

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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August 2013

Population Reduction Implementation ReOrdered

At the beginning of August, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an Order denying the state of California's request for a stay of prior federal court orders requiring it to reduce prison overcrowding down to 137.5% of design capacity by the end of December 2013. California claims the level of prison overcrowding is currently at 146.3% of design capacity. Overcrowding has been ordered to be decreased by 9,636, from the current 132,888. Prison numbers peaked in 2006 at 162,500. The state's adult prisons were designed to house just under 80,000 people.

On June 20, 2013, a three judge federal panel (U.S. District Judges Thelton Henderson and Lawrence Karlton and 9th Circuit Appeals Justice Stephen Reinhardt), overseeing California's prison population, issued an opinion affirming its prior orders that require California to reduce overcrowding. The plan for population reduction calls

MORE INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

A federal class action lawsuit has been filed over such grossly inadequate medical, mental health and dental care for Arizona prisoners that they are in grave danger of suffering serious and preventable injury, amputation, disfigurement and even death. The lawsuit also charges that thousands of Arizona prisoners are routinely subjected to solitary confinement in windowless cells behind solid steel doors, in conditions of extreme social isolation and sensory deprivation.

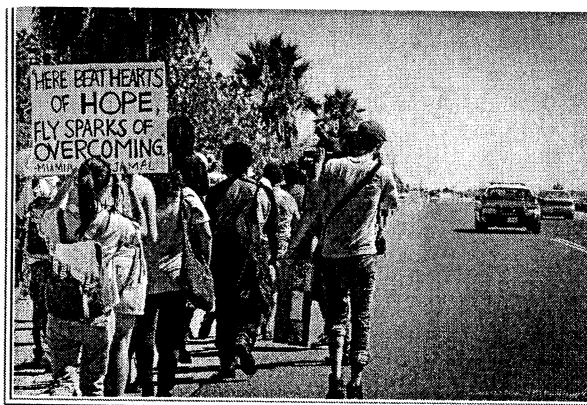
Arizona prison officials have repeatedly been warned by their medical staff of the inadequacy of the care. The lawsuit calls for constitutionally adequate health care be provided to prisoners, that medications be distributed in a timely manner, and that prisoners not be held in conditions of such social isolation and sensory deprivation that put them at risk of harm.

for: sending more prisoners to fire-fighting camps, leasing cells at county jails, continuing to keep California prisoners in for-profit prisons in other states (which currently hold 8,900 California prisoners), increasing good-time credits for those considered "non violent" and paroling elderly prisoners. Further expansion of good-time credits for the "well-behaved" and the development of a list of "lowest risk" prisoners who may be released if the state's other population-reduction measures fail were also ordered.

As the judges pointed out in denying California's most recent request to delay implementation of ordered releases, the related litigation has been underway for 23 years. It includes the *Plata* case, involving prisoners with UNM medical needs, and the *Coleman* case, involving prisoners with mental illnesses. California has already been under the court population reduction order for four years.

IN CA, THE FIVE CORE DEMANDS--PHSS

1. Eliminate group punishment & abuse.
2. Abolish the debriefing policy.
3. Comply with US Commission on Safety & Abuse recommendations & end long-term solitary confinement.
4. Provide adequate & nutritious food.
5. Create & expand constructive programming.



CRIME OF THE MONTH

Oh the rogue, the coward. How dare Edward Snowden reveal that our government is spying on us in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution? That silly little amendment prohibits search and seizure of our personal property without probable cause. It was inspired by blanket warrants allowed by the British government to search anyone's property anywhere, anytime, for any (or no) reason at all. No doubt, many colonists were certain the Brits were only doing this to protect the Empire from its enemies. Sound familiar?

So, even though our government is violating the Constitution by conducting dragnet searches of our communications, it's the guy who blew the whistle who is being hunted and forced to seek asylum in another country. Where is the outrage? What happened to our revolutionary spirit?

The good news is, despite the propaganda being spewed forth by our corporate media smearing Edward Snowden and calling him names, a majority of people actually admire Snowden. According to a recent poll, 55% of us view him as a whistle blower sounding an alarm about the violation of our rights, not as a traitor. If only that 55% would take to the streets in his defense.

The Crime of the Month is Corporate Government's spying on us in order to "keep us safe." With security like that, who needs a Constitution?

To receive the Newsletter each month, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address) -- up to 12 at one time.

Keep sending 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. We have discovered that there have been resource lists which, unfortunately, give out an incorrect address.

Remember: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS for any envelopes marked "Legal Mail."

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

We depend on readers' donations!
Thank you -- ¡Mil gracias!

Eric Holder descarta la pena de muerte contra Edward Snowden

Edward Snowden, el exanalista acusado de espionaje en Estados Unidos, no será condenada a la pena de muerte ni sufrirá tortura en caso de ser juzgado en ese país, garantizó el secretario de Justicia Eric Holder al gobierno ruso. Snowden es acusado en Estados Unidos de robar propiedad del gobierno, dar a conocer información de defensa nacional, y entregar información clasificada a personas no autorizadas, recordó Holder en la misiva.

Ahora el exanalista ha recibido permiso establecer en Rusia. En las últimas semanas ha solicitado asilo político a una veintena de países, incluido Rusia, bajo el argumento de que en caso de regresar a su país podría enfrentar la pena de muerte o la tortura.

Emile Griffith

El 23 de julio, falleció en Nueva York, el exboxeador Emile Griffith, cinco veces campeón del mundo, a los 75 años de edad. Conmueven sus palabras viniendo de un tipo realmente duro como Griffith: "Sigo preguntándome lo extraño que es todo esto. Mato a un hombre y la mayoría lo entiende y me perdona. Sin embargo, amo a un hombre y esa misma gente lo considera un pecado imperdonable. Aunque nunca fui a la cárcel, he estado en prisión casi toda mi vida."

Vulnerability to Marijuana Arrests

African Americans were nearly four times as likely as "whites" to be arrested on charges of marijuana possession in 2010, even though both groups used it at similar rates. In Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois, African Americans were around eight times as likely to be arrested as "whites" on such charges. About half of all drug arrests in 2011 were on marijuana-related charges.

Top 6 States in Executions 2012

