handcuffing; for trips outside the immediate housing area we are also shackled at the ankles. One hour for recreation, which is either in a "dog caged area", (8) individual cages separating prisoners from one another, or an additional space that's a small cement-encased area with 4 extremely high walls; all that's seen of the outside is the sky through a meshed fence roof.

The inhumanity that violates a prisoner's human & civil rights is being made the unwilling victim of arbitrary selection for cruel and unusual punishment. This is by no means rehabilitative, the sentencing judges responsible for our imprisonment, said we would be going to prison to be the victims of prison staff, and held in the prison's jail; so tell me isn't that overkill? Long-term solitary confinement exacerbates any potential pre-existing health issue.

We are being housed on these units for minor or prison major infractions, while many others are believed to be involved in influential activities inside, and never associated with violating any rules; yet suspected of being in a position of power – makes you a threat here in the State's Dept. of Corruption. We are simply placed under investigation, ("never charged") then left on Long-term Segregation; many here are serving close to 20+ years in isolation with no human contact with family or another prisoner. What is most heightened by being in these isolation units, is our (senses); hearing; smelling; become super sensitive. (Sensory Deprivation)

The proliferation of these units has not stopped aggressive violence inside U.S. prisons. While they race to isolate conscious activists, leaders, and educators, and jailhouse lawyers, the prisoncrats are violating our human rights and disregarding our right to due process of the law. To cite their actions coincides with their objective to maintain the safety and security of the prison's prisoner population, and their staff's safety. When a prisoner, through an obvious consistent change in their behavior, doesn't present a "demonstrable" threat, we should be reintegrated into the general population; beyond (3) concurrent years in segregation – anything more is cruel and unusual punishment.

TORTURE TECHNIQUES

The Seen and Unseen Damage

For many years control units were being used by rogue prisoncrats that beat and selectively targeted As unit pastimes, hiding behind the shield of having discretionary authority from the commissioners and governors of their respective states to maintain "repressive order" by any means necessary. Leaving ranking prisoncrats a gray area to manipulate on the use of force to regain control and maintain a well-oiled repressive rule over their warehoused victims.

In the 1700's, penal solitary confinement was essentially invented in the colonies, later to become the United States. Whips and Stocks were preferred tools for public punishment. In 1790, Pennsylvania opened the first prison designed for this purpose dubbed a penitentiary. Other states in Amerikkka and also some European nations followed suit. Falling out of favor, having been said to cause insanity, it was documented that a considerable number of prisoners fell, even after a short confinement, into a semi-fatuous condition...others became violently insane, committed suicide; while those who withstood the ordeal better were not generally reformed.

Due to several legal jailhouse lawyer-launched law suits, the brute force and beatings have been reduced here in Indiana. The newest form of torture is no longer physical, it's the damage done that's unseen, a form of psychological "low intensity" warfare torture. They've targeted me personally at times, by having my cell searched excessively, where my personal property is literally trashed, and family photographs and legal mail destroyed. My food trays have been sprayed with mace or cleaning agents, or having human feces and urine put into them by guards who deliver trays to me breakfast, lunch, and dinner; to having my personal mail correspondence and reading materials destroyed or misdirected. Ensuring, by doing this, that these prisoner-collaborators given my papers and correspondence can come in contact with all my outside contacts who prisoncrats hope will attempt to disconnect me from the outside world.

These prisoncrats have slandered my name to “create suspicion” around the system to destroy my solidarity and unity with active prison activists. I have never surrendered, it’s all made me a better man and a determined freedom fighter. Long-term exposure to conditions such as these will result in lasting scars and resentments or provoke violence. Too much of this is going to anger even the most passive prisoner; even when they know a physical act on their part ultimately ends with an additional stay in segregation.

These prisoncrats here have managed to devise a system to go undetected in their psychological (low intensity) warfare games. So, the complaints filed are either ruled unsubstantiated, or they’re coming up disappeared. Most of our Eighth Amendment constitutional claims are being taken as “frivolous” because the damage we try to expose to the court is (unseen); mental torture; emotional duress; pain and suffering; are not recognized like physical beatings and abuse are. This form of abuse is cruel and unusual punishment, and forced long-term psychological torture.

Prisoncrats having forced these deplorable conditions upon us caused a series of hunger strikes generating mass community attention. The media got involved after there were one or two prisoners who cut off the ends of their (baby fingers), and then sending them by mail to media outlets; the hunger strike lasted for 37 days.

CHEMICAL WARFARE and INSTRUMENTS of RESTRAINTS

For a long time both control units here inside the State of Indiana. The conditions at Westville Correctional Unit and the Special Confinement Unit warehoused a large group of male prisoners under psychiatric care, many, in fact all of which, may have spent long periods of time in Solitary Confinement.

Isolated from the general prison populations across the State of Indiana, these men, many of whom are illiterate and suffering from a host of mental illnesses. Having to spend 23-24 hours confined to a control unit cell, these men, as I witnessed firsthand, would experience mood swings due in part to the multiple psychiatric medications they were being prescribed.

Dr. Stuart Grassian, a Boston Psychiatrist who lectured at Harvard Medical School, has been studying the effects of Solitary Confinement for more than several decades, which during this time, he has examined more than a 100 or more Supermax prisoners. His determination is that these units can literally drive inmates crazy.

I have witnessed sane men of character become self-mutilators, suffering paranoia, panic attacks, and hostile fantasies about revenge. One prisoner would swallow packs of AA batteries, and stick a pencil in his penis. They would cut on themselves to gain contact with staff nurses, or just draw attention to themselves. These men made slinging human feces “body waste” a daily routine like it was a recognized sport; some would eat it or rub it on themselves as if it was body lotion. Many of these men not knowing the impact of their actions caught major infractions culminating into many years in segregation.

Prisoncrats would engage in 30-40 cell-extractions (“forceful restraint”) everyday, trying to subdue out-of-control prisoners taking medications. Prisoncrats use a form of restraint, a bed crafted to strap men in four-point Velcro straps, and both hands to the wrist, and both feet to the ankles are secured. Prisoners have been kept like this for 3-6 hours at a time; most times they would remove all their clothes. The Special Confinement Unit used the (“water hoses”) on these men also.

When I was able to I would write letters on behalf of these men being targeted because of their mental illness, in doing so caused me to be harassed, for in their words, “putting my nose where they felt it didn’t belong”; the harassment I was familiar with so it wasn’t a worry. I was in total opposition to the Prisoncrats victimizing these mentally ill prisoners, helping these men write letters to their families and launching complaints was my duty as a conscious prison activist.

Prisoncrats would use some of these men to target prison activists and jailhouse lawyers, by placing mentally ill men in respectful housing units where they would totally disrupt the environment. They

would even target specific prisoners by encouraging the mentally ill men to throw feces (“body waste”) in the cell next to them.

In 2006, as I was being reviewed for participation in some rehabilitation programs here in the Special Confinement Unit, and a black mentally ill prisoner was moved in next to me. This prisoner screamed and beat on the walls all night and in a matter of (6) days he cranked out throwing feces and smeared it on his clothes; he told a staff member I threw it on him. This one act caused me to be charged with throwing bodily waste, a prisoner (battery charge), stripped of all my property, then placed in a camera monitored cell for (39) days.

The needs of these men were not being met, yet prescribing medications became their ultimate solution. Just medicate them, don’t concern yourself with this man’s obvious deteriorating mental faculties.

The local Indiana Civil Liberties Union periodically has taken the legal initiative to litigate on behalf of the mentally ill. Two major law suits caused the federal courts to order mentally ill prisoners moved out of “Closed Solitary Confinement”. About 3 years ago they began to transfer mentally ill prisoners’ enmasse to units where they could interact with other mentally ill men. Now they’re being placed in general population in housing units specifically designated for mentally ill prisoners.

There is no honor in mistreating the mentally ill, whether in society or in prison. Society must not forget about the people on the inside who can’t take care of themselves. Once a week, a Behavior Clinician tours the unit checking on prisoners with the use of a Rote System. The same conditions still exist that has driven men to suicide or insanity.

CONDITIONS THAT EXACERBATES INSTABILITY

Control unit conditions, no matter how many mentally ill prisoners they move out of the Special Confinement Unit (S.C.U.) and the Westville Correctional Unit (W.C.U.), if they do not change the conditions that played a role in creating the insanity, many more cases will follow.

While the specifics vary between the (S.C.U.) and the (W.C.U.), prisoners are basically locked in their cells for (23) hours daily, that’s approximately 80 sq. ft., and contain a concrete-slab bed, desk or table, and a connected sink and toilet. (W.C.U.) has tiny windows to give prisoners visual stimulation, the (S.C.U.) doesn’t, which gives off this feeling you’re trapped in a basement with no direct sunlight.

The water system is terrible, and our water smells like raw sewage, and have heavy concentrations of lead particles and containing water parasites and other bacteria; forcing us to patronize (bottled water) off the prison commissary. There are prisoners launching legal complaints that will expose to the public that we have contaminated drinking water. These conditions if not corrected will ultimately result in many more unfortunate and life-threatening consequences.

The lack of any social or physical interaction, with loved ones, children, fellow comrades, is not a mentally-healthy combination. The (S.C.U.) is a non-contact facility, our visitations were where we could actually “physically see” the visitor behind a glass window, which is disrespectful to say the least, but tolerable under the circumstances. However, prisonrats instituted yet another more depressing repressive procedure limiting visitation, now our families are forced to visit us via video camera-monitored visits. These visits really dehumanize prisoners and our families, and goes against any form of rehabilitative programming.

How much do they think we can take before an explosive reaction occurs? Prisoners will file litigation opposing such conditions, and others will respond in the only way they are accustomed to, violently.

Some challenges in federal court the constitutional violations existing in these units, caused the Indiana Department of Corruption to solicit an outside contractor to build a new outside recreation area; a series of individual steel caged “dog runs” that would give us direct sun light and eye contact with fellow prisoners. Since 2003, I personally have encouraged prisoners to file complaints to compel

prisoncrats to give us recreational equipment, group recreation, contact visitation, and a host of other challenges.

Group recreation was done away with because of violence occurring between prisoners, much of what is manipulated by the prisoncrats in charge of these units when conditions change, prisoners' behaviors will ultimately change.

DEADLY CONSEQUENCES BEHIND OVERCROWDING AND FORCED DOUBLE CELLING PRISONERS

For the past 23 ½ years I have been in a single-man cell, the (2) control units and Disciplinary Segregation Units do not put two men to a cell. But when prisons become overcrowded, prisoncrats will do forced double bunking; overcrowding issues present an assortment of problems many of which results in violence.

In the past 3-4 years prisoners being forced to be housed with child molesters at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, that ended in several men being strangled by their cell mates. About (5) deaths by strangulation have occurred in the general population, and other episodes like severe stabbings and beatings have occurred due to cell mates not getting along.

The prisoncrats have tried to create methods that allow prisoners to be placed in cells with people they are compatible with. Yet other prisoncrats will purposely house a "sex offender" in a cell with a prisoner for the sole intent of having him beaten up or even killed. Because they the prisoncrats target and don't like prisoners accused of victimizing children. Even if you are guilty or not of the crime, simply being labeled as such makes one a target; I personally have elected to not judge or target men charged with (sex crimes) because I know there are innocent people in prison. As a conscious revolutionary/prison activist I refuse to help the court and prisoncrats harass and antagonize sex offenders.

The other problems double celling presents are many. Nobody wants to have someone in their cell leaving waste & urine in the toilet. Someone who steals or goes through your personal affects or legal work, or engages in things against your moral standards; this ends in deadly consequences. Being in a cell with a white prisoner who hates black people would present a problem for me. Being in a cell with a devil-worshipper or a non-believer is out of the question, I couldn't live with anyone who is constantly causing trouble that brings too much unnecessary attention. Prisoners who have a lot of time, and who have never been double-celled, would much rather have a single man cell. An example of what always presents a dangerous situation is having a short timer placed in a cell with a person serving life, who talks about going home everyday, may be in a serious fight in a matter of days; the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility is responsible for the deaths of prisoners that have been victims of forced double-celling.

FOOD DEPRIVATION AS BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

On July 7, 2005, the Indiana Department of Corruption entered into a 10-year 11.6 million dollar contract with a private food provider, this provider is Aramark Corporation. Aramark has contracts with 500 or more U.S. Departments of Corruption prison facilities across this country. We were told by prisoncrat rank and file staff, that we would have more quality and a variety of wholesome meals. I was glad to hear of the changes in the food service coming, however, after (30) days it all became clear that Aramark Corporation's services were being utilized to save the state money, at the expense of starving its hostages.

Prisoners (hostages) since the contract was signed and food services were taken from the hands of State. The meals went from full servings to small childlike portions. Six months after being fed the small servings, countless prisoners began to lose excessive amounts of weight. On any given day, you could walk the ranges on any one of the units, and hear a group-discussion about food; from (2006) through (2009) – I too was among these men craving more and adequate portions of food. These portions of food lack nourishment that causes the body to slowly deteriorate and breakdown, I was personally

weighing (250 pounds), and within (6) months I was down to 189; I began to organize prisoners on this unit in opposition to Aramark Corporation.

I requested prisoners to file legal affidavits to clearly detail the weight loss issues. I collected over (55-60) of them and filed complaints to the Superintendent and Commissioner. Trying to encourage/compel these two prisoncrats to approve Disciplinary Segregation prisoners to get commissary, to supplement the lack of nourishment and minimize the excessive weight loss going on, some of these men due to “all day” hunger pains experienced anxiety, paranoia, anger fits, thoughts of suicide, and others went as far as cutting on themselves; trying to be moved to other areas to gain access to food products – or better meals.

We launched complaints and grievances to the medical department so that the weight loss could be professionally documented, prisoners were escorted to medical and our weight loss was noted, there we launched (2) class actions §1983 civil law suits against Aramark Corporation for serving inadequate meals to grown men; the portions are “childlike” and had to be exposed to the Federal Court System. The obvious thing about this whole ordeal is food deprivation violates: Article 1 Section 15, 16, and 18, of the Indiana Constitution, and the 8th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, and Indiana Code IC. 11-11 5-4. Food deprivation is prohibited as behavior modification control; conditions tantamount to the “infliction of pain”. The courts define the infliction of pain as (cruel and unusual punishment.) The 8th Amendment forbids “cruel and unusual punishment”, under any circumstances, food is a basic necessity to sustain life, and to be deprived of it in any arbitrary manner is like a small form of torture, a slow death.

Denying prisoner’s food to compel them to conform to passive and non-challenging behavior patterns, constitute strategy to destroy resistance and violence. These prisoncrats had to be brought before the Federal Courts to gradually increase the childlike portions on the food trays, adding potatoes to all (3) daily meals has served to add a little weight to malnourished bodies on this unit.

Since June 2009, I entered a rehabilitation program available on this unit called the Act-Program. This program has a commissary incentive as we progress through each of the (5) phases. I have regained my weight back, and could soon qualify for release to general population within 30-60 days. I am looking forward to the opportunity to becoming active in general population having been in 23/1 confinement the past 16 ½ years. Seven of which I have spent confined inside the Special Confinement Unit. (Our meals are allegedly 2500 calories.)

I have devised a personal program to combat the negative effects of being housed in Long-term Segregation; you may read them for yourself. I hope they are helpful to you in exposing and educating ones on these conditions. The following is a list of my releases:

- (1) Beware of S.T.G., Security Threat Group Hits Indiana.
- (2) Brother Khalfani Malik Khaldun.
- (3) Due Process Violations in Indiana.
- (4) Epidemic of Control Units.
- (5) Handbook on Surviving Solitary Confinement.
- (6) In Solitary Against Injustice.
- (7) Indiana Tinkers with the Machinery of Death.
- (8) The Ghost of Indiana’s Past.
- (9) My Refusal to Remain Silent.
- (10) The Prison “X” Files of Khalfani.

- (11) Report on Internal Changes Occurring.
- (12) Resistance in Prison Breeds Repression.
- (13) We Want Long Term Commitment not Temporary Ones.

The above writings can be obtained by contacting South Chicago ABC-Distro, Anthony Rayson, P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL. 60430.

Food deprivation is inhumane and cold-hearted. Prisoners on the disciplinary side of the Special Confinement Unit continue to suffer hunger pains; because they're still not allowed to purchase food items off the prison's commissary. When a prisoner is willing to cutting their wrist(s) to get away from these conditions, we must demand these conditions to be improved at once.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT ME

I am a 41 year old New Afrikan Political Prisoner, and have been in prison now for (24) years. On December 13, 1994, a prison guard was killed here and the state upon the completion of their investigation, I was snatched up, interrogated, my refusal to cooperate caused them to transfer me to "Supermax" now called Westville Correctional Unit, where I was later charged with this murder charge, for no apparent reason other than my refusal to talk. Plus, I was actively organizing in the cell house where the guard was killed. After 6 1/2 years of legal wrangling, I was found guilty by an all-white jury after (9) hours of deliberations. The judge gave me a (60) year sentence. I am innocent, and I am, with the help of my campaign working to overturn this erroneous conviction. Anybody wanting to read more about my struggle, can do so by contacting Anthony Rayson for my booklet "Trial of Khalfani Malik Khaldun and the story that must be told Part II: The Saga Continues". This compilation was requested by my friends at the Amerikan Friends Service Committee Prison Watch project. They're updating the prior released Fall 2001, "Torture in U.S. Prisons – Evidence of Human Rights Violations." Thank you for reading this, I pray that it's educational, informative, detailed, and compelling. This is being sent to: Bonnie Kerness, AFSC, 89 Market Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ. 07102. I authorize you to print this in its entirety with my full name. (As Salaam Alaikum)

- Aluta Continua -
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- (2) Capitalism and Incarceration Revisited. By Richard D. Vogel – New York: (Sept. 2003)
- (3) Super Maximum Security Prisons are Cruel and Inhumane. By Vince Beiser and Kristen Bailey
- (4) Violent Inmates Should not be Placed in Super-Max Prisons. By Andy Mager (2000)
- (5) Brian Mast, et al v. J. David Donahue, No. 2:05-cv-00037 LJM/WGH March, 2007
- (6) Leonard McQuay v. Craig Hanks and Aramark Corporation, Cause No. 1:06-cv-1847-DFH-TAB, 07/16/2007.
- (7) Ex.A: Is a response letter from Commissioner Buss on complaint to compel reduction in starving prisoners.
- (8) Ex.B: Reply to complaint to policy director about the food deprivations; from Michael Pavese.
- (9) Ex.C: Response to a complaint from Indiana Ombudsman Charlene A. Burkett to food complaints.
- (10) Ex.D: "Breaking Men's Mind", behavior control and human experiment at Federal Prison in Marion, Illinois.

