

EDUCATIONAL SCENARIO

1. Identification of the educational scenario

1.1 Title of the scenario

IMPRISONMENT and human rights: Voices Of Incarceration ; jails-prisons-refugee camps-detention camps

1.2 Creator

Name, Surname: Konstantina Aidona
e-mail: kaidona@yahoo.gr
Website/ blog
School/organisation

1.3 Topics or courses involved

Language, Art, Music, Literature, Ethics, Citizenship education, History, Sociology, Psychology

1.4 Educational level

Primary

Secondary **X** (lower secondary education) 14-15 years old

Second chance school

Reception class

Other

1.5 Learning outcomes of the scenario

At the end of the scenario, students are expected to have acquired the skills that will enable them to:

- Develop empathy
- empower multi intelligence
 - musical-rhythmic,
 - visual-spatial,
 - verbal-linguistic,
 - logical-mathematical,
 - bodily-kinesthetic,
 - interpersonal,
 - intrapersonal,
 - naturalistic
 - existential-moral

- Expand imagination and creativity
- Understand and use the art expression as empowerment/liberation/communication/changing the inner and outer world
- learn to use internet as a source
- Improve their awareness of others' status and their tolerance
- Apply active listening and communication rules
- Work co-operatively
- Explore key concepts such as: HUMAN BEING
RIGHTS
IMPRISONMENT
ME/WE AND THE OTHER/OTHERS
SOCIAL/INDIVIDUAL
FREEDOM/INPRISONMENT
- explore the dialectics of life and therefore of thinking

1.6 Time-duration

Class time: a whole year (7 months) project

it depends on the teacher, how much of the material will be used. From 4 hours (one part of the scenario) or the whole scenario

Outdoor preparation:

How many hours to be used in total:

2. Development of the educational scenario

1. Warm up : problematization

. Challenge students to think and express themselves individually about imprisonment and human rights by writing their opinions based on the following questions(**worksheet 1**)

(15-20 minutes)

2. Using Theatre techniques

1. Contemporary documentary theatre is defined by its privileging of subjectivity over universality and questioning of the definition of truth in an age where digital and physical realities collide. Many contemporary practitioners reject the term "documentary theatre" in favor of more equivocal labels like "investigative theatre" that allow for more leeway in the artistic interpretation of reality and moves away from the original concept of the artist as moral arbiter of the truth. Contemporary documentary theatre continues to rely on new media to explore the increasingly fuzzy line between reality and representation of reality.

Similarly, documentary theatre continues to rely on a democratic process of interview gathering and multiple artistic perspectives to create new narratives .

a. From the other point of view: Voices Of Incarceration

The teacher facilitates students to reflect, sensitize, <live>, share the experiences of the prisoners through poetry-paintings -cartoons- music- stories from and about prison which are used as documents

- Divide the class into small groups of 5-6 elements
- Each group takes **one worksheet (2.poetry, 3. Painting, 4.stories, 5.cartoons, 6.music from and about prison)** and share part or all the material
- Each group share their feelings ,thoughts and perspectives
- During the process they are encouraged to investigate further the topic, the historical, social surroundings and the material through internet

b. Personalization

- Based on **worksheet 6: if I was you** , they write down individually their feelings and thoughts by choosing or/and combining one or more persons documents and situations using first singular

c. Storyline development 'BEING IN PRISON' (worksheet 7: being in prison)

- Each group develops a combined story based on worksheet 6: if I was you and the previous document worksheet
- Participatory research- each group can make some internet research to understand the 'when and where' surroundings, while is developing its story

2. Theatre of the oppressed. The whole process is designed to be dialectic, coming to a conclusion through the consideration of opposing arguments, rather than didactic, in which the moral argument is one-sided and pushed from the actors with no chance of reply or counter-argument. Boal clarifies that this practice is not intended to show the correct path, but rather to discover all possible paths which may be further examined The practice of this form creates an uneasy sense of incompleteness that seeks fulfillment through real action.

Each group will represent their scene/story/play to the large group

a. image theatre

- One person of each team, acting as a sculptor, moulds one or more people acting as statues, using only touch and resisting the use of words or mirror-image modelling , presenting one or more scenes of the incarceration story selected/written.
- The students of other groups give the scene a title and describe what they see, who are the statues , in what condition/relation
- The sculptor tells the story of the scene and encourages members of the others groups to change the statues as to give a different-but realistic- ending to the story "lightning forum- breaking the oppression'

b. **Rainbow of Desire** (exploring the feelings and thoughts of the oppressed and the oppressors)

- The protagonist acts a scene from the story/stories developed with other spect-actors, whom the protagonist usually chooses
- “normal mode”: the situation is presented in a structurally real way
- “stop and think” : joker tries to reach unspoken thoughts and feelings of the actors-inmates. The joker uses the “stop” command to try to focus the actors on something they are avoiding or eliding.
- Two desires of the protagonist enter into conflict. The “agora” mode is used to show inner conflicts. Actors engage in dialogue or conflict as representatives of different desires or parts of the protagonist. The conflict culminates in a crisis, which is also a point of opportunity. The “softly softly” mode uses slowness or quiet to encourage reflection instead of emotional explosion
- The “three wishes” mode allows the protagonist to change the situation with wishes. - the protagonist doesn’t yet have affirmative desires – s/he just wants to be rid of particular problems.
- The “disassociation” mode separates the inner monologue, outer dialogue, and desire in action as different stages of the performance. Firstly, actors all vocalise their character’s inner thoughts, simultaneously. Then they talk to each other. Finally, they act without talking. The “playing to the deaf” mode tries to perform the entire scene without words. This is a way to intensify scenes which depend too much on words.

c. **Forum theatre**

- the students of each group perform a play with a scripted core, based on Storyline development ‘BEING IN PRISON’ , in which the oppressed character(s) fail to overturn, although he/she has allies, its oppression by the oppressor , who has also allies.
- the audience -the other groups- could propose any solution, by calling out suggestions to the actors who would improvise the changes on stage
- the actors begin the production again, although often in a condensed form. At any point during this second performance, any spect-actor may call out "stop!" and take the place of the actor portraying the oppressed individual
- the audience -the other groups- is encouraged to actually practise their change, by coming on stage as "spect-actors" to replace the protagonist and act out an intervention to "break the oppression". This actor stays on stage but to the side, giving suggestions to the spect-actor who has replaced him/her
- the students-actors who welcome the spectator volunteering onto the stage play against the spectator's attempts to intervene and change the story, offering a strong resistance so that the difficulties in making any change are also acknowledged.

d. Newspaper theatre- worksheet 8

Simple Reading: a news item from worksheet 8 is read

Crossed- Complementary Reading: information generally omitted by the ruling class is added to the news.: two news item are read in alternating form: THE OTHER ASPECT, complementing or contrasting each other in a new dimension.

Rhythmical Reading: article is read to a rhythm (musical), so it acts as a critical "filter" of the news, revealing the true content initially concealed in the newspaper.

Parallel Action: students mimic the actions as the news is being read. One hears the news and watches its visual complement.

Improvisation: news is improvised on stage to exploit all its variants and possibilities.

Historical: data recurred from historical moments, events in other countries, or in social systems are added to the news.

Text out of Context: news is presented out of context in which it was originally published- present a scene of oppression

e. Legislative theatre -"transitive democracy'

the whole class is participating divided in pro and con group

- the scene is based on a proposed law on Incarceration to be passed

FOR EXAMPLE: should youth under *eighteen* imprisoned?

- Spect-actors may take the stage and express their opinions.
- They are encouraged to read:

WORKSHEET 9: A HEALTHY APPROACH TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.

WORKSHEET 10: Should Juveniles Be Charged as Adults in the Criminal Justice System?

WORKSHEET 11: Should Juveniles Be Tried as Adults Pros and Cons

<https://www.englishclub.com/esl-forums/viewtopic.php?t=48486>

<https://www.debate.org/debates/Youth-Offenders-should-be-Imprisoned/1/>

- Finally they vote

(THE SAME PROCEDURE CAN BE RUNNED THROUGH A SCHOOL BLOG)

f. Invisible theatre

- Each group creates a scene ' my father/mother/sister/brother is going to jail'
- They perform the scene in the schoolyard

- The performers attempt to disguise the fact that it is a performance from those who observe and who may choose to participate in it, encouraging the spectators (or rather, unknowing spect-actors) to view it as a real event.

3. Dialectical Discussion- Evaluation of the educational scenario- Conclusions

- The worksheet 1 will be given at the end of the project to re-answer the questions
- Pupils evaluate- comparing their answers- the possible change of views and positions on the subject.
- The teacher guides a discussion :

about the possible change of views and positions on the subject

the process of changing

what students can/will do for people in jails-prisons-refugee camps-detention camps .
for the situation to be changed
- Therefore the dialectic approach will emerge and not imposed by the teacher (Socratic dialectical and midwifery /maieutic method)

30-45 minutes

Worksheets & Resources

- Worksheet 1: Warm up
- Worksheet 2: Poetry
- Worksheet 3: Painting
- Worksheet 4: Stories
- Worksheet 5: Cartoons
- Worksheet 6: Music
- Worksheet 7: If I was you
- Worksheet 8: Newspaper theatre
- Worksheet 9: A healthy approach to children and young people in trouble.
- Worksheet 10: Should Juveniles Be Charged as Adults in the Criminal Justice System?
- Worksheet 11: Should Juveniles Be Tried as Adults Pros and Cons

Infrastructure & Materials needed

- Paper and pen
- Access to internet

Versions-adaptations

- Movies and documentaries on prison and human rights
- Theatre in prison (documentaries)

Challenges

- The lack of knowledge of teachers related to theatre techniques

Worksheet 1

WARMING UP

Please discuss in groups:

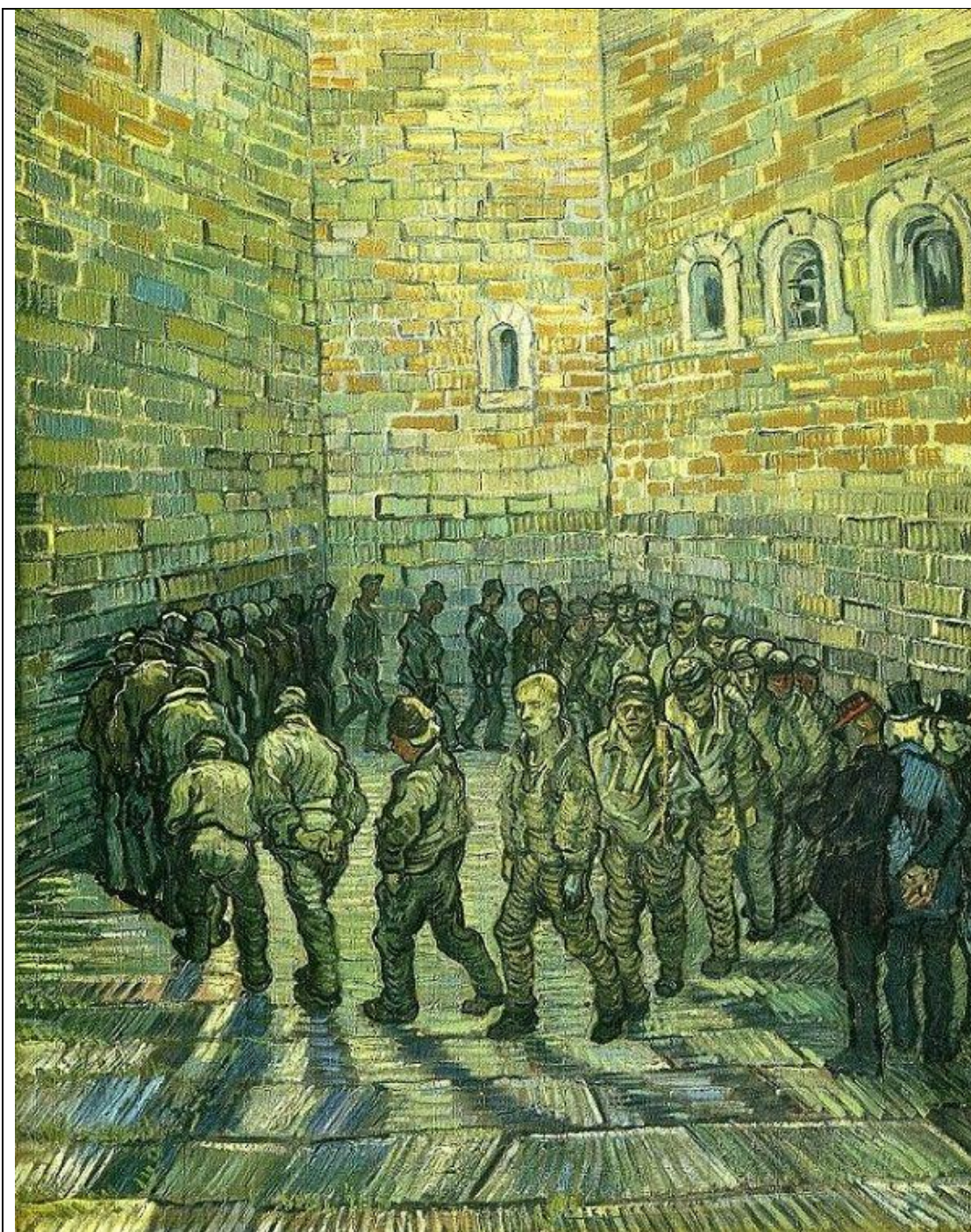
- What is jail-prison?
- Why are there prisons / what is the purpose of imprisonment?
- Who are imprisoned?
- Had they, before conviction, all human rights?
- By whom are imprisoned?
- What are the conditions of everyday life in prisons?
- Are inmates deprived of human rights?
- What is the result of imprisonment?

Worksheet 2

PAINTINGS

« ***If you let this artwork impress you, your outlook on the prison system will change.*** »

Mr. Nettersheim, German Justice Ministry



Prisoners Exercising, 1890 by Vincent Van Gogh

<https://www.vincentvangogh.org/prisoners-exercising.jsp>

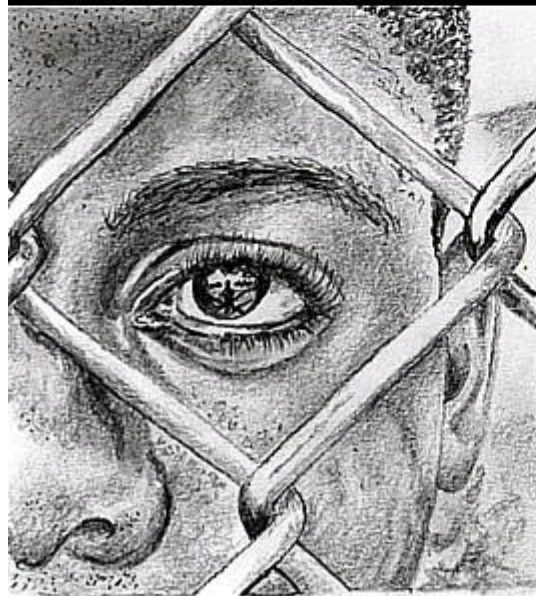
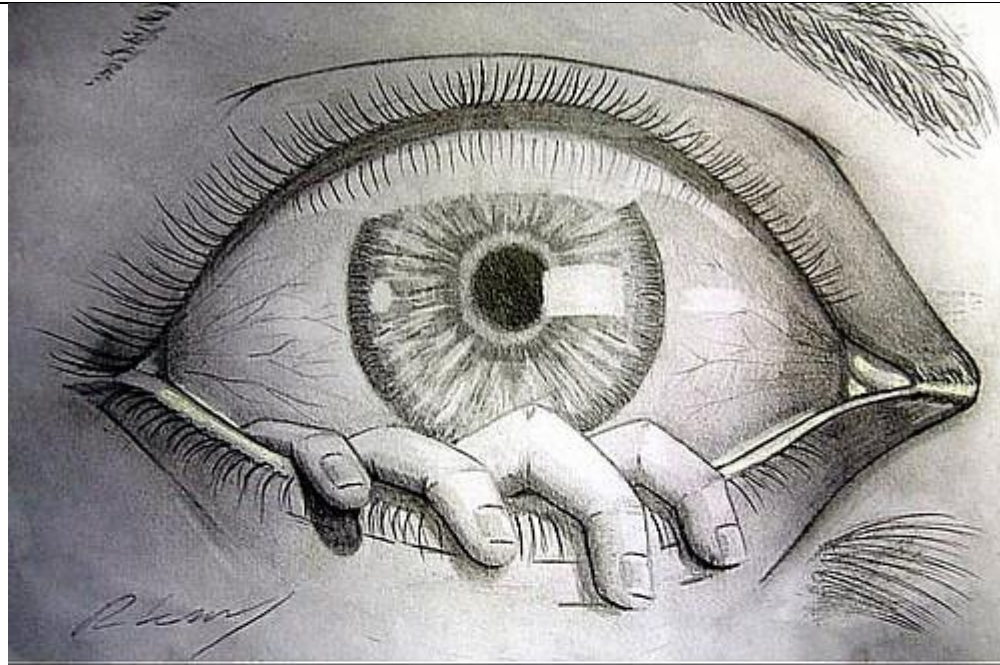


Jason Peters, *Freedom and Liberty*



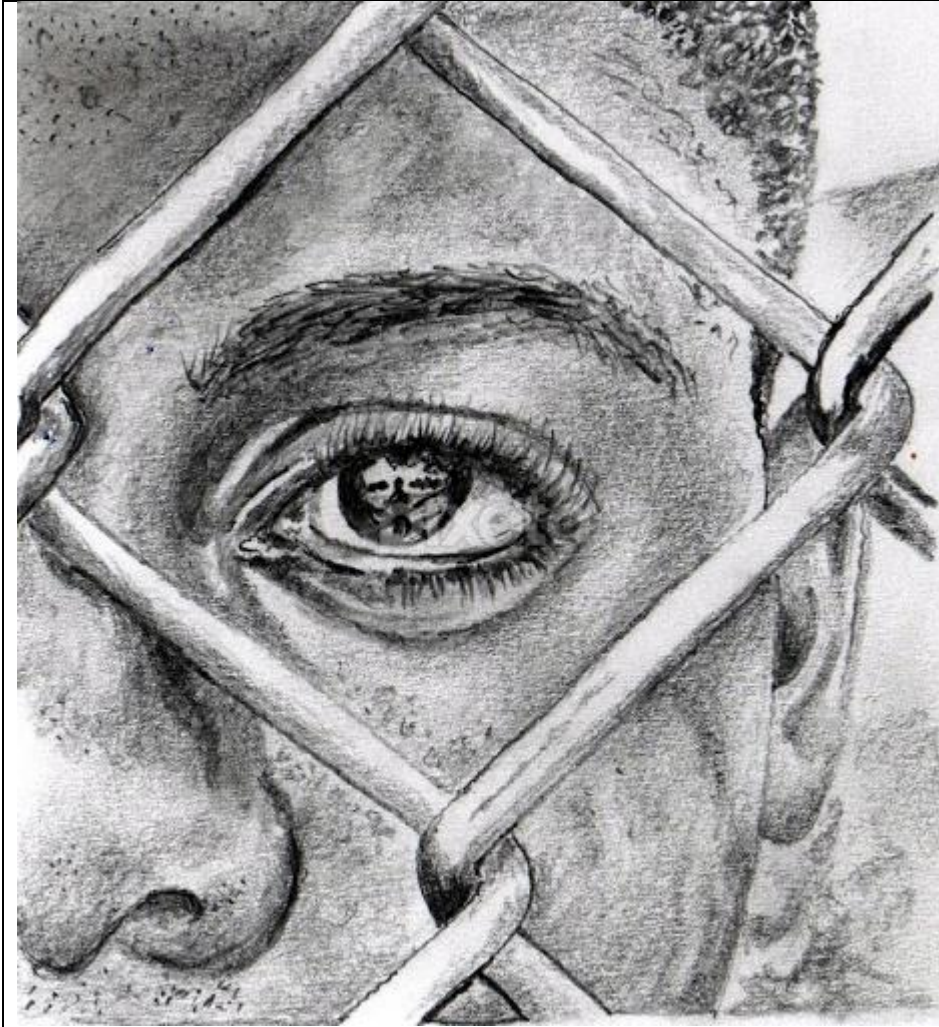
Moliere Dimanche

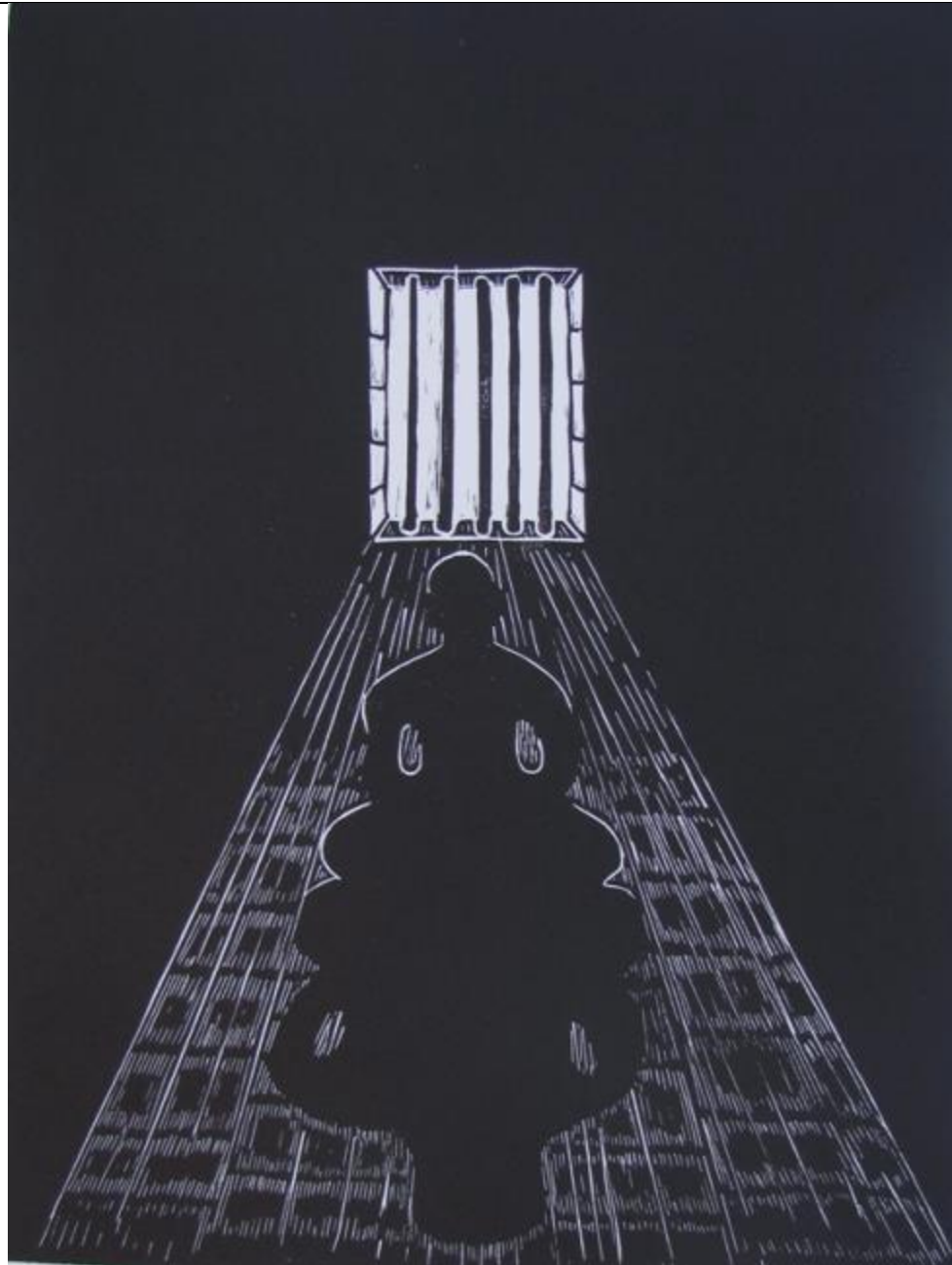
<https://www.google.com/search?q=moliere+dimance&oq=moliere+dimance&ags=chrome..69i57j0l3.15131j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>



Reflections

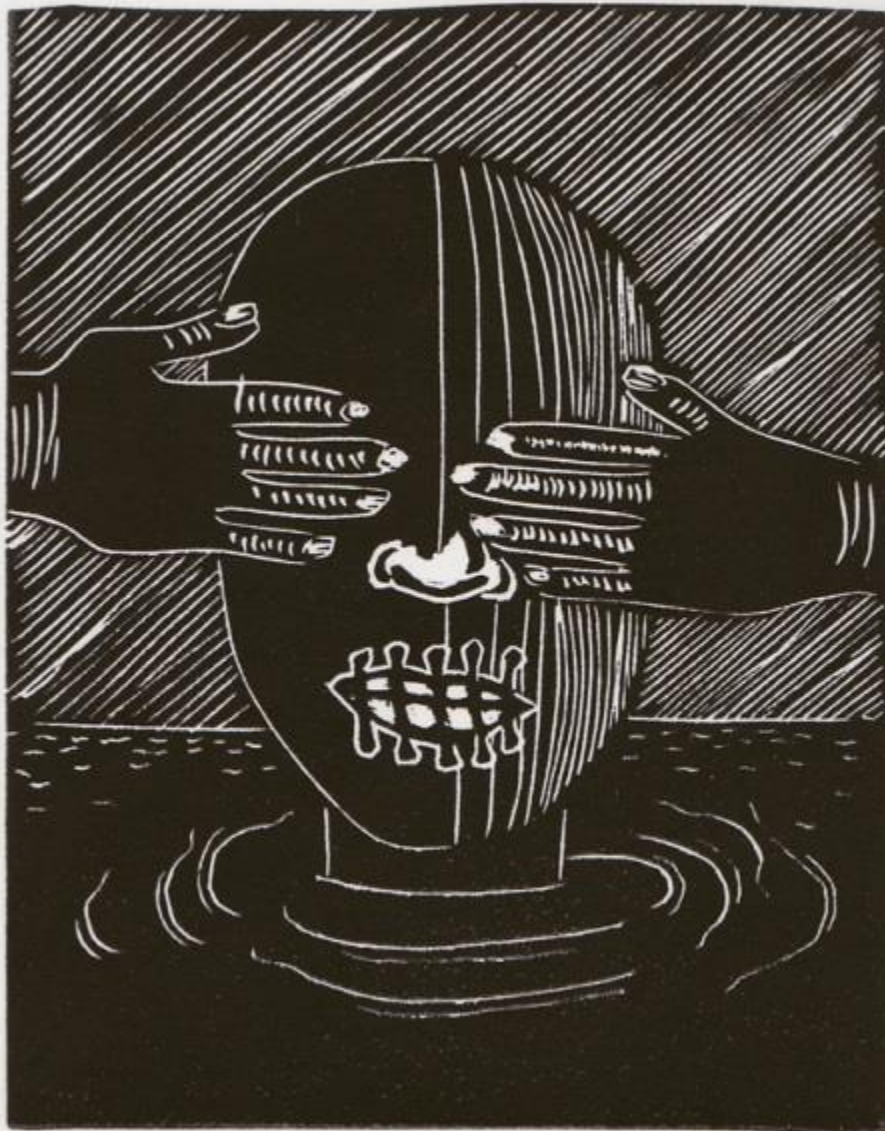
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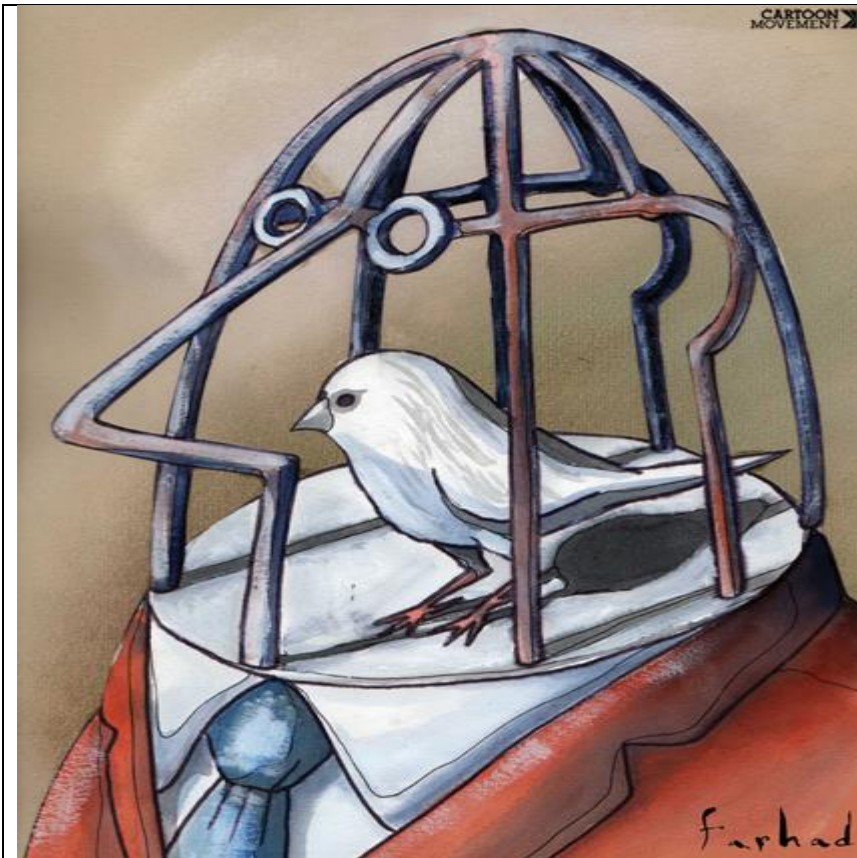
'Obscuring Self' © Rolf Kissman

<https://prisonphotography.org/tag/prison-art/>



"Senseless" Felix Lucero 88" 10 of 10

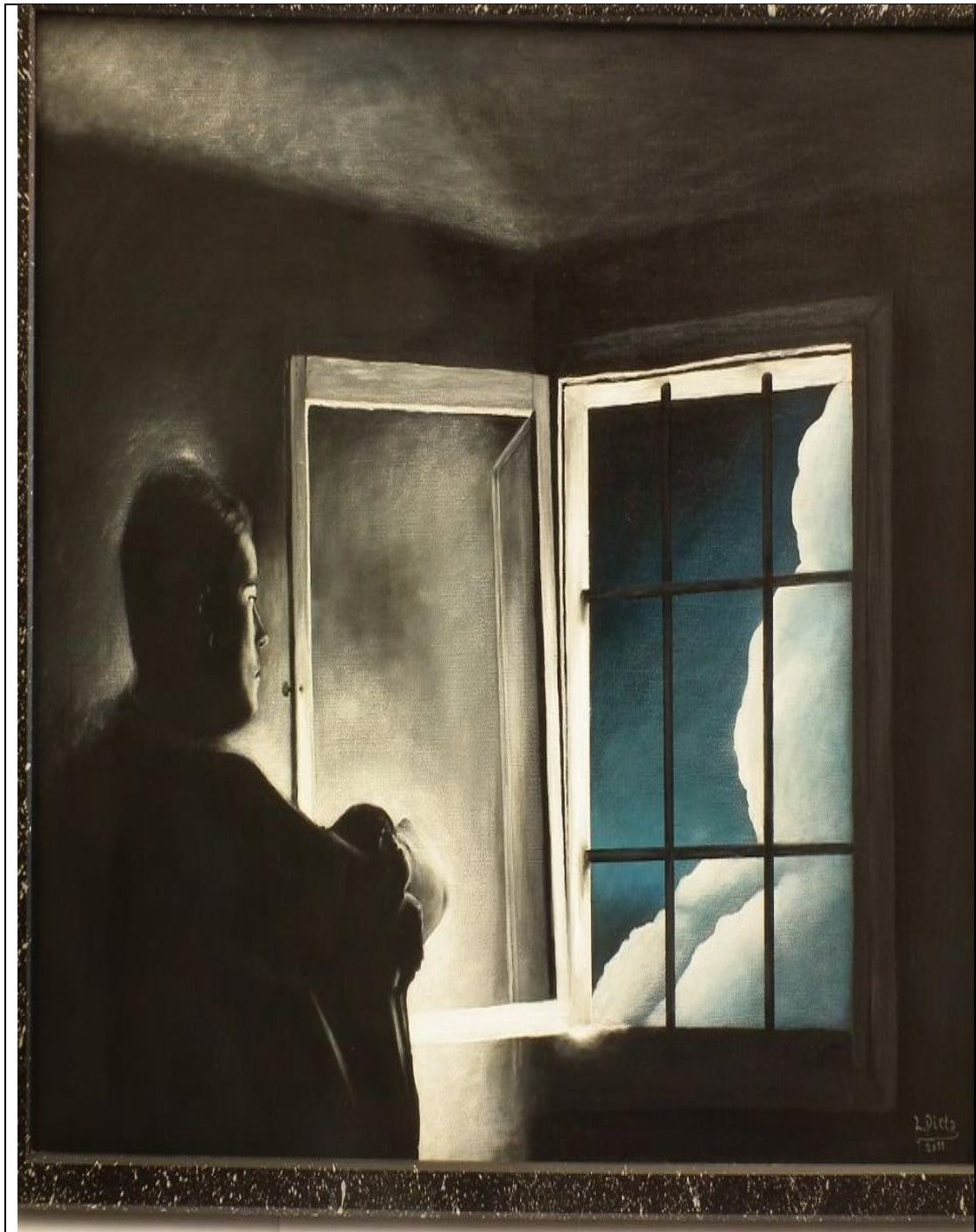
Senseless © Felix Lucero <https://prisonphotography.org/tag/prison-art/>



Prison of the Mind Farhad Foroutanian



<https://www.mic.com/articles/90529/14-incredible-works-that-have-redefined-art-in-the-21st-century>

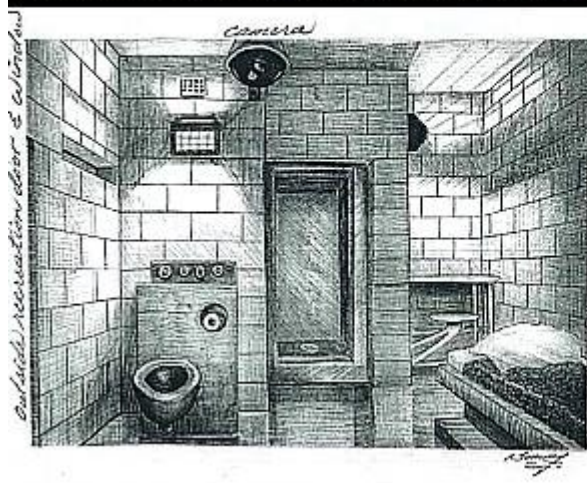
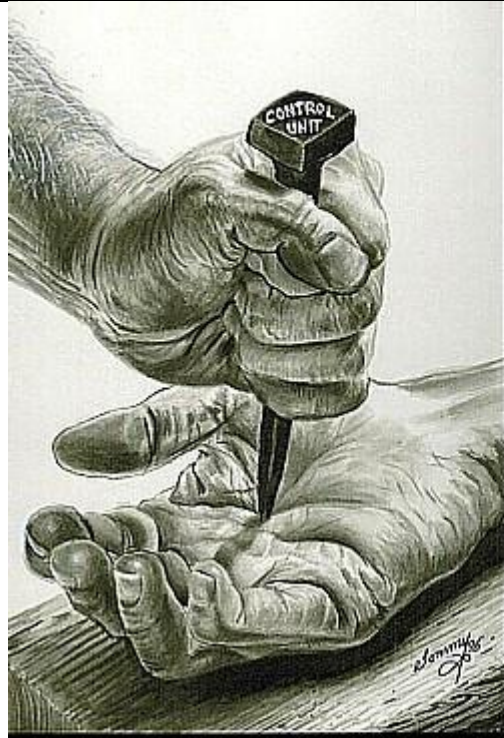


Lothar, Germany <https://dorothysgallery.com/art-and-prison-half-a-square-meter-of-freedom/>



Banksy, Borf, <https://www.mattlumine.com/zehra-dogan-in-prison-for-a-painting-and-without-brushes-continues-to-draw-with-her-blood/?cn-reloaded=1>

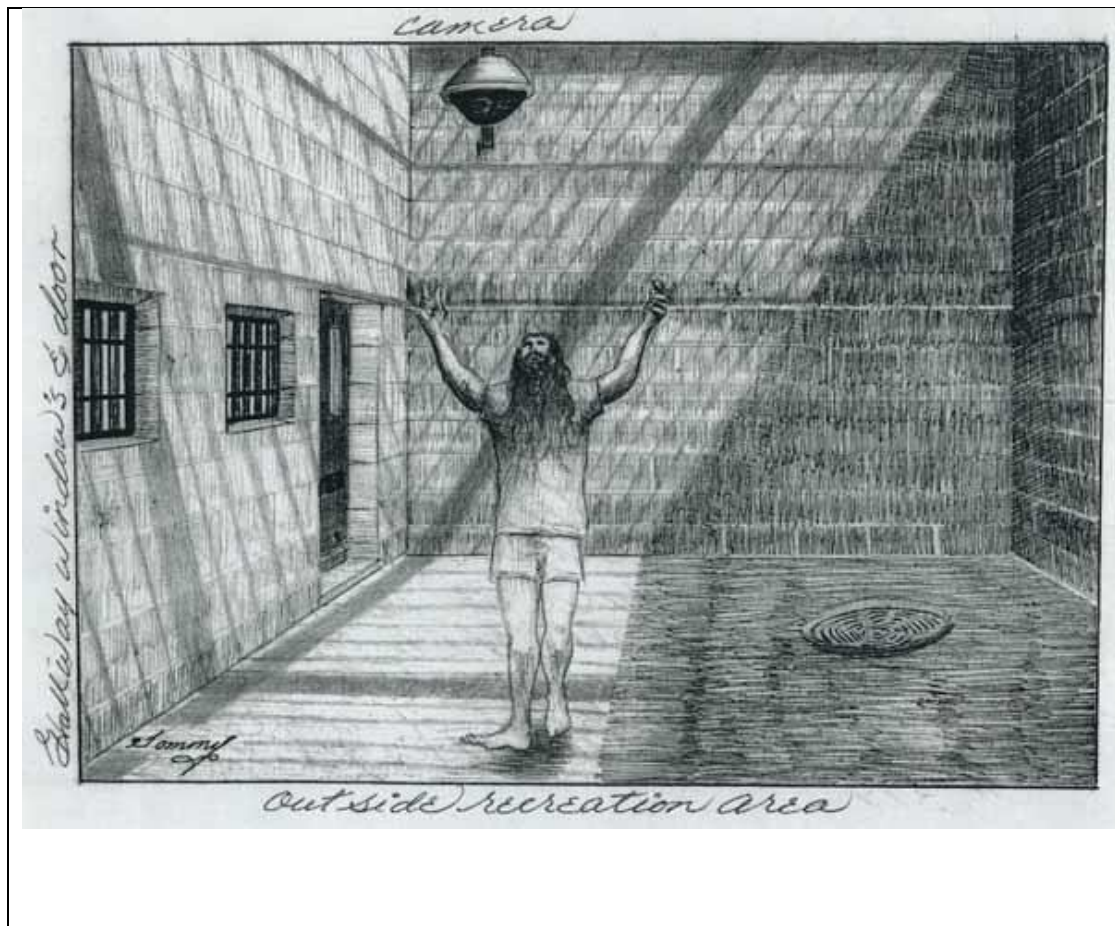
Zehra Doğan, a Kurdish journalist and painter, imprisoned for publishing drawings against the Turkish army



The art of Thomas Silverstein

Thomas Silverstein has been kept under “no human contact” conditions since 1983.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=THE+ART+OF+THOMAS+SILVERSTEIN&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8v9vp1NnjAhXCa1AKHYQJDmgQsAR6BAgJEAE>



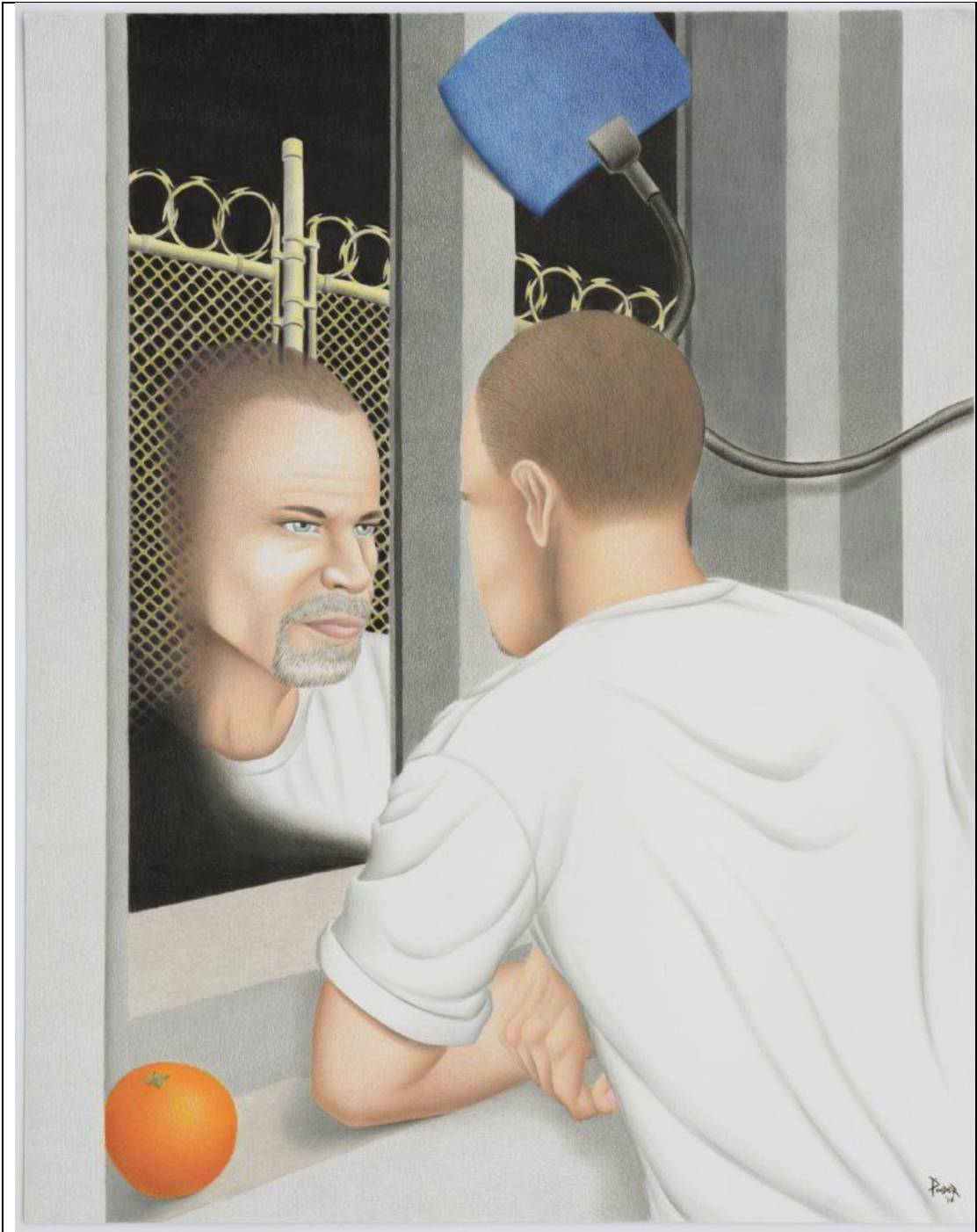


<http://art-now-and-then.blogspot.com/2016/02/prison-art.html>

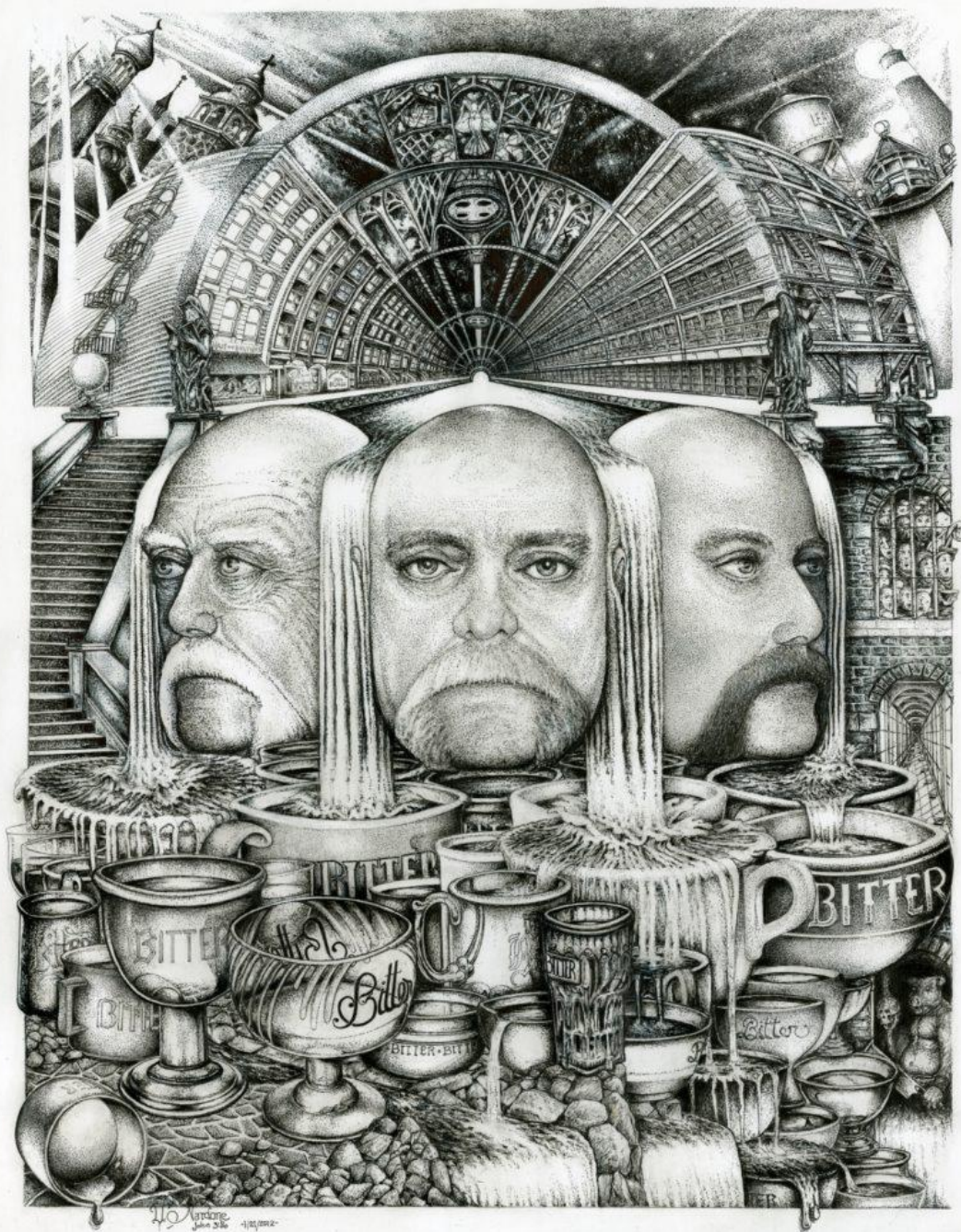


Lamont Thergood, *The Day* (2014). Collection of Jeffrey Greene.

<https://news.artnet.com/exhibitions/how-art-changed-prison-1472758>



James Pinder, *Outside Looking In* (2016). Collection of Jeffrey Greene.



Vincent Nardone, *Bitter Cup #36* (2011–2012). Collection of Jeffrey Greene.



Artist/Inmate: William

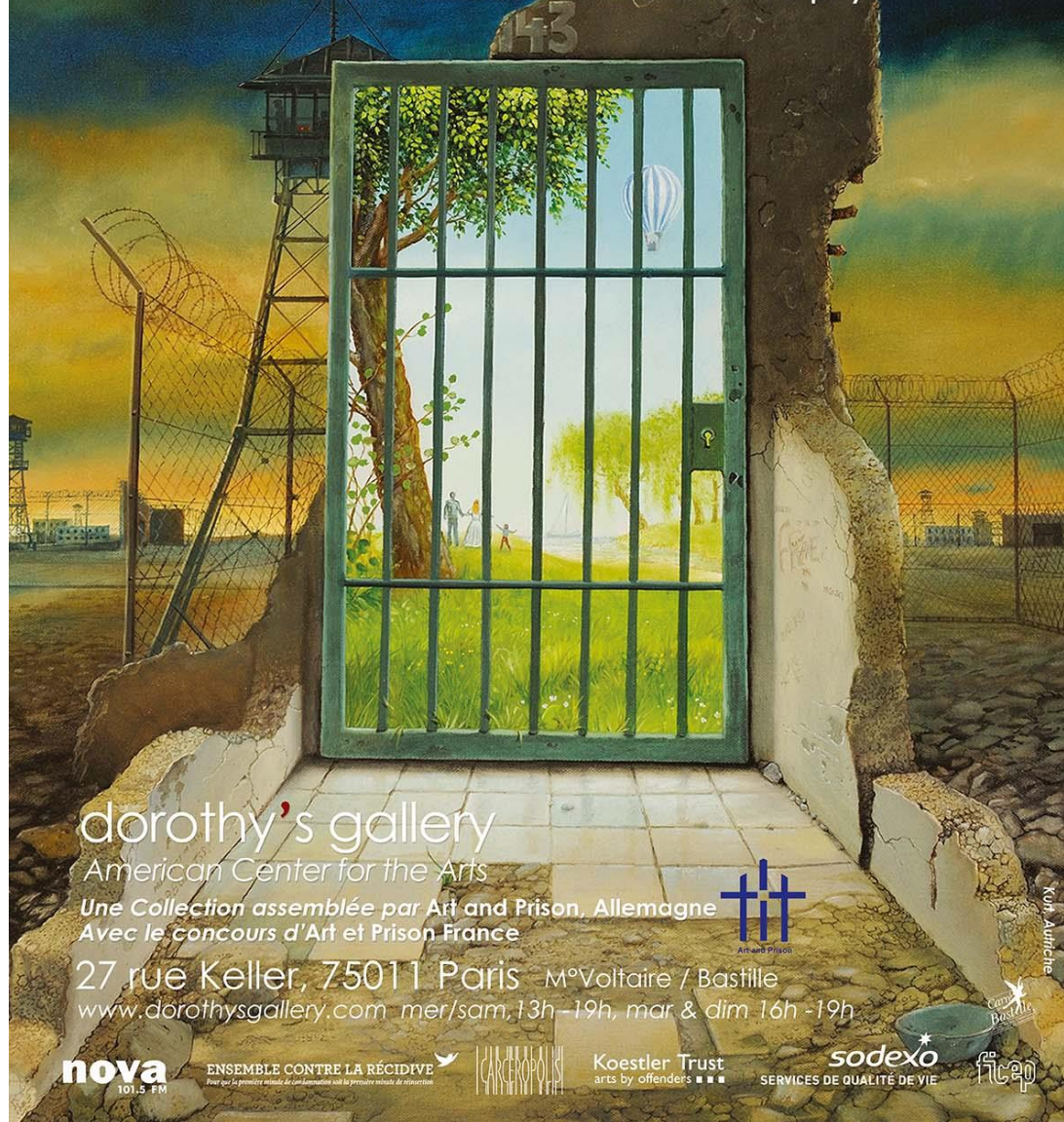
Becker https://www.google.com/search?q=PRISON+ART&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjH0b2F19njAhVNDuwKHWe-DEQQ_AUIESgB&biw=1366&bih=657#imgdii=NWGYnneENw7sdM:&imgsrc=N2bLs4POkrjso

M:

17 octobre - 12 décembre 2014

UN DEMI-MÈTRE CARRÉ DE LIBERTÉ

Art en Prison - Tableaux de détenus de 40 pays



The central image is a painting of a prison cell door. The door is made of green metal bars and is set into a rough, brown stone wall. Through the bars, a vibrant landscape is visible: a green field, a blue sky with a hot air balloon, and a lighthouse in the distance. To the left of the door, there is a watchtower and a fence with barbed wire. To the right, another fence is visible. The overall scene is a contrast between the harsh prison environment and the freedom depicted in the landscape.

dorothy's gallery
American Center for the Arts
Une Collection assemblée par Art and Prison, Allemagne
Avec le concours d'Art et Prison France

27 rue Keller, 75011 Paris M°Voltaire / Bastille
www.dorothysgallery.com mer/sam, 13h-19h, mar & dim 16h-19h

nova
101.5 FM

ENSEMBLE CONTRE LA RÉCIDIVE
Pour que la première année de l'accompagnement soit la dernière année de réinsertion

ART AND PRISON

Koestler Trust
arts by offenders ■■■

sodexo
SERVICES DE QUALITÉ DE VIE

2014

Kon. Aulich

<https://dorothysgallery.com/art-and-prison-half-a-square-meter-of-freedom/>

Worksheet 3

POETRY

1.The Forgotten Victim © Alison Henderson Published: December 2007

A person's comment:

"That's her there! Her hubby's inside!"

"How can she stand by him?" a neighbor cried!

"I'd throw away the lock and key!"

"That husband of hers should never be free!"

"That woman can do so much better than him!"

"I'd throw all his letters away in the bin!"

"Just what can he offer now that he's locked away?"

"A complete waste of space!" she shouted that day.

"That's the one there! Her boyfriend's inside!"

"He's scum of the earth!" a neighbor implied!

"If I were her, well I'd meet someone else!"

"Not wasting my life to be left on the shelf!"

"That woman's been left to cope with the shame."

"It was all over the papers! And gave out his name."

"He's useless! A criminal! Bring back the rope!"

"He'll do it again! For him there's no hope!"

My comment:

That man you condemn has a child and a wife

A mum and a dad who have given him life!

What would you do if this happened to yours?

Deny all your love and close all the doors?

Do you honestly think I'd sink to a level

And just turn my back and deem him a devil?

Yes! He's done wrong and is serving his time

And no, I do not agree with his crime.

"That woman" you point at, yes it is me.

I was born with a name, as I'm human you see!

I'm innocent, just in case you forgot

And love him whether you like it or not!

I've had the abuse, the comments and more.

It's nothing I haven't heard all before.

I mean no offense when I say this to you

I'm a victim as well, a forgotten one too.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/husband-in-prison>

2. Daddy, You're In Jail © Sydnie L. Jackson Published: February 2006

Daddy, you're in jail so far, far away

and it hurts me almost every day

I knew when I was there

it was coming to an end

I knew I should of done something

right there and then.

Daddy, you're in jail so far, far away
you can't even be a part of my life today.
as I go through boyfriends and do other things
you won't be there to call
when me and my mom are
yelling names, cussing at each other,
and she's putting me to shame because
I did some of those bad teenage things.

Daddy, you're in jail so far, far away
I wonder, when you get out
will things be the same
will you be the dad that I know or
will you be someone else 'cause
jail changed your soul.
I don't understand the reason for this
going to prison for drugs when in
there it's a bigger mess.
it's like taking a drunk to a bar
and expecting him to sober up
when you know he's just
gonna get more messed up.

Daddy, you're in jail so far, far away
when you get out I guess I will see

the answers to the question I have today
but for right now I will just continue to pray
and hope for the best until that day.
I still love you and will write you too
please don't forget about me because
I will always care and miss you

Daddy, you're in jail so far, far away
while I sit here, tears running down my face
hoping everything will fall into place
I will never forget the time we had
and try to be brave and not be sad
Daddy, I know it's hard and you got a lot on your plate
but remember there's people willing to wait
for you to turn straight

Daddy, you're in jail so far, far away
you got 3 kids and parents too
that haven't given up on you
you got a second chance to make it right
so continue the fight of the battle you've got
to make it back to the ones you love!!!!

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/dad-in-jail>

3.Thoughts Of A Convict © Luis Verduzco Published: October 2009

Someday the gates will open,
and once more I'll be free.

A fact that makes me wonder,

"What will become of me?"

Have I a future awaiting me,

Such as the past I've known?

Will I be accepted by others,

or forced to walk alone?

Are there opportunities of employment,

for a man such as I?

Or will I have to sell dope again,

in order to get by?

What of the friends that I once knew,

but haven't seen in years?

Will they accept my friendship now,

without any doubts or fears?

What is there awaiting me,

When I go out of that gate?

Is there yet a chance for me,

or is it now too late?

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/thoughts-of-a-convict>

4. Thinking About Mother© Terrie L. Sherman Published: February 2006

Within these walls this prison
My mind and thoughts run free.
I think of mom and days gone by
And of what she meant to me.
I wonder how life would have been
Had she not gone away
And would I be behind these bars
If she were here today
How would my life be different?
I've asked a million times
If I could only talk to her
She might have stopped my crimes.
I'm thankful for the time we had
But she could not have known
Of the dark void left within my life
In the years since she's been gone.
I needed her and miss her.
I love her for a fact
But I know my life is different
And I know I can't turn back.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/could-have-been>

5. FIVE POEMS FROM PRISON Anonymous from Iran, August 15, 2014

(1)

From your eye that you are captive Dervish
A world is imprisoned and you are free
The truth is:
The bird is shot in the sky

The poet is more poet in the cage

(2)

Blood should be in vessels

Not in jars

Not on the pavement

(3)

They frighten the wind with jail,

Me with loneliness

With you

No confinement

Is solitary

(4)

We rhyme

We

Cannot live,

We rhyme

(5)

Prison door

Opened

To welcome another prisoner

<https://pen.org/five-poems-from-prison/>

6.A Poem About An Old Prison Man - Poem by Charles Manson

Autoplay next video Waiting on Death Row

People coming in overalls

Taking me to the gas chamber

Scuffling of feet

They took him down the hallway

Feeling everyone's heartbeat

The central control of the soul

Batons and retro-tons

Ingrown toenails

One time all around you

All round you, bump-bump

Save my air, save my air

My air, my air

Air, water, trees

Machines eating the night

Energy moving

Nuclear fires

Burning reactors on my gate

Fires of hell are burning

Come home

Can you see

Can you say

That you say

That you really love this place?

<https://www.poemhunter.com/poems/prison/page-1/37148/>

7. VICTOR HARA , Estadio Chile, September 1973

There are five thousand of us here

in this small part of the city.

We are five thousand.

I wonder how many we are in all

in the cities and in the whole country?

Here alone

are ten thousand hands which plant seeds
and make the factories run.
How much humanity
exposed to hunger, cold, panic, pain,
moral pressure, terror and insanity?
Six of us were lost
as if into starry space.
One dead, another beaten as I could never have believed
a human being could be beaten.
The other four wanted to end their terror
one jumping into nothingness,
another beating his head against a wall,
but all with the fixed stare of death.
What horror the face of fascism creates!
They carry out their plans with knife-like precision.
Nothing matters to them.
To them, blood equals medals,
slaughter is an act of heroism.
Oh God, is this the world that you created,
for this your seven days of wonder and work?
Within these four walls only a number exists
which does not progress,
which slowly will wish more and more for death.
But suddenly my conscience awakes
and I see that this tide has no heartbeat,
only the pulse of machines
and the military showing their midwives' faces

full of sweetness.

Let Mexico, Cuba and the world

cry out against this atrocity!

We are ten thousand hands

which can produce nothing.

How many of us in the whole country?

The blood of our President, our compañero,

will strike with more strength than bombs and machine guns!

So will our fist strike again!

How hard it is to sing

when I must sing of horror.

Horror which I am living,

horror which I am dying.

To see myself among so much

and so many moments of infinity

in which silence and screams

are the end of my song.

What I see, I have never seen

What I have felt and what I feel

Will give birth to the moment...

Víctor Lidio Jara Martínez was a Chilean teacher, theater director, poet, singer-songwriter and communist political activist tortured and killed during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

8. The Poem: 'Lights Out' by Mahvash Sabet

Weary but wakeful, feverish but still

fixed on the evasive bulb that winks on the wall,

thinking surely it's time for lights out,

longing for darkness, for the total black-out.

Trapped in distress, caught in this bad dream,
the dust under my feet untouchable as shame,
flat on the cold ground, a span for a bed,
lying side by side, with a blanket on my head.

And the female guards shift, keeping vigil till dawn,
eyes moving everywhere, watching everyone,
sounds of the rosary, the round of muttered words,
fish lips moving, the glance of a preying bird.

Till another hour passes in friendly chat,
in soft talk of secrets or a sudden spat,
with some snoring, others wheezing
some whispering, rustling, sneezing —
filling the space with coughs and groans,
suffocated sobs, incessant moans —
You can't see the sorrow after lights out.
I long for the dark, the total black-out.

Prison poems, a collection of poetry written by Mahvash Sabet on the fifth anniversary of her incarceration. She is a prisoner of conscience.

10. Capital Rule

Democracy strictly for the ruling class
White membership surpassing public rhetoric
Law abiding racist transparent as glass
Caste systems installed brick by brick

National monuments symbolizing a white washed past

Founded on the scorched back of slaves

Indigenous citizens trusted as an outcast

In a society erected from mass graves

11.Business before Humanity

Westernize business monopolizing international resources

Minerals to exploit for dictatorship use

Barren lands unproductive in future losses

Polluted waters flowing from commercial abuse

Cancerous air with no consciousness of guilt

Neo colonialism as the world class stage

Citizens of their country living in filth

The only rights to a prison cage

a California prisoner, October 2003

12.Just another day

Boom! Get down! Boom!

Code Adam! Code Adam!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Seven inmates in combat!

Sssss... Sssss... Sssss...

Bam! Clank! Bup! Clank!

On your stomach damit! Bam!

Put your hands behind your back!

Watch out! Another hostile!

Bang! Sssss... Sssss... Bang!

Next time you're history buddy!

Tell medical to hurry! Three looks dead!

Apply more pressure! Stop the bleeding!

Weapon Check! No weapons involved!

How can we explain three stiffs?

Very easy! We saw what appeared to be weapons!

Do you think that would work?

Ask the jury that convicted these poor fools!

- Too much of Nothing

Too many prisoners, too much time to relax

Too many direct orders in a place of disorder

Too many psych pills, too much state tax

Too many knuckle heads competing to be porter

Too much fiction, too much petty conniving

Too much vain talk, too much senseless jiving

Too much stale air, too much empty sadness

Too much junk food, too much sound madness

Too much of too many affecting all

Too much of nothing behind this wall

- a California prisoner, November 2003 a California prisoner, December 2003

14.The following four poems are all by the same California prisoner locked up in the SHU, August 2005

Prison Sounds

Jingle of keys

A turning lock

The slamming gate

Footfalls abate

Skeleton Bay

Beyond the threshold

Beneath the lies

Underworld otherness

Minds unmade

Inside out

Dark days

Black nights

Granite graves

Last rights

Dungeon Dreams

Falling, Falling

Without a catcher

Into darkness

The horror! The horror!

Where pandemonium reigns

Prison Abyss

Fallen angels

Crash and burn

Ashes to ashes

No return

Charred and tattered

Broken then crushed

Beyond recognition

Dust to dust

<https://www.prisoncensorship.info/archive/etext/agitation/prisons/poetry/>

Worksheet 4

STORY TELLING

1. By Lori Romero, Denver Colorado 7 years ago

I am a female who is out on parole. I spent 5 years of my life in prison for my crime. They said my punishment was for rehabilitation, but instead they just locked me away. I didn't learn how to be independent because they told me when to get up and when to shower or eat. They clothed me so I didn't learn the value of anything because all I needed was provided. When I got out it was even worse I didn't have the skills I needed to stand on my own two feet. The system is set up for me to fail. I am proud to say that I am still free with God's help and people who really care about me. So, in the end prison is just a place to separate you not rehabilitate you.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/thoughts-of-a-convict>

2. By Nicole M Hunter 1 year ago

Mommy's away. It's been 4 years since I've seen you or even touched you. I miss you, but at the same time I'm scared to see you for fear that I'll get attached and know deep down Mommy didn't change. You missed my most important birthday. I finally turned 18. Now to know I'll be 19 but Mommy's been away. When I think about you sometimes it's the good, but most of the time it's the bad. When I was little you didn't treat me like your daughter. I was your best friend. I remember the first time I touched a cigar, put it to my lips and you guided me. Or when I touched a beer. Mommy, I was only 11. How about when I had home pass from the foster home and you shot up on Thanksgiving. I'll never forget. My eyes were exposed. I can't say I forgive you, but now I see where I came from. My childhood was taken from me. I have pain and depression I battle every day, but one day I'll be stronger than it.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/could-have-been>

3. What I learned in a Qatari jail cell, Rory Sutherland

I hated imprisonment more than almost anything else in my life. There is only one thing of value to rescue from it, which is that it is an experience which is impossible to recreate in the imagination. Just as rich people cannot pretend to know what it's like to be poor, free

people cannot imagine what it's like to be imprisoned. A mere 24 hours of uncertainty was agony for me. ...

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2014/02/what-i-learned-in-a-gatari-jail-cell/>

4. William Howard 'Tex' Johnson, 67, Robbery

"Well, I got 50 years. Snatching \$24 out of a man's hand. It was 1959, in Birmingham (Alabama). A lot was going down. We were struggling with the civil rights thing, and Dr. Martin Luther King was leading it. And I had come down there with this organization. I didn't even think about it [the racial motive], because all I was thinking about is, I get the chance, I'm gonna escape, and I did.

I've escaped three times. And I could go like the wind, and they never could catch me. The last time I escaped, it was 1962. They didn't catch me till 1992. They never gave me no time for escaping. All they do is just get you and bring you back, and that's all.

I'm a little disappointed at myself, you know. Cause I got a good education. My first wife had died. Then I married another girl. She and I had a son. I guess she's dead, too.

It's a waste of a life, it is. I'm in no shape to run now. I'd like the freedom. But I'd never get over the fence. I'm doing 50 years for robbery. But I never robbed anyone. I only took 24 dollars from one man. I consider robbery is when you use a weapon. I never used a weapon

5. The Everyday Chaos of Incarceration

"Nothing about life inside prison is normal."

You see, prison is all about "normalizing" abnormal behavior, to use a word popularized in the Trump era. Nothing about life inside prison is normal. Prison is the very absence of normal. When I first entered prison, almost everything seemed alien and disgusting. On day one, I was stripped of my clothes alongside a bunch of other men, marched around naked, and issued an ID number. I'd been methodically shamed and humiliated, assigned a new form of identification, and then informed that not only was I no longer free, I was effectively the property of the state of Michigan — all in the course of a few minutes. I was stunned. But today, 20 years later, that all seems quite normal to me. "251141, report to your housing unit... Hey, 251141, where the hell d'you think you're going? Get over here... 251141, you've got mail...." As for strip searches, well, I've endured hundreds of them. "Bend over and spread your ass cheeks... Lift your dick... Now your nuts... Hold your mouth open with your fingers... No, I don't have anything for you to wash your hands with... Let me see the bottoms of your feet..." On my second day in prison, I was among 20 or so inmates who were marched naked down a long, Alcatraz-like gallery past several open-faced cells to a grubby, dimly lit communal shower. The bath area was a huge, open chamber sporting several shower heads protruding from mold- and mildew-covered walls. There, a number of men huddled under the sputtering, scalding-hot spray were going to

town on themselves as if having an audience of fellow inmates watch you masturbate were the most normal thing in the world.

Another norm in prison is the idea that friendships are fleeting. You might wake up one morning and discover that your best friend of several years is gone, transferred to another facility with the snap of someone's fingers. He may even have been your cellmate, for you have no control over who you live with (another norm). Chaos is a norm, though it sounds oxymoronic to say so. I haven't experienced a truly good night's sleep — a sound, comfortable sleep — in two decades. Too much chaos. Too much uncertainty. That brings me to violence, which in prison is the ultimate norm. Over the years, I've been stabbed, cut, clunked, almost raped, and had the crap kicked out of me on numerous occasions. And in self-defense — especially back when I was young and considered "pretty" by the sexual predators — I've been forced to do a number of those things myself. Don't get me wrong: Despite my crimes, I'm no monster. In fact, I think I'm actually a pacifist at heart, and I still sympathize with those who are abused, injured, or victimized. I once saved a man who was choking to death in the chow hall by performing the Heimlich maneuver on him. And while it's true that half of the inmates eating dinner did applaud me — mostly for defying the guards who kept ordering me to stop — the other half booed me for not letting the guy die. Another of our norms is growing accustomed to having everything we do planned out and tracked by authority figures. I'm told when to eat, when to sleep, when to go outside, when to talk with and see my family, when to shower, when to cut my hair or iron my clothes. My money is managed for me; I pay zero taxes; and my health care (what little there is of it) is free and monitored by others. I can't remember the last time I had to make a major decision like that for myself. I grow nervous just imagining the prospect. By the grace of God, and with a little help from my wonderful family and friends, I believe I'll be okay when the day I'm free finally arrives. But what about those of us who have no loved ones left alive because they've spent a bazillion years behind bars? Who will help them adjust to having to make decisions for themselves? Who will help them forget 20 or 30 or 40 years worth of "normal"? Maybe this is why so many of us fail when we get out. Someone smarter than me will need to figure all that out. But I will say this: Every single man who's lived in prison long enough that he's learned how to digest the food agrees with me. As I've worked on this essay, I've let every inmate I know read it, and they have all nodded their heads. The question you must ask yourselves, readers, is this: What are you going to do about it? Some may say that we're "getting what we deserve" in here, but that makes no real sense from a societal standpoint. Better people exiting prisons means a better society. Worse people exiting prisons means a worse society. I think that's simple logic — unless illogic has been normalized for me, too.

Jerry Metcalf, 43, is incarcerated at the Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer, Mich.,

5. Fields of Blood: My Life As a Prison Laborer

"The days would run together. The heat, the drudgery, the daily unpaid toiling in dirt and fields under the hot Texas sun."

A person who finds himself freshly recruited by the Texas criminal justice system into the slave labor force of its many state penitentiaries will soon find they have been thrown into a time warp. As I made my way deeper into this system, in 1981, I found myself bound for a prison called Central Unit, to be my new home for the next 40 years. The bus trip there was a true pain, since we had been handcuffed and essentially herded into a rolling cage. Soon, my senses told me we were getting close to the place where I was born, and it dawned on me fully when I saw the Imperial Sugar refinery. I was born in Sugar Land, Texas, and now I'd be in its prison. We slowed down on Highway 6, right after we passed a small airport and turned down a long straight road. On one side I could see houses for the ranked officials of the corrections department; on the other were fields of men dressed in white, carrying massive hoes called "aggies." They were in a line, "flat-weedin'," as I would find out. Armed guards sat on horses around them, with big straw cowboy hats, spurs, and aviator glasses, meant to shield their eyes from the Texas sun but also to keep the men from seeing who they were looking at. Even from the noisy bus I could hear the "field bosses" yelling and cussing at their unpaid workers and threatening to shoot them. This, I would find out, was normal. At the end of the road (which is kind of symbolic, for most prisoners in Texas are literally at the end of a road) sat the prison I would be at: a huge, white-bricked building with gun towers, razor-ribboned fences ... the works. I would be brought in, unhandcuffed and given over to my new keepers; assigned a dorm; read the riot act by the unit major; and ultimately assigned to a 5-Hoe, a fresh-meat squad of workers. It was very hot. There was no cell space for me yet, so I would sleep on crowded floors for four months at least before my turn for a bed would come. I tried to ask the "BT" (this stands for "building tender," an inmate who assists the prison staff with headcounts and tracking other inmates' whereabouts) about "Hoe-Squad," but he just told me to be sure to go to breakfast, for the mattresses would be picked up off the floor shortly after that. I spent the rest of that day meeting my dorm-mates, and trying to rest up. That night, after lights-out, a man sat down at a table about eight feet from where I had laid a mattress to sleep, cut both of his wrists, rested his head on his arms and bled to death. The guards then berated the dead man for creating all the extra paperwork they now had to now do. Sleep was even further out of the question, because we all were questioned as to what we knew. Finally morning came, and the prison's huge doors started getting slammed open as line-squad turnout started. The BT's listened for the bosses to yell for a particular squad, then relayed the information to us. This is a very intense time. I watched as the dorms opened with a huge slam and a bang when each door hit its stops. Suddenly, men were running, not walking, down the stairs and through a gauntlet of bosses lined up on each side of a breezeway from the building's exit. As we passed, they would try to kick each of us in the butt with spurred cowboy boots, or get a good hit in on us with a 3-foot, quarter-inch-thick strap of leather with a wooden handle. Needless to say, we kept running. Next, we found our squads by lining up on painted numbers. They did a roll-call, and we walked over to an aggie wagon and got a Texas-sized hoe with a homemade handle. It was like someone had cut down a small sapling and then stuck in the tool's head ... bark and all. These went on our shoulders. We paired up and walked out toward the huge fields, as the early morning sun glinted off the razor-ribboned fences. A High-Rider (an armed guard on horseback) watched us as our bosses got their pistols and loaded them; I'd soon learn they loved pointing these at us.

This prison was at one time a sugarcane plantation. Forty-five hundred acres of prime real estate that had been worked by hand more than a century. The land was flat. The air hot and humid. The sweat just poured from me. I was almost shot on my very first day out there. It was so hot. I had laid up for nine months in county jails and now was trying to work in a chest-high cornfield. My hands were already tore up and blistered bad, and I was about to pass out from the heat. This drew the ire of my boss. He called for a trusted inmate to straighten me out, and as the man ran up from the water-wagon with a piece of pipe to start beating me, I raised my aggie and would have defended myself with it had several pistols not been drawn on me all at once. The field-captain shot at my feet. It would be prudent to drop my aggie, I realized. I dropped my aggie. The days would run together after that, the heat, the drudgery, the daily unpaid toiling in dirt and fields under the hot Texas sun. I have worked all my life with my hands, yet have been cursed with tender-skinned palms and feet, which blister and peel no matter what I do. I suffered daily with cracked and bleeding hands, and it wasn't long before they were missing a few layers of skin. What remained bled further, bled so bad my field boss started carrying bandaids in his pocket, which was unheard of back then. Eventually I coated the handles of all the aggies with blood, making them slick and hard to hold. My clothes were soiled with blood daily, as if I had been fist-fighting in the fields for hours. There was nothing I could do; I was in prison, slaving for the state. I hurt so bad that I couldn't even hold an ink-pen to write a letter. So I'd stick the pen between my fingers, which were blistered also. To make matters worse, we toiled in maize fields with Johnson grass 6 feet tall with half-inch wide blades, which would slide between my slick bloody hands and the aggie handles, slicing me further like razor blades. The blood ran down my arms, but I'd channel my pain and anger into the aggie, and chop that tough grass down. My hands stained each aggie or ax handle a beautiful mahogany color. The entire time I was on these hoe-squads my hands never healed. Finally, I got a different job, indoors. The Central Unit is closed now, its land apportioned off in a real estate boom. Which is fine with me, and good riddance. But I also wonder if the nice families that bought this prime real estate with their well-earned money, who built their half-a-million-dollar homes, knew they were building on fields of blood?

Timothy Bazrowx,

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/03/01/the-everyday-chaos-of-incarceration>

6. I Got A Life Sentence At 17. Then I Was Raped In Prison.

I was assigned as clerk to the field major who ran the prison farm. In this role, I interacted regularly with a male supervisor, who was 6'4" and over 200 pounds. One day, he came into the office, which was located in the back of the barracks and had brown paper covering its windows. He locked the door, and he raped me. Then he told me to "get my ass back to work," and left. In the following days and weeks, he regularly threatened me, telling me to keep my mouth shut or else. And then I realized I was pregnant. When the officer found out, he attempted to induce an abortion by making me take quinine and turpentine. He threatened my life and told me that I had to point the finger at another guard who had also been sexually harassing me. Meanwhile, the prison staff tried to force me to terminate the pregnancy, claiming that as a ward of the state, I had no choice. But I refused, and was put

into solitary confinement for lying about who had fathered the child, and for having had “consensual” sex with an officer. In solitary, I had no mattress and was fed only bologna sandwiches. Against all odds, I gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

Laura Berry

parated from my children”

me of her original sentencing, Debbie Sims Africa, a political prisoner, was 22 years old, had a 1-year-old girl and was eight months pregnant. She was determined to give birth on her own without any involvement of the jail officers so she could spend some precious time with the baby. However, it couldn't last, as jail rules prohibited mothers being with their children. There was no medical equipment, no painkillers, no sterilized wipes or hygienic materials of any sort. When it came to cutting the umbilical cord in the absence of scissors, well, that was the easy part: just use your teeth. The placenta was the trickiest part. How to dispose of it without it making a mess that would alarm the guards that a child had just been born in a prison cell? In the end, a co-defendant helped her by scooping up the placenta in her hands and secreting it to the shower room where she flushed it down the prison toilet. The plan worked. Debbie Africa got to spend three wonderful days with her newborn. She hid him under a sheet and when he cried, other jailed women would stand outside the cell singing or coughing to obscure the noise. At the end of the three days she informed the jailers of her son's existence and, once they had got over their astonishment, they arranged for the mother and child to be separated and for the child to be taken to the outside world. The hardest thing for me was being separated from my children... There's no words to describe it... And then feeling that loss.

How Being White Helped Me Avoid Prison

As a young, educated white girl, I confused everyone I encountered in law enforcement. When I was asked how I avoided nine years in prison—instead getting three years in probation—the word I hear now is privilege. I had exhibited the strength and determination necessary to pull myself out of jail, but only because I was given the opportunity to do so. The judge would never have seen my improvements were it not for my mother's money, which paid for the multiple bails that freed me while awaiting my court dates in jail. This also meant I could go to my hearings in my own clothes, instead of an orange jumpsuit. Money paid for the lawyer who was able to stall sentencing for felony probation. I pleaded guilty to in Norfolk, Virginia, while negotiating a plea deal for another set of charges in a neighboring city. The time he bought gave me a chance to get a job, find a place to live, and prove I could stay (mostly) clean. Once I moved out of state, I was required to pay \$30 on each of my visits to the probation office. When I was short on the money needed, my mother gave it to me with no expectation of repayment. And yet there are those who must beat the odds with even fewer resources. Internal fortitude is necessary of course, but societal support is vital—and for too many, that's available is deeply inadequate.

Jordan, 36

How a prisoner reveals what everyday life was like in prisons

metro.co.uk/2017/05/29/a-former-prisoner-reveals-what-everyday-life-was-like-in-prisons-17000000/?ito=cbshare

, the day started at around 7.45am when doors would be unlocked. Anybody being released, ' (where an inmate is transferred to another jail with little or no notice) or taken to court have had their doors opened at 7.30am so there was no mixing. Work started at 8.30am. You around six hours a day for around £10 pay per week. The type of work varied, and there were er of opportunities available. Other than the essential security of the prison, just about ng else is done by inmates. That includes cleaning, painting, cooking, laundry and prison , which brings in a little income for the prison. Prison industry could be anything from making items for charities or even CD scratching – destroying unsold copies of albums. The work r mundane and generally, from what I saw, didn't meet the usual health and safety guidelines. prying for me was that inmates were punished if they chose not to work; forced labour is d to be something from the past but it's alive today in our prisons. The morning work session ntil about midday, then we would be sent back to the wings to collect lunch. We were then p for about two hours so the staff can have their own lunch. Around 2pm, we'd be unlocked t back to work until around 5pm. After the second shift, we'd be served dinner – or tea as call it. Dinner had to be eaten in your cell. It's not so bad if you had the bottom bunk – you there and eat – but if you were top bunk, it was much easier to eat with your dinner on your t on the toilet. The food in prison was of a very poor quality. I once collected my meal and a officer what she thought it was – she told me she wasn't sure but it looked like somebody ady eaten it.

h AFRICA

l that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be oy how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones – and South Africa treated its ed African citizens like animals (Nelson Mandela, Robben Island prisoner 466/64)

ot the searing pain that seemed to come as an explosion that took my breath away and had ter impact, but rather the thought that fellow human beings were doing this to me in a ely cold blooded manner. The effect was dehumanizing and the anger generated was difficult ol (Sedick Isaacs, Robben Island prisoner 883/64)

Ironically, it is in jail that we have closest fraternization between the opponents and supporters of apartheid. ... We have eaten of their food, and they ours; they have blown the same musical instruments that have been 'soiled' by black lips (Ahmed Kat

Worksheet 5

CARTOONS

the law



<https://sites.google.com/a/nexgenacademy.com/more-than-laissez-faire/prisons-mental-health/prisons-mental-health-political-cartoons/the-law>



whom in prison Fares Garabet <https://www.cartoonmovement.com/s?q=prison>



***U.S. PRISON SYSTEM BY DAVE GRANLUND
(2012)***



SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

BY THE YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION (2011)



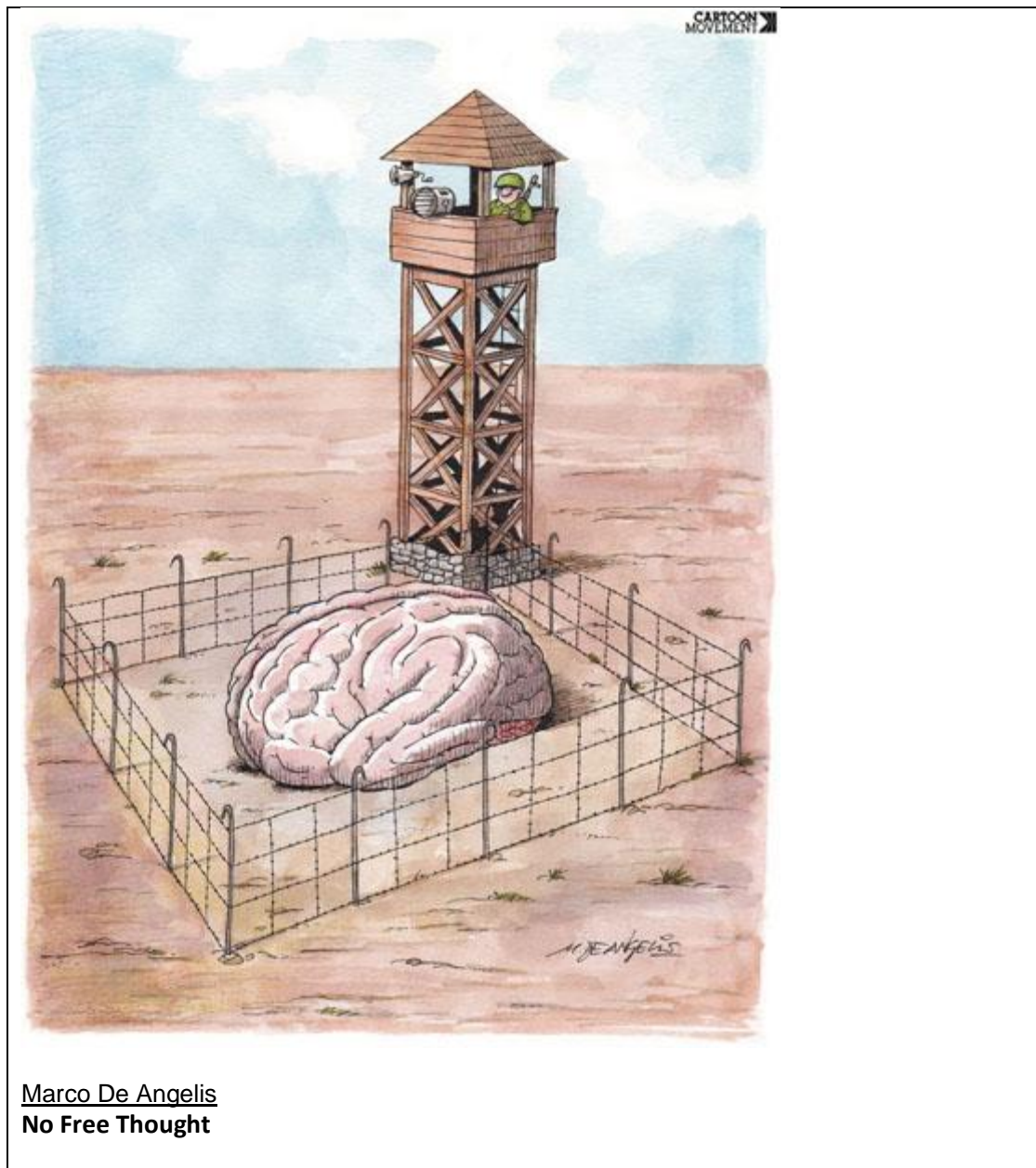
LAND OF THE FREE BY ADAM ZYGLIS (2008)

Over 2.2 million Americans are locked up inside the prison system, which is represented in cartoon by the inmates trapped behind the American flag. The 1 in 99 represents the number of adults out of 99 live in prison.

<https://brokenprisonsystem.weebly.com/political-cartoons.html>



Dreaming of Freedom Mohammad Sabaaneh

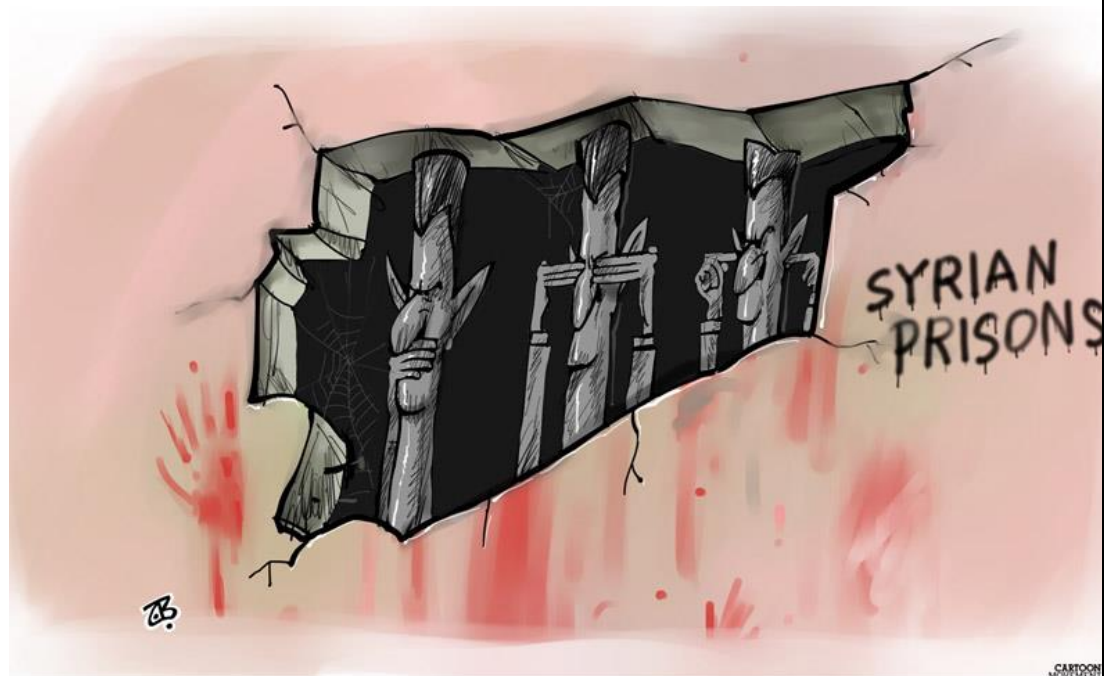


Marco De Angelis
No Free Thought



LORD WILLINGDON'S DILEMMA

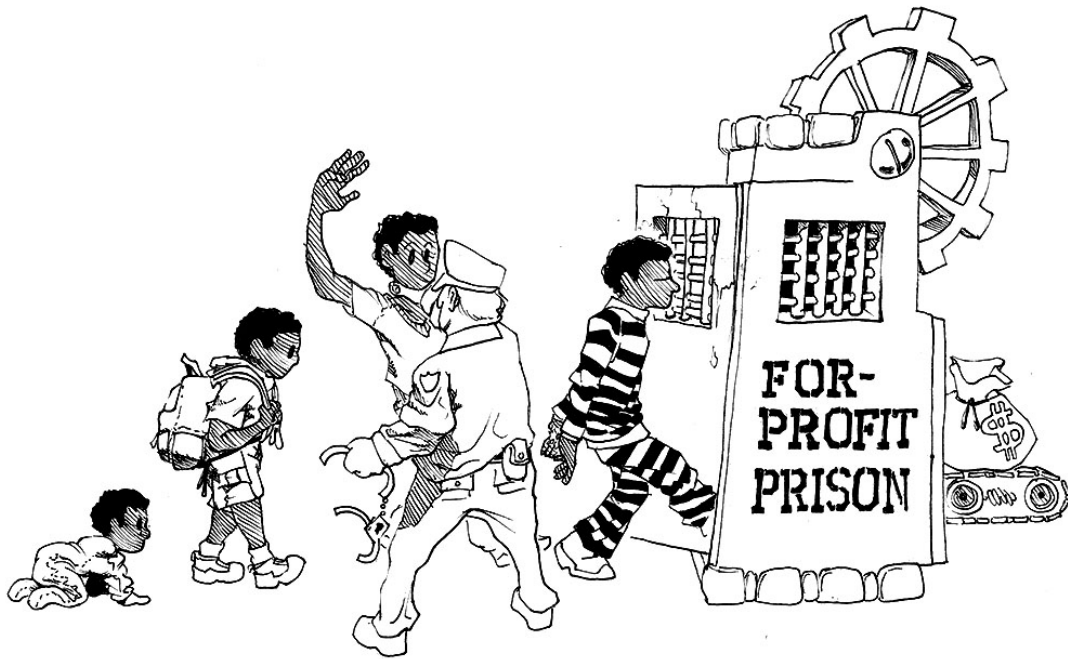
Cartoon in the *Hindustan Times*, ca. 1931 Locking up Gandhi



Emad Hajjaj

The horrors at Saydnaya prison

A **private prison**, or **for-profit prison**, is a place where people are imprisoned by a third party that is contracted by a government agency. Private prison companies typically enter into contractual agreements with governments that commit prisoners and then pay a per diem or monthly rate, either for each prisoner in the facility, or for each place available, whether occupied or not.



Kai Henthorn-Iwane

11th grade; Berkeley High School | 2017 California High School Political Cartoon Contest, LegiSchool Project

Children at Risk in US Border Jails, U.S. company making \$750 per day, per child to keep immigrant children in 'prison-like' conditions

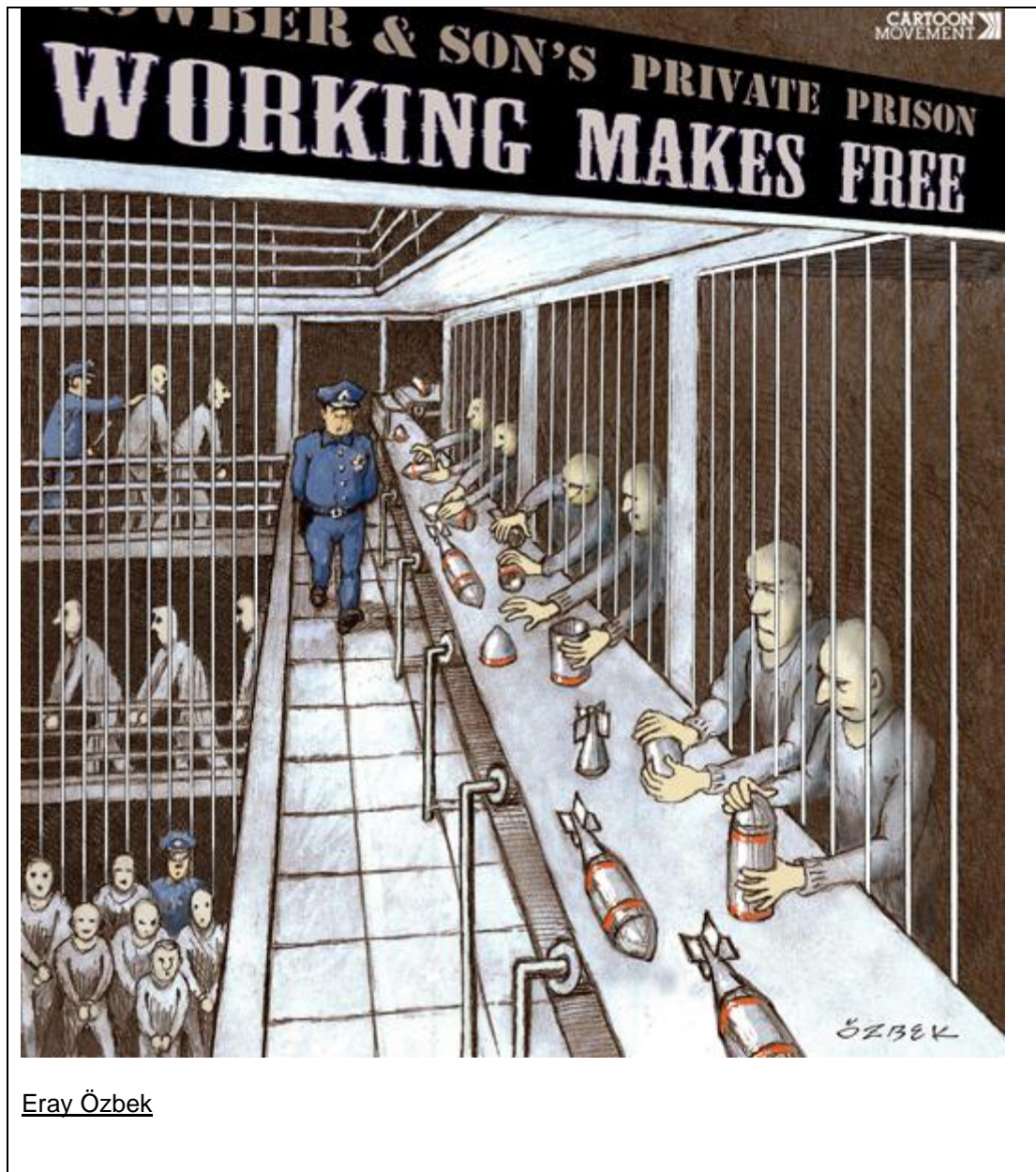
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/20/children-risk-us-border-jails>



<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/8cG6oGkLi.htm>



<https://theweek.com/cartoons/852382/political-cartoon-migrant-children-ice-camps-private-prison-profits>



Eray Özбек

"Make America Great Again"



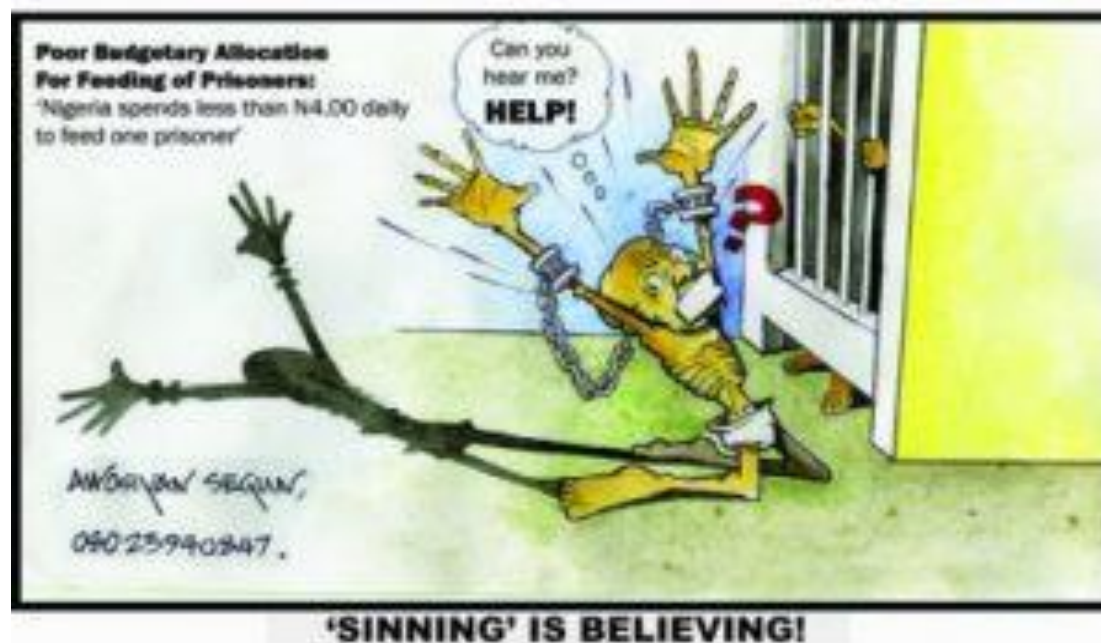
Ana Belcher 10th grade; Culver City High School

<https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/26460/winners-of-the-2017-california-high-school-political-cartoon-contest>



Popa Matumula

While a parent serves a sentence behind bars, a child also is just like serves a sentence out of a prison! <https://www.cartoonmovement.com/cartoon/1041>



GUANTANAMO



GUANTÁNAMO STAYS OPEN.
BUT IT'S BETTER UNDER OBAMA.

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3-11-11



Copyright by Signe Wilkinson



Das Yes-we-can-Wunder auch in Guantanamo Bay



Guantanamo : 10 ans de violation des droits humains



Worksheet 6

IF I WAS YOU

1. HOW DO I/WE FEEL?
2. WHAT DO I/WE SEE?
3. WHAT DO I/ WE HEAR?
4. WHAT DO I/WE SMELL?
5. WHAT DO I/WE TASTE?
6. WHAT DO I/WE TOUCH?
7. WHERE AM I/ARE WE? DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE(SEIZE ,COLOUR, FURNITURE)
AM I STANDIND OR SITTING(WHERE)?
8. IS IT DAY OR NIGHT? WHICH SEASON? HOW IS THE WEATHER?
9. FOR HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?

10. HOW OLD AM I/ ARE WE?

11. HOW AM I DRESSED?

12. WITH WHOM AM I/ARE WE?

13. WHAT AM I/ ARE WE DOING?

14. WHAT AM I/ ARE WE SAYING?

15. WHAT I WANT TO DO?

Worksheet 7

DEVELOP A STORYLINE 'BEING IN PRISON'

Who are the important characters in your story (character's main goals, personality traits, appearance, movement, way of speaking, family...)?

What are the relations between the characters?

What is the situation they find themselves in prison and why?

What is the main sequence of events –timeline of your story (before-in –after prison)?

when does the story take place? What are the locations (in and out prison) the story takes place in?

What are the core themes of the story?

Outline the scenes of your story

Worksheet 8

Newspaper theatre

REFUGEE CAMPS

Since mid-2015, Europe has been faced with a massive increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants fleeing conflict or poverty in their countries. In response to this crisis, the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department has mobilised both its humanitarian aid and civil protection assistance tools. The Commission has released funding for humanitarian assistance to Serbia and North Macedonia to help them respond to refugees' needs. Material assistance, such as beds, mattresses, blankets, raincoats, was delivered via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, and Greece. The European Union has also established a new 'Emergency Assistance Instrument' to deliver EU humanitarian funding within the EU territory. This instrument will provide a faster, more targeted response to major crises, including helping Member States cope with large numbers of refugees. The instrument could be used for the provision of basic necessities such as food, shelter, and medicine to the large numbers of children, women, and men currently arriving in EU countries

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/europe_en

the other aspect

1. Meanwhile the EU countries are playing games, especially Italy. [Eritrea](#) was colonised by Italy for a long time. For Eritrean people still there is no freedom, and Italy directly or indirectly shaped that. My country is a dictatorship. It feels like EU countries don't want African people to develop, be smart, educated and so on. That's why they are doing this. They are killing our time, killing our brains. It's like the cold war. Our conditions just get worse and worse. There's not enough food, and people drink toilet water. And it's covered up. When people come for visitors' days, the guards give us good food, a good environment, sanitation. But refugees don't have contact with visitors, we don't have a chance to talk to them about our problems. Sometimes we only see them through a small hole in the door. When the UN high commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited this year, I got through the guards by force and found him, telling him every problem in the detention centre and asking why evacuations had stopped. He said to me: "I know all the problems." We spoke face to face. After he left, the guards beat me and threatened me so I would not do it again. From that moment, I've never been allowed outside or to talk to any organisations. That's why I'm forced to write now with a pseudonym. Sally

Hayden

2. When the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) give us things such as hygiene products, or blankets, they take some pictures. Then, when they leave, the guards take it back and sell everything. IOM and UNHCR know this game, but they don't do anything. They pretend like they don't know. Sometimes the guards beat us in front of them and they don't stop it. We have to ask our families to send us money for food and hygiene products. It arrives through the black market, and the guards take 40%. Otherwise we'd die. Recently we tried to break down the door and run away together, but we didn't make it. The guards met us with guns and chains. All the while the Libyans who are supposed to look after us are thinking only about how to get more money from UNHCR. They make films, they lie, they pretend they're managing, helping the refugees. When they know white people will

come they clean up, hide the people who are in a bad condition and those they have beaten. If it wasn't ruining so many lives, you could almost laugh at the way they pretend: they could be Hollywood actors. As of today, infected people here have gone three weeks without tuberculosis medication, and now we think all the men and boys have it. Doctors stopped showing up, they stopped the medicine, and we all live together. Even the guards don't come near us, they tell others not to come close. The place we are living in is like a cave. There are no windows. There is no fresh air. We share beds, cups, almost everything. To pass time we pray in the morning. We sit. We sleep. It's dark inside all day. *Thomas Issak*

[/www.theguardian.com/profile/thomas-issak](http://www.theguardian.com/profile/thomas-issak)

ek refugee camps

Humiliation is the logical conclusion of the migration policies that Europe has pursued. Attempting to stem the flow into Europe, politicians have established a deportation deal with Turkey, from where most Europe-bound migrants depart, and built fences throughout the Balkans, trapping about 50,000 people in Greece. The Reception and Identification Center in Moria, on the island of Lesbos, is the largest such center. Its maximum capacity is 3,100 but now hosts more than 7,500 people, nearly one-third are children.

I am living in a prison here because no one has money and the city is so far away. If you miss the food distribution time, then you have nothing to eat. I live inside Moria camp. I live inside a small tent with my family. It is very small and uncomfortable. I would describe it as very bad place to stay. I usually wake up very early in the morning to be in the food line at 3 a.m. for breakfast. I wait in line from 3 a.m. until 8 a.m. I have a small break and then from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., I have to wait in the food line again to have something to eat for lunch. Then, I go to school (the TAPUAT center) until 5 p.m. and right after school, I directly go back to the food line to wait for dinner. Also, winter is coming and we know it is going to be very hard. For me, the hardest thing are the conditions in Moria because they are very bad. For me, Moria is very bad - it is the way to death. There are a lot of drugs and a lot of fights. The place is crowded with too many people and it is very dangerous. We came from a war zone. We thought we are coming to a nicer safer place, but instead we figured out that Moria is worse than war.

I am inside the camp, in a container that we are sharing with two other families. In total, we are 12 people in one Isobox (pre-fabricated container) including our sister and father. Wherever we go outside, my father needs to be with us because our mum left. He cannot really take care of us because our sister is very young and he struggles with taking care of her. TAPUAT (the UNICEF center) is the only place he allows us to go to alone. Everywhere else, he wants us to be all together. We cannot go to the food line without him because it is very dangerous. Every day, there are fights. They should not leave children living in Moria. Children should have a better place to live. My mother attempted suicide three times in Moria camp. We had to come here. We want a chance to live in a dignified manner. Moria is not safe, it is a very small place, overcrowded and dangerous. We have the right to live in a more dignified way with better conditions. We did not expect to be treated like this here in Europe. Tell me. Where are the human rights? <https://www.euronews.com/2018/11/01/in-their-words-children-and-young-refugees-living-in-camps-on-greek-islands-view>

'Prisoners of Europe': the everyday humiliation of refugees stuck in Greece

I feel so angry that I can't breathe, and then I fall unconscious. I have family in Syria under the bombs, and when I talk to my little sister on the phone, she asks if she'll ever see me again. I'm stuck here in this jail.

I have spent almost two years waiting for an answer to my asylum request. I have no idea why. I've had three interviews, my last six months ago, but still no decision. It will take ten years with this rythme.

Mohammad's blood is to be transfused once a month, but they cannot supply the medicine he needs. His existing supply, his brother Rezan says, will run out in about two weeks. And the hospital says they don't have any more.

It took days before a doctor could properly attend to a wound on the head of my baby son, Mohammed. There are holes in our tent. This isn't Europe.

One woman was taken by the leader of the mafia in the camp, badly beaten, and was then made to have sex with people in the camp. The [gang leader] took the money. In many places, there are no gender-segregated toilets, there are showers without doors, and there are sleeping areas where [both genders] are together.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/06/prisoners-of-europe-the-everyday-humiliation-of-refugees-stuck-in-greece-migration>Sometimes

4.Statement of Bamberg refugees:

Against inhumanity! Stop the camp system! We're refugees, not prisoners!

We are refugees from different countries, who are all facing the same problems. We are living in the „AEO“ camp in Bamberg. We were searching for protection and a life in peace. But what we are facing is no life at all. This is why we stand up – against the inhumanity and harassment in the Bamberg Lager system. On Wednesday 17th January 2018 we are going out and taking our demands on the streets. Our demand is for a life in dignity.

Our situation is this: We arrive in Bamberg traumatised and exhausted of long and dangerous travels. We are given no time arrive, we are immediately sent to a comission to be interviewed. One week later most of us receive a negative decision. From that moment on we are in fact imprisoned. Our documents are taken, all we get is a camp card, printed on a white sheet of paper. Even our German asylum seeker documents or our Duldung, if somebody had those before, are taken away.

After a negative asylum decision, we receive no money any more. Not even young mothers are getting one cent: They get no baby food nor can afford to buy some. We are not allowed to work or to leave Bamberg. Our children do not get access to school or education, because they get a negative decision as soon as their parents do. We are not allowed to study German. Nevertheless we have to stay here for months, even for years. Some are here for 24 months already. The camp security is harassing and using violence against us – and we get charged by the police and courts. The police can come at any moment – to search our rooms or to take one of us for deportation. Nobody can live like this!

When we escape and leave to another country we are brought back to the Bamberg camp, because our finger prints are here and Germany asks to bring us here. We are tired of this camp. We cannot live like this – not even one more day. We are treated like prisoners, not like refugees.

bambergrefugees@gmail.com

MANUS ISLAND

On 8 February 2008, seven months after Kevin Rudd was sworn in as Prime Minister, the former Labor Government announced that the last remaining asylum seekers on Nauru had been transferred to Australia ending the Howard Government's controversial 'Pacific Solution', which had begun in 2001 in response to rising numbers of asylum seekers arriving by boat. However, by July 2010, then Prime Minister, Julia Gillard announced in her first major policy speech that the Government had begun having discussions with regional neighbours about the possibility of establishing a regional processing centre for the purpose of receiving and processing irregular entrants to the region. Whilst only 25 asylum seekers had travelled by boat to Australia to seek asylum in the 2007–08 financial year by the time Prime Minister Gillard made her announcement in July 2010, more than 5,000 people had travelled by boat to Australia to seek asylum (that is, during the 2009–10 financial year)

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/Quick_Guides/Offshore

THE OTHER ASPECT

S ISLAND Behrouz Boochani: Australia is introducing a 'new kind of fascism'

Irish-Iranian writer has been imprisoned on Manus Island – part of Australia's notorious asylum detention network – since 2013.

Immigration detention centres are prisons for those who have committed no crime. They are notoriously secretive: insulated from the media and portrayed by governments as a necessary means of protecting the nation-state. The indefinite nature of imprisonment means you don't know when you'll be released. Twelve have died on the island already, many from suspected suicide. The situation [is] getting worse day by day. The human rights violations taking place on Manus, including the almost non-existent access to medical care and reports of wrongful death and torture on the island. What is making the situation harder is that there are many people who need urgent medical treatment. It is wrong to think of our deaths as different from the millions of other humans, different from the deaths of others who have died up until now, from the deaths that have yet to take place. In the process of shutting down the processing centre in 2017, the authorities turned off the water and electricity supply, while 500 refugees – fearful of being abandoned on the island – barricaded themselves in for 22 days. I was one of many who had to dig wells in the earth in search of water. What the Australian government introduced to the world [through its border protection policy] is only a new kind of fascism and barbarism

'baby jails'

sident Donald Trump speaks at the National Federation of Independent Businesses 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Washington, DC on June 19, 2018.

ent Trump's views on the family separations at the border can be summed up in these two quotes from his meeting today with business leaders. In Trump's first remark, he is essentially saying the policy acts as a deterrent for people coming to the US: "We want a great country. We want a country with heart. But when people come up, they have to know they can't get in. Otherwise it's never going to stop." Trump then lays out the separation policy: "When you prosecute the parents for coming in illegally, which should happen, you have to take the children away. Now, we don't have to prosecute them, but then we're not prosecuting them for coming in illegally. That's not good."

[/edition.cnn.com/politics/live-news/immigration-border-children-separation/h_5652f6b137eaba6711e304f376476c94](https://edition.cnn.com/politics/live-news/immigration-border-children-separation/h_5652f6b137eaba6711e304f376476c94)

the other aspect

1. Bree Bernwanger and Gracie Willis Opinion contributors Published 3:22 PM EDT Jul 23, 2018

The silence is palpable as the tears stream down her face. We've each met many mothers like her before. Her child was stolen from her by the U.S. government. He is being held, out of sight, hundreds of miles away. "When will I see my son again?" We receive calls early in the morning — panicky voices telling us they are being taken somewhere, no one will say where, asking whether they will ever see their child again. We scramble to find out whether our clients will be deported without due process and without their child, or shipped to a makeshift tent city in a desert to be held indefinitely with their child. Last month, President Donald Trump signed an executive order "addressing" his family separation policy that ripped thousands of lives apart. In its stead, he ordered the hasty construction of a vastly expanded system of incarceration for immigrant families. The South Texas Family Residential Center, a for-profit facility in Dilley, with the capacity to cage 2,400 asylum-seeking women and children at a time. It is the largest capacity detention facility in the country. We call it a "baby jail." Taxpayers are already paying for two more: an 830-bed baby jail in Karnes County, Texas, and a 96-bed baby jail in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Family detention isn't "summer camp." It isn't a "processing center." It is a place where mothers must "choose" to work for \$3 a day in the blistering South Texas heat so they can afford to buy bottled water for themselves and their children. Water that doesn't smell and taste like a sewer, which is the only water their children would otherwise have access to. Water that the officers and medical staff themselves refuse to drink. Among the horrors in America's three family detention centers: An epileptic woman has multiple seizures and does not have access to proper medical care within the facility. A 6-year-old girl with a high fever begins to bleed from her vagina, and the medical staff tells her mother she's menstruating, and then dismisses them as if it were nothing. A facility director bans crayons, because the staff members accused children of damaging prison property. An Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer coerces women and children into signing papers they do not understand. A guard shines a flashlight in the eyes of sleeping children in Berks; families are terrorized. The abhorrent conditions we describe exist even with minimum legal protections in place. Now Attorney General Jeff Sessions is moving to dismantle the decades-old Flores settlement agreement, a hard-won shield protecting children in immigration custody. Before Flores, family detention facilities in Taylor, Texas, and Artesia, New Mexico, were grotesque, secluded, desert encampments of toddlers in prison uniforms and terrified, bewildered mothers on an assembly line to deportation without due process. No lawyers? No problem. No interpreters? No problem.

Family detention and family separation are both weapons aimed at the same targets: vulnerable Central American asylum seekers with bona fide claims. The violence and trauma our clients suffered before finding themselves imprisoned are truly chilling. We have held their hands as they recounted brutal rapes, cycles of physical violence by family members and partners, and death threats at gunpoint for refusing to hand over their young sons and daughters to gang members. Because they are behind bars, there is nowhere for their children to go while they talk about these things. We try to give the children headphones to drown out their mothers' descriptions of violent rape; we try to wait for the children to fall asleep before we ask their mothers to describe the beheadings or stabbings they witnessed; we hold back our own tears when the children wake up, see their mothers crying, and wipe away the tears. These families are fleeing from real danger. One of us had to pause on the phone when taking a statement about a case from a client's family member, because bullets were being shot at her home. Several of us received pictures of the murdered bodies of a client's family members, left in the street as a message. It is deeply disturbing that we must debate this issue at all. For the same reason mothers and children should not be held as hostages, they should not be held as prisoners. These policies will forever be a blemish on the history of this country. We have the power to reverse course by taking a stand in our communities, the courtroom, classrooms.

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/07/23/family-detention-centers-no-remedy-separated-families-column/796328002/>

NTANAMO

Trump has signed an executive order to keep the Guantánamo Bay prison camp open, reversing the policy of the Obama administration. In his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, Trump said he had directed the defence secretary, James Mattis, "to re-examine our military detention policy and to keep open the detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay". He added that he expected that "in many cases" captured terrorists would be sent to the camp. The Trump executive order instructs Mattis, in consultation with the secretary of state and other officials, to deliver a new policy on battlefield detentions, "including policies governing transfer of individuals to US Naval Station Guantánamo Bay" within 90 days

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jan/30/guantanamo-bay-trump-signs-executive-order-to-keep-prison-open>

HER ASPECT

1. GUANTANAMO VOICES <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01sg4cm>

inees

I followed on 10 February on the fifth flight from Kandahar to Guantanamo Bay. 'When I got there was half dead. We had a two-hour stopover somewhere in Turkey. As we were being frog-marched from one plane to another, one of the guards stamped on the metal body bar of my three-piece suit so the leg-irons bit deeply into the flesh of my ankles.

med, at least, had been told where he was going. When Rasul and Iqbal landed they had no idea where they were: 'All I knew was that I was somewhere with intense heat,' Rasul says. 'An American voice shouted: "I am Sergeant so-and-so, US Marine Corps, you are arriving at your final destination." Iqbal says: 'The boat was moving in the

swell, making the bus rock and the American guy says: "Stop moving." I couldn't stop, so he hit me.' Rasul made the mistake of telling a guard he was English. 'Traitor,' he yelled. Later, when Ahmed took the ferry, he heard a guard whispering: "This motherfucker speaks English." Repeatedly the guard kicked his leg: 'I couldn't move it for days, it was so badly bruised.'

they arrived at Camp X-ray, and became part of the group of orange-jumpsuited prisoners kneeling in the dust, still shackled and blindfolded, whose images went round the world. Rasul says: 'They made us kneel in that awkward way, and every time you moved, someone would kick you.' The sun was beating down and the sweat was pouring into my eyes. I shouted for a doctor, someone poured water into my eyes and then I heard it again: "Traitor, traitor." ' Rasul was the last one processed, and by the time he got to his cage it was dark. First he was stripped naked and, still wearing his goggles and chains, he was given a piece of soap and told to shower for the first time since his capture. 'I looked around and I thought what the hell is this place?'

Recalls the moment his goggles were finally removed: 'I look up and I see all these other people who hadn't yet been processed in orange suits and goggles and I think I'm hallucinating.' Two days after arriving in Guantanamo Bay, with his family still desperate for information as to his whereabouts, Rasul was taken in his three-piece metal suit to an interrogation tent. 'I walk in and this guy says: "I'm from the Foreign Office, I've come from the British Embassy in America, and here is one of my colleagues who's from the embassy as well." Later he added his colleague was actually from MI5.'

asked where he was and the British officials replied: 'We can't disclose that information.' His family heard nothing for another three weeks. In the early days at Camp X-ray, the conditions of detention were extreme. The detainees were forbidden from talking to the person in the next cell and, Rasul recalls, fed tiny portions of food: 'They'd give you this big plate with a tiny pile of rice and a few beans. It was nouvelle cuisine, American-style. You were given less than 10 minutes to eat and if you hadn't finished the Marines would just take your plate away.' After a few more days Rasul was questioned again by MI5. The officer asked how he was. 'I started crying, saying I can't believe I'm here. He says: "I don't want to know how you are emotionally, I'm only interested in your physical state."

about a week the prisoners were allowed to speak to detainees in adjacent cells, and a few weeks later still were given copies of the Koran, a prayer mat, blankets and towels. Yet all witnessed or experienced brutality, especially from Guantanamo's own riot squad, the Extreme Reaction Force. Its acronym has led to a new verb peculiar to Guantanamo detainees: 'ERF-ing.' To be ERFed, says Rasul, means to be slammed on the floor by a soldier wielding a riot shield, pinned to the ground and assaulted. Iqbal and Rasul were at opposite ends of the same block and were forbidden from talking to each other. There was almost nothing to do. 'Time speeds up,' Rasul says. 'You just stare and the hours go clicking by. You'd look at people and see they'd lost it. There was nothing in their eyes any more. They didn't talk.' As the weeks of detention became months they would sometimes see psychiatrists. The response to any complaint was always the same: an offer to administer Prozac. (On my visit to Guantanamo, the camp medical staff told me that at least a fifth of the detainees were taking

anti-depressants.) It was almost impossible to master the rules and know how to avoid punishment. There was only one rule that mattered, Rasul says: 'You have to obey whatever US government personnel tell you to do.'

-2002 the prisoners were moved from the open cages with mesh walls at Camp X-ray to the pre-fabricated metal cellblocks of Camp Delta. There, the standard punishment was transfer to solitary confinement in the sensory deprivation isolation wing. Once, Ahmed says, he was given isolation for writing 'Have a nice day' on a polystyrene cup. This was deemed 'malicious damage to US government property'. On another occasion, he was punished for singing. The cells were about the size of a king-size mattress, made of mesh and metal, exposed to the relentless tropical heat, with no air conditioning. They contained a hole in the floor for a toilet, a tap producing yellow water which was so low they had to kneel to use it, and a narrow metal cot. Apart from interrogation, the only break in this confined monotony were showers and 20 minutes' exercise, two or three times a week. 'When we were on a block with English speakers, we'd go over the conversations again and again,' Ahmed says. 'Often they'd start by someone asking if you remembered a particular kind of food. Soon you'd exhaust the possibilities, repeat the same stories four or five times.'

his, however, was better than the isolation punishment block, or the fate which Iqbal endured for five months in 2002 - being placed in a wing where all the other prisoners spoke only Chinese. The three Britons were visited at least six times by MI5 and Foreign Office staff, Rasul says: 'Every time the Foreign Office came we asked about what was going on, and whether we had solicitors. His reply was "I don't know, all I know is what's been on TV. Your case hasn't been on TV." In September 2003 Rasul was visited on consecutive days, first by the man from the Foreign Office, then by an MI5 officer. 'How long had they thought they would be at Guantanamo? I asked the three men. They reply in unison: 'Forever!'

[/www.theguardian.com/uk/2004/mar/14/terrorism.afghanistan1](http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2004/mar/14/terrorism.afghanistan1)

anced interrogation techniques” and “rendition, detention and interrogation program”

feeding and rehydration At least five detainees were subjected to the process, the report states. Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri was placed in a forward facing position (Trendelenburg) with head lower than torso, whilst undergoing rectal feeding. Another detainee, Majid Khan, a legal resident of the United States was also subjected to rectal feeding. According to a CIA cable released in the report, his “‘lunch tray’ consisting of hummus, pasta with sauce, nuts and raisins was pureed and rectally infused. Mohammed was also subjected to rectal rehydration without a determination of medical need. Mohammed’s chief interrogator described use of the process as emblematic of their total control over the detainee.

ement in a box

Abu Zubaydah was placed in a number of different confinement boxes in an intense period of interrogation. The boxes made it difficult to breathe and reopened wounds in his legs. He could not recall how long he spent in each confinement box, and believes he may have passed out inside. The use of insects inside the box was also approved, to exploit a phobia Abu Zubaydah had.

e of cold water

One of those interviewed by the ICRC said they were often subjected to dousings in cold water during interrogation. He said that for the first two weeks of his detention his naked body was wrapped in plastic after being doused, and kept inside the cold envelope of water for several minutes. In November 2002, a suspected Afghan militant, Gul Rahman, died of hypothermia inside a CIA black site. Rahman had been left in a cold cell, stripped from the waist

down and had been doused in water. The torture report contains more details on Rahman's death. This included "48 hours of sleep deprivation, auditory overload, total darkness, isolation, a cold shower and rough treatment". The CIA officer who sent these instructions received no reprimand. Instead, four months later, he was given a \$2,500 cash reward for his "consistently superior work".

boarding The process of suffocation by water involves strapping the individual to a tilted board, with legs above their head, placing a cloth over their face, covering their nose and mouth. Water is then poured continuously over the cloth to prevent breathing, simulate drowning and induce panic. The process is carried out for about 40 seconds and is known to have been repeated a number of times during interrogation. One detainee, Abu Zubaydah, told the ICRC: "I struggled without success to breathe. I thought I was going to die. I lost control of my urine." He underwent the process 83 times, while another of the CIA's highest-value detainees, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, was subjected to waterboarding 183 times.

gs and threats One detainee said: "I was punched and slapped in the face and on the back, to the extent that I was bleeding. While having a rope round my neck and being tied to a pillar, my head was banged against the pillar repeatedly." Six of the detainees said they were slammed into walls after having a collar placed around their necks. The CIA called it "walling": a fake, flexible wall is constructed and a detainee is thrown against it, creating a loud noise. The noise is designed to make the detainee believe they are injured. Detainees also reported threats of severe violence and sexual assault made against them and their families. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told the ICRC he was threatened with being brought to the "verge of death and back again". The torture report notes that at least three detainees were threatened with harm to their families. Interrogators implied to Nashiri that his mother would be brought in front of him and sexually abused. The report also notes one detainee was told his mother's throat would be cut. The torture report confirms that Nashiri was threatened with a pistol placed near his head and a cordless drill that was operated near his body. Nashiri was blindfolded at the time.

Stress positions A variety of stress positions were used by the CIA. Ten terror suspects alleged to the ICRC that these included being told to stand upright and shackled to the ceiling for up to three days, and in some cases at intervals for over three months. Other stress positions included being shackled to the floor with arms stretched over the head. Three detainees interviewed by the ICRC said they were forced to urinate and defecate on themselves in these positions, and were left standing in their own excrement.

Sleep deprivation

Sleep deprivation was employed routinely and was seen as a key tool in enhanced interrogations. Among the most infamous was the use of loud music and white noise, sometimes played for 24 hours a day on short loops. Cells were also reportedly kept deliberately cold to prevent detainees falling asleep. The agency was authorized to keep a detainee awake for up to 180 hours – about a week – but told the Justice Department it only kept three detainees awake for 96 hours maximum. Eleven of the 14 detainees interviewed by the ICRC said they had been subjected to sleep deprivation. One said: "If I started to fall asleep a guard would come and spray water in my face." The torture report reveals that four detainees, each with "medical complications in their lower extremities", including two with broken feet, were placed in shackled standing positions for "extended periods of time" to induce sleep deprivation. The men with broken feet, Abu Hazim and Abd al-Karim who sustained the injuries whilst

trying to escape capture, were also subjected to walling, stress positions and cramped confinement, despite recommendations that their injuries prevented this form of interrogation.

nudity and restricted diets

viewed certain techniques as “conditioning” measures, designed to get detainees used to their helplessness rather than yielding any intelligence value on their own. So was stripping a detainee naked, which a 2005 memo from the Justice Department to the CIA said carried the benefit of “reward[ing] detainees instantly with clothing for cooperation.” Another “conditioning” technique involved feeding a detainee “a bland, commercial liquid meal” instead of normal food. The CIA set caloric intake guidelines – a recommended minimum was 1,500 calories daily – and relied on medical personnel, who are sworn to do no harm to their patients, to ensure detainees did not lose more than 10% of their body weight. A Justice Department memo understood the dietary manipulation could “increase the effectiveness of other techniques, such as sleep deprivation.”

[/www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/dec/09/cia-torture-methods-waterboarding-sleep-deprivation](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/dec/09/cia-torture-methods-waterboarding-sleep-deprivation)

JAIL/PRISON AND HUMAN RIGHTS

US inmates stage nationwide prison labor strike

The following were the demands of the prison strike according to the official page: ^[5]

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. An immediate end to [prison slavery](#). All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction shall be paid the [prevailing wage](#) in their state or territory for their labor.
3. The [Prison Litigation Reform Act](#) must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and rights.
4. The [Truth in Sentencing Act](#) and the [Sentencing Reform Act](#) must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
5. An immediate end to the [racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials](#) of Black and brown humans. Black humans are denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.
6. An immediate end to racist [gang enhancement laws](#) targeting Black and brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be denied access to [rehabilitation programs](#) at their place of detention because of their labor status.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
9. [Pell grants](#) must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
10. The [voting rights](#) of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called “ex-felons” must be restored. Universal suffrage is demanded. All voices count.

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/21/640493211/inmates-plan-to-hold-two-week-strike-at-prisons-across-u-s>

US inmates stage nationwide prison labor strike over 'modern slavery'

ton in New York @edpilkington, Tue 21 Aug 2018 06.00 BST Last modified on Tue 21 Aug 2018 19.45 BST <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/aug/20/prison-labor-protest-america-jailhouse-lawyers-speak>

ay, America's vast army of incarcerated men and women – at 2.3m of them they form by far the largest imprisoned population in the world – has the potential to be the largest prison strike in US history. Nineteen days of peaceful protest are planned across the nation, organised by a group of prisoners providing mutual help and support. The strike is being spearheaded by incarcerated members of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a group of prisoners providing mutual help and support. They released an anonymous statement setting out their reasons for calling a protest that carries the risk of substantial penal repercussions.

Prisoners say prisoners across the country are expected to refuse to work, hold sit-ins and even stage hunger strikes. The first part of the protest will involve prisoners refusing to work, where stoves will remain unlit, ready-meals unheated and thousands of breakfasts uncooked. From there the impact will fan out across the prison system: corridors un-mopped, and the lawns on the external grounds ring-fenced with barbed wire will go uncut.

Ultimately, it's a human rights issue," the statement said. "Prisoners understand they are being treated as animals. Prisons in America are a warzone due to conditions of confinement. For some of us it's as if we are already dead, so what do we have to lose?"

Prisoners have put together a list of 10 national demands. They include improved prison conditions, an end to life without parole sentences for juveniles, increased funding for rehabilitation services and an end to the disenfranchisement of some 6 million Americans with criminal records.

The most passionately held demands is an immediate end to imposed labor in return for paltry wages, a widespread practice in the US that is a modern form of slavery. More than 800,000 prisoners are daily put to work, in some states compulsorily, in roles such as cleaning and maintenance. Conditions can be as woeful in states such as Louisiana as 4 cents an hour.

That such lowly-paid work in a \$2bn industry is equivalent to slavery is leant weight by the 13th amendment of the US constitution, which bans slavery with one vital exception: "as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted". Prisoners, in other words, are being constantly exploited. Prisoners understand they are being treated as animals. Prisons in America are a warzone.

In addition to a refusal to work, inmates engaging with the strike plan to go on hunger strikes, hold sit-in protests and stage a boycott of federal government streams where private and state-owned companies make money out of them. The boycott was the brainchild of Bennu Munn, a prisoner who works under the rubric Redistribute the Pain.

Prisoners urge fellow prisoners to stop channeling either their own or their relatives' money to what he called the "prison industrialized complex". Prisoners will donate 10% of what they saved from the boycott on books such as *Prison Profiteers: Who Makes Money from Mass Incarceration*. Inmate strikes have had potentially serious consequences. Participants face being placed individually into isolation cells, while past prison strikes have been met with force.

Prisoners' demands are also certain to be blocked, leading potentially to a blackout of news on the protest. According to prison reform activists, measures have already started. Karen Smith, who runs the Gainesville, Florida chapter of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, says prison authorities have moved most of the local strike organisers into solitary confinement wings where they will be unable to communicate. She has been warned that if they continue to contact advocacy groups they will be moved to the most brutal camps.

The strike comes two years after the last major nationwide prison strike in September 2016 that saw more than 20,000 inmates refuse to work. It was co-ordinated out of Holman prison in Alabama, a state notorious for its overcrowded and dilapidated penal institutions. The strike was part of the "Free Alabama Movement".



Correctional Institution in South Carolina was the scene of a deadly prison riot earlier this year. Photograph: Sean Rayford/AP

A strike was triggered by the riot at Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina in April in which seven inmates died in what was described as a century. The bloody melee, fueled by gang rivalry over contraband, lasted for seven hours while prison guards did next to nothing to stop the carnage, and the renewed spotlight it put on the gross overcrowding, understaffing and inhumane living conditions in American prisons.

As inspiration for what promises to be a tough 20 days ahead, strike organizers are leaning on history. The nationwide strike is being held on the anniversary of the death of the prominent Black Panther member, George Jackson, who was shot as he tried to escape in the prison.

The strike is then scheduled to close on 9 September, the 47th anniversary of the Attica prison rebellion in upstate New York. In an echo of the Attica rebellion, the strike was also framed by inmates as a push for humane conditions and basic political rights. But after four days of negotiations it ended in blood. Governor Nelson Rockefeller, sent in state police armed with shotguns and tear gas. Twenty-nine inmates and 10 of their hostages were killed.

Prison reform author and prize-winning author of *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971*, said that it was symbolically important that Attica was the first to be closed – it was a recognition that people have a right to rebel, and will rebel, when they are forced into unbelievably horrific conditions.

Worksheet 9

A HEALTHY APPROACH TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN TROUBLE

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Projectsresearch/Childrenandyoungpeople>

The British Medical Association have published a report on the vital role doctors have to play in preventing vulnerable children and young people ending up in custody. *Young lives behind bars: The health and human rights of children and young people detained in the criminal justice system*, sets out how doctors can recognise risk factors for future offending and seize the opportunity to intervene.

Writing in the Foreword to the report, Juliet Lyon, Director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: If you ever wanted to build up the adult prison population of the future, then you would lock up children and young people in bleak, unhealthy institutions. As outlined by the BMA, the need to take a consistent, professional approach underpinned by human rights principles cannot be over-stressed. Why? Because it is evidence-based, stands free of short-term political considerations and is the right thing to do.

Foreword

The British Medical Association sets out with clarity and integrity the human rights principles that provide the foundation for good work with vulnerable children in trouble with the law. Its report comes at a time when the nature of child imprisonment is once

more under Parliamentary scrutiny. New legislative proposals include the re-introduction of use of restraint, not only as a last resort to prevent harm, but also as a means to maintain good order and discipline.

The fundamental principle that governs a healthy prison system - that people are sent to prison as a punishment, not for punishment – all too often risks being undermined by political efforts to make regimes seem, or indeed become, more punitive and by a determined emphasis on ‘proper punishment’.

Yet most of the children and young people punished by imprisonment know about punishment already. Long before they get into trouble and become caught up in the criminal justice system, very many young offenders are used to punishment - not as a measured, proportionate response to wrongdoing but as random acts of cruelty or abuse often born of frustration and ignorance. What has not been part of their lives is consistent care, clear guidelines, a sense of wellbeing and an understanding of reparation and a means to make amends.

As this report makes clear, young offender institutions and other places of youth detention are not full of happy, healthy children and young people. The Prison Reform Trust commissioned a study of children in prison to learn more about the 6,000 children who went into some form of custody in the six months from July to December in 2008. Led by Professor Mike Hough and Dr Jessica Jacobson and colleagues then at King’s College, the study, ‘Punishing Disadvantage’, focused on who are the children who end up in custody, and what crimes have they committed that necessitate being detained. Around 40 per cent of those children had been on the child protection register. About 70 per cent were already known to social services. High numbers had truanted and experienced parental neglect or untimely bereavement. Many had unmet mental health needs or a learning disability or difficulty. A depressingly familiar story for health and justice professionals and others who care for vulnerable young people.

Colin Moses gave his views as he stepped down as longstanding Chairman of the Prison Officers’ Association: ‘When it comes to lights out time and you then could stand outside those prison wings and hear the chatter that goes on from the windows and those who’ve been bullied at school, those who’ve been bullied in their homes, many of whom have been sexually abused before they’ve come to prison and you hear them themselves being bullied again or taunting and that is the 24 hour cycle in a prison. The cries for help, those young men who go to bed at night and become bedwetters. Those young men who go to the library and pick up the book with the biggest pictures in, because they don’t want people to know that they can’t read and write. They may have the muscles of an adult, but what they really are are young men crying out for help. Yes there are some bad offenders in there, there are people who’ve done some horrendous things, but what we have is a system that is totally overburdened and under resourced that will not work in those circumstances.’

The BMA is right to challenge any policies, operational measures or institutional practices that do not meet exacting human rights standards. It asserts that ‘every child in the UK is born with an equal right to the conditions necessary for good physical, psychological and emotional health and wellbeing’. It points out that ‘tragically this is not always realised, not least for the thousands of children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system in the UK every year.’

This timely, authoritative report presents an overview of the complex reasons why children and young people offend, their multiple needs and the challenges they present. It enables practitioners and policy makers to reflect on their work with young people in trouble. And it asks the simplest of question which, in the context of criminal justice, are often the hardest to answer: 'How can children begin to thrive? What helps keep vulnerable children and young people safe?

Not all, but very many, of the solutions to youth crime lie outside prison bars in early intervention, support for troubled families, child and adolescent mental health, social care, treatment for addictions and ensuring that children and young people are supported to take responsibility and find solutions for themselves. An almost 60 percent reduction in child imprisonment over the last seven years, a resounding triumph across departments and for successive governments, offers a tremendous opportunity for health and justice professionals to focus on the most vulnerable children and help them to get out of trouble. If you ever wanted to build up the adult prison population of the future, then you would lock up children and young people in bleak, unhealthy institutions. As outlined by the BMA, the need to take a consistent, professional approach underpinned by human rights principles cannot be over-stressed. Why? Because it is evidence-based, stands free of short-term political considerations and is the right thing to do.

Out of Trouble was a Prison Reform Trust campaign which worked to reduce the number of children and young people who are imprisoned in the UK.

Children as young as ten can be imprisoned for committing a crime in this country. Imprisonment involves a total loss of liberty and can be very damaging, particularly for those who are still growing and maturing.

30 children have died in custody since 1990, the youngest of whom was 14. Boys in prison are 18 times more likely to commit suicide than boys in the community. As well as being damaging, imprisonment doesn't work – three quarters of all under 18 year-olds who are imprisoned will reoffend within a year of leaving - and is incredibly expensive, with two thirds of the Youth Justice Board's budget spent on locking-up children in England and Wales.

We believe prison should be reserved for children and young people who have committed serious crimes. Most children and young people have a better chance of turning their lives around and of keeping out of trouble if they serve their sentences in the community and get support from local services. If fewer were imprisoned, those inside could get the help they need to turn their lives around.

For most young people, out of trouble means keeping them out of prison.

CARE - A STEPPING STONE TO CUSTODY

What I've heard from different police officers when I've been arrested, it's like, 'you're a kid in care, you're never [going to] get out of this way of life. You're in care, kids in care are always on drugs, kids in care always make themselves unsafe, kids in care always self-harm'. So they sort of put a title on kids in care like they're something bad.

16 year old girl with a conviction

New research from the Prison Reform Trust and National Children's Bureau (NCB), indicates looked after children are far more likely to be convicted of a crime and end up in custody than other children.

Fewer than 1% of all children in England were looked after at 31st March 2011.

The 2010-11 annual survey of 15-18 year olds in prison found that more than a quarter of boys (27%), and over half of girls (55%), had been in care at some point before being sentenced to custody.

The research project was guided by an advisory group of young people in care and care leavers convened by Voice. The report's recommendations, which draw on the children's views on ways in which the care system can better support them, include:

Making sure local authorities fulfil their statutory obligations to looked after children wherever they are placed.

Allowing children to stay in placements where they are happy and involving them in the decisions which affect their lives.

Protecting children from regular changes in social work staff by ensuring every child in care has one consistent adult in their life who will respect and support them.

Making sure that local authorities treat children in care who get into trouble as any other parent would.

Maintaining contact with looked after children who end up in custody through regular visits and putting plans for their release in place at the earliest opportunity.

The National Children's Bureau's Dr Di Hart, an author of the report, said:

These interviews serve to remind us that there is no quick fix to reducing the involvement of looked after children in the criminal justice system. Each child has their own unique strengths and vulnerabilities and the adults working with them must provide a care experience that reflects these. When it comes to the risk of offending, quality really does protect.

In his foreword to the report, Lord Laming said:

It is a huge step for the state to assume the parenting of a child or young person. With that comes the responsibility to provide stability, security and hope for the future. Sadly, the failure to secure proper care and support at this time, so critical in the development of the child, results in the continuation of the downward spiral towards imprisonment. We must not stand by and allow wasted opportunities to result in wasted later lives.

Juliet Lyon, Director of the Prison Reform Trust, said:

Let down by families and local authorities alike, far too many children find themselves on the dreary, damaging route from care to custody. Too often the state proves to be a poor parent as the tiny minority of children in care become the substantial number behind bars.

Astrid Bonfield, Chief Executive of The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, said:

Children in care are some of the most vulnerable young people in our society. Many have experienced abuse and neglect, others the death of a parent or sibling. Most experience a disrupted education and move home many times during the most formative period of their lives. This important report provides recommendations for policy-makers and practitioners on how aspects of the care system could be enhanced to reduce the risk of children and young people entering the criminal justice system. Coming as this does from those who have first-hand experience of the care system – looked-after children themselves - we would all do well to give it our special attention.

Worksheet 10

Should Juveniles Be Charged as Adults in the Criminal Justice System?

Results of “tough on crime” policies demonstrate that they have failed.

By Nicole Scialabba

In June, a 14-year-old boy was arrested after he threw a rock at police during a political rally in New Mexico. Prosecutors stated that the boy, who was charged with two felonies, would be tried as an adult. A police spokesperson stated, “We don’t want to make an example out of a 14-year-old boy. We want to guide him and lead him in the right direction.” The boy’s attorney disagreed, however, asserting that trying his client as an adult “would indicate a completely different scenario than one where they’re not trying to destroy this child.” See Candace Hopkins, “14-Year-Old Charged with Felony after Throwing Rocks at Police in Trump Rally,” KRQE 13 News, June 3, 2016 .

This story highlights an important aspect of our criminal justice system: the legal construction of juvenile crime. We now operate with the understanding that a juvenile’s action may not be the same as an adult’s—and, instead, that the juvenile might merit unique consideration under the law—and that punishment should perhaps be tailored to development and reform. However, there is lack of uniformity in how we define a “juvenile” and the process by which the law addresses a juvenile’s actions. Jurisdictions have struggled to navigate the line between “leading a juvenile in the right direction” and “destroying the child.” This struggle is not new to our criminal justice system.

Evolution of the Juvenile Court System in the United States

In the 1700s, laws did not distinguish between juveniles and adults within the criminal justice system. According to a PBS Frontline online article, “Child or Adult? A Century Long View,” children as young as seven years of age were charged, tried, and sentenced in adult criminal courts. This posed many problems, given that there were typically no distinctions made between age, gender, and mental illness, so prison and jail populations were mixed with juveniles and adult criminals. See Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice, “Juvenile Justice History.”

Progressive reformers of the penal system sought to change this, and the Society for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency founded the New York House of Refuge in 1825, an institution specifically for juvenile delinquents. “Child or Adult? A Century Long View,” *supra*. The idea was to educate and rehabilitate juveniles so as to attack what were believed to be the roots of juvenile delinquency—a lack of moral education and standards. *Id.* These institutions proliferated across other cities and states, followed by the first juvenile court being established in Cook County, Illinois, in 1899. *Id.* Juvenile courts were designed to provide not only rehabilitative functions but also protective supervision for youth. “Juvenile Justice History,” *supra*.

Problems with these early juvenile courts emerged. Judges had broad discretion over their cases without formal hearings, resulting in wide disparities in treatment of juvenile offenders. “Child or Adult? A Century Long View,” *supra* ; “Juvenile Justice History,” *supra*.

In the 1960s, a series of cases made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court, establishing procedures and due process rights for individuals in the juvenile court system. Id. Ultimately, these decisions led Congress to pass the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in 1974, which still governs the juvenile justice system. “Child or Adult? A Century Long View,” supra. Through the act, states were offered grants to develop community-based programs as alternatives to institutionalization.

In the 1970s and 1980s, media reports began highlighting an upward trend in violent crime rates, which in turn shifted the political emphasis to being “tough on crime.” As a result, sweeping reforms were passed in many states to make it easier to try juveniles in adult criminal courts, and more punitive juvenile justice laws were passed. “Child or Adult? A Century Long View,” supra.

Violent crime rates and juvenile crime have been in a steady decline over the past 20 years; however, reforms to restore the juvenile court system to its original vision have not been as swift. U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Trying Juveniles as Adults: An Analysis of State Transfer Laws and Reporting (Juvenile Offenders and Victims, Nat’l Report Series Bulletin, Sept. 2011). If the point of juvenile courts is to deter and rehabilitate juveniles so that they can succeed as adults, then it is important to evaluate the success of that mission when a juvenile is charged as an adult in the criminal justice system.

Being “Transferred” to Adult Court versus “Aging Out” of Juvenile Court

There are significant differences between states’ treatment of juveniles within their court systems. All states have an “upper age of majority,” by which one is considered eligible for juvenile court jurisdiction. If a juvenile is beyond that age, they are automatically within the jurisdiction of adult criminal court, regardless of the offense charged. This is to be distinguished from cases that can originate in juvenile court but whose jurisdiction can be “waived” to adult criminal court by judicial waiver, prosecutorial discretion, or statutory rule.

Every state determines at what age an adolescent is no longer considered a “juvenile” and becomes an “adult” for criminal justice purposes. Once the “juvenile” reaches the statutorily defined age and is accused of a crime, that individual will automatically be charged in the adult criminal system. According to Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy Practice & Statistics (GPS) information from 2015, the overwhelming majority of jurisdictions (41 states and the District of Columbia) define age 17 as the highest age that an individual can have a case originate in juvenile court. Juvenile Justice, Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics, “Jurisdictional Boundaries.” Seven states use age 16 as the upper age for juvenile court jurisdiction (Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin).

In only two states—New York and North Carolina—age 15 is considered the upper age of majority for juvenile court. In these states, if a juvenile is age 16 or 17, and gets charged with any criminal offense, the case is originated and tried in adult criminal court. However, in 2014, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the formation of a state task force to evaluate and design a plan to reform the justice system in New York to raise the age. Jeffrey A. Butts & John K. Roman, Line Drawing: Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Court Jurisdiction in New York (Feb. 2014). In North Carolina as well, there have been attempts to

raise the age in the legislature, though no measures have passed to date. Rose Hoban, "Advocates Try Again to 'Raise the Age'," N.C. Health News, Apr. 1 2015.

In addition, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, all states have laws that allow the transfer of a juvenile court case to the adult criminal court, typically under certain circumstances and within certain ages. Thus, the juveniles can be younger than the "age of majority" for juvenile court and still be transferred to adult court. Trying Juveniles as Adults, supra. There are three typical ways that a case can be transferred from juvenile court jurisdiction to adult court: judicial waiver laws, prosecutorial discretion or concurrent jurisdiction laws, and statutory exclusion laws.

Both the Juvenile Justice GPS and report from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention explain that in a judicial waiver, the juvenile court judge has the responsibility of waiving jurisdiction, thereby sending the case to adult court. The judge will evaluate the waiver based on a variety of factors that typically include the juvenile's age and alleged crime. There are some circumstances where the waiver is presumed, but discretion ultimately rests with the juvenile court judge to make the waiver. Id.; "Jurisdictional Boundaries," supra . A formal hearing and guidelines are in place to assist the judicial waiver process.

In prosecutorial discretion or concurrent jurisdiction laws, there is a class of cases that could be brought before either a juvenile or adult court. It is typically within the prosecutor's discretion to determine which court will initiate the criminal charges. Some states have formal standards, but there may not be any statutory standards articulated that a prosecutor must follow when using his or her discretion. "Jurisdictional Boundaries," supra; Trying Juveniles as Adults, supra . There has been a rise in prosecutorial discretion laws.

With statutory exclusion laws, the legislature has typically granted the adult criminal court exclusive jurisdiction over certain types of cases involving juvenile offenders. When a case falls under one of the statutory exclusion laws, it is mandated that the case be filed in adult court rather than in juvenile court. "Jurisdictional Boundaries," supra; Trying Juveniles as Adults, supra .

In addition, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's 2011 report found that states may have additional kinds of transfer laws. Some jurisdictions abide by a "once an adult, always an adult" rule, meaning that if a juvenile has been criminally prosecuted as an adult in the past, any future crimes will be automatically filed in adult court rather than juvenile court, regardless of the seriousness of the alleged offense. Trying Juveniles as Adults, supra . Some may have reverse waiver laws that allow juveniles who are charged in adult court to petition that court to have the case transferred to juvenile court; in these cases, the burden is on the juvenile to prove why the case should be transferred to juvenile court. Id. Last, there could be a blended sentence law under which juvenile courts have discretion to impose adult sentences or adult courts have discretion to impose juvenile dispositions. Id.

Impact on Juveniles Sentenced in Adult Criminal Court

The increase in laws that allow more juveniles to be prosecuted in adult court rather than juvenile court was intended to serve as a deterrent for rising youth violent crime. As such, it is important to evaluate what happens to juveniles who go through the adult court system to determine if they are "deterred" from future crime. A comprehensive literature review was completed by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law's Juvenile

Justice Project in July 2010 that reviewed the impact of juvenile cases prosecuted in adult court. The report, *The Impact of Prosecuting Youth in the Criminal Justice System: A Review of the Literature*, ultimately found that there has been little to no deterrent effect on juveniles prosecuted in adult court, and in many states, recidivism rates have actually increased.

Statistics compiled from 15 states revealed that juveniles prosecuted in adult court and released from state prisons were rearrested 82 percent of the time, while their adult counterparts were rearrested 16 percent less. *Id.* Meanwhile, studies have shown that juveniles prosecuted in juvenile court benefit from the services made available to them through that process, as juvenile institutions provide programs and resources specifically designed for juvenile development. *Id.* Juveniles in adult court often do not have the opportunity to acquire critical skills, competencies, and experiences that are crucial to their success as adults; rather, they are subject to an environment in which adult criminals become their teachers. *Id.*

“As a crime control policy, placing more young people in criminal court appears to symbolize toughness more than it actually delivers toughness, and that symbol may have a high price.” *Line Drawing, supra.* The effects of being “tough on crime” mean that there is likely to be longer delays in the court process, longer time spent in pre-incarceration, exposure of juveniles to adult offenders, problems with controlling prison populations, and denial of needed services to juveniles. *Id.*

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention report evaluated a study of outcomes for juveniles prosecuted in adult court rather than in juvenile court and found that there were counter-deterrent effects of transfer laws. *Trying Juveniles as Adults, supra.* A summary of six studies found that there was greater overall recidivism for juveniles prosecuted in adult court than juveniles whose crimes “matched” in juvenile court. *Id.* Juveniles in adult court also recidivated sooner and more frequently. *Id.* These higher rates of recidivism can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including lack of access to rehabilitative resources in the adult corrections system, problems when housed with adult criminals, and direct and indirect effects of a criminal conviction on the life chances of a juvenile. *Id.*

Conclusion

The reason that juvenile courts were originally created in the nineteenth century was because society recognized that juveniles did not have the cognitive development that adults had, would benefit more from rehabilitative services to prevent recidivism, and needed more protections. Sociological and political shifting of attitudes caused legislators to believe they needed to be “tough on crime,” and transfers of juveniles to adult court became more frequent. Results of those policies demonstrate that they have failed as recidivism rates for juveniles increased when prosecuted in adult court versus juvenile court.

Reforms need to occur just as swiftly as the reforms to prosecute more juveniles in adult court began, so that the emphasis can shift back to focusing on the best interests of the child when juveniles are charged with crimes. Juveniles need resources to equip them to succeed when they are released from juvenile facilities, rather than face the devastating effects of being housed in adult prison systems. Juveniles should be treated as juveniles in the court justice system, with a focus on rehabilitating rather than simply punishing.

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/childrens-rights/articles/2016/should-juveniles-be-charged-as-adults/?q=&fq=\(id%3A%5C%2Fcontent%2Faba-cms-dotorg%2Fen%2Fgroups%2Flitigation%2F*\)&wt=json&start=0](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/childrens-rights/articles/2016/should-juveniles-be-charged-as-adults/?q=&fq=(id%3A%5C%2Fcontent%2Faba-cms-dotorg%2Fen%2Fgroups%2Flitigation%2F*)&wt=json&start=0)

Worksheet 11

Should Juveniles Be Tried as Adults Pros and Cons

Mar 26, 2019 by Crystal Ayres

<https://connectusfund.org/22-should-juveniles-be-tried-as-adults-pros-and-cons>

The United States is the only country in the world where the justice system will sentence children to death behind bars for the crimes that they commit. Although the conduct is usually deemed to be violent, which makes the individual a threat to the general population, there is no way out of the system if you are a juvenile tried as an adult and then sentenced to life in prison.

Cyntoia Brown is one story of about 10,000 who was sentenced as a juvenile for killing a man when she was just 16 years old. She was given clemency in 2019 after serving 15 years in prison for the crime. She has always maintained that her actions were in self-defense because the man she killed had purchased her for sex.

Brown reportedly shot the man while he was sleeping, and then stole his cash, guns, and truck as she fled the scene. Prosecutors argued that her motivation for killing was motivated by robbery instead of self-defense.

25% of the people who were sentenced to life in prison as a juvenile have no possibility of parole. As a nation, the pros and cons of having juveniles being tried as an adult is a subject with which many have been grappling for generations. It was as early as 1899 when the United States began creating the first courts for youth offenders. These are the key points to consider.

List of the Pros of Trying Juveniles as Adults

1. It offers a suitable penalty for severe crimes that some juveniles commit. Even though they are juveniles because of their age, people under the age of 18 can commit severe crimes. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, there are approximately 350 killed each year because of a lone juvenile offender. Although this number is roughly 75% less than what it was in the early 1990s, it is still one of the highest rates in the world today. Approximately 40% of the murders that occur which involve a juvenile include an adult as well.

2. It reduces the chance that a repeat offender will commit multiple severe crimes.

From data released in 2016, the OJJDP reports that known juvenile offenders were involved in approximately 700 murders in the United States. That represents about 7% of all the known murder offenders which are in the country. Between 2003 to 2006, the estimated number of juvenile murder offenders increased by 32% after the drop from the 1990s before it was able to fall by 31% through 2016.

3. It treats teens who are almost adults as part of the adult system for the purpose of justice.

The severity of a crime that a juvenile commits typically increases as they get older. This trend is especially prevalent for homicide offenses. In 2016, approximately 9% of the known juvenile homicide offenders were under the age of 15. Within that same data set, 79% of the offenders were either 16 or 17 years old at the time they committed the crime. By sentencing them in a way that is similar to what an adult would receive, these older teens do not receive “credit” for the fact that they may only be a few months away from becoming a legal adult in the United States.

4. It creates a level of certainty in the justice system for victims.

Although it does not happen often, young children sometimes decide to commit premeditated crimes, including homicide, and the criminal justice system must respond appropriately. There is a case of a 10-year-old girl in the state of Wisconsin who was charged in 2018 in the killing of a 6-month-old, and state law requires anyone who is age 10 or above to have their case brought in adult court.

In this case, the 10-year-old girl allegedly dropped the baby boy, who then hit his head and began to cry. The girl then allegedly panicked, choosing to stomp him on the head to get him to be quiet. She told authorities that she was afraid that she would get into trouble. Prosecutors charged her with first-degree intentional homicide.

5. It provides a measure of consistency for the severity of the crime.

In 2006, the bodies of Marc and Debra Richardson, along with their 8-year-old son, were discovered in their home by an even younger boy who saw them through the window. The couple’s 12-year-old daughter was missing from the home, so the first inclination for law enforcement was to think an abduction occurred. The reality of this crime scene is that Jasmine Richardson killed her parents and brother, stabbing the young boy in the chest while her boyfriend slit his throat. Her boyfriend was 23 and a “self-proclaimed 300-year-old werewolf.” Jasmine was given 10 years in prison.

She was scheduled to complete her sentence in 2015, but then was released to the community in 2012 despite being convicted of a triple homicide.

6. It can offer services to the youth that would not be available in the juvenile system.

The juvenile system focuses on providing youth offenders with counseling, vocational development, and school access which allows them to continue with their studies. There may be some mental health supports available as well. When they are sentenced to the adult system, then they can take advantage of the additional programming that is available there, including addiction support, GED learning, and opportunity to continue an education.

7. It provides a way to teach accountability.

Children are often a product of their home environment. If illegal actions seem like they are “normal” or “accepted” in their household, then they will see that as being an acceptable course of action to take in the rest of society as well. Juvenile courts do not offer records that provide an explicit proof of lenience that is based on age, but the sentences offered to kids that are comparable to adult crimes suggest that this is a conclusion one could draw from the data. At some point, society needs to teach all youth, no matter what their home background may be, that there are actions which are permitted and ones that are not for the greater protection of everyone. Juveniles being tried as an adult is one way that we can begin this lesson.

8. It treats severe crimes with the seriousness that they deserve.

There are many crimes which children commit that are severe and draw into question how safe a community would be if they were allowed to be set free or serve a reduced or alternative sentence. Diante Pellum was 14 years old when he was accused of shooting another teen in the back of the head near Federal Way in Washington. Alexander Crisostomo was ordered to stand trial as an adult for killing a 41-year-old man when he was just 15. If these teens were given a standard youth sentence, then there is an excellent chance that they would be back on the street by the age of 25. Sentencing them as an adult gives the justice system the time it needs to offer a true chance at rehabilitation.

9. It provides the community with an opportunity to have a say in the process.

When children are tried in juvenile court, then the judge presiding over the case will have the final decision as to what the outcome of the proceedings will be. That means the judge is responsible for determining the guilt or innocence of the juvenile, and what their sentence should be for their crime. By transferring the case to the adult court system, it provides an opportunity for the community to weigh in on what they believe the outcome of the case should be. If they feel like it is improper to have the case held there, then they can take permitted actions as a juror to make that preference known.

List of the Cons of Trying Juveniles as Adults

1. It does not take into account the maturity of the child.

Laurence Steinberg works as an adolescent psychologist and he told Inside Edition in 2018 that it is rare to have juveniles tried as adults. In his opinion, this option for the justice system should be limited to teens who are at least 15 years old and are repeat violent offenders. In regards to the case of the 10-year-old girl in Wisconsin, Steinberg said that she wouldn't likely pass a competency test to stand trial in the first place. It is unconstitutional to try someone in court who doesn't know what is going on.

2. It does not usually offer an opportunity for rehabilitation.

In another case from the state of Wisconsin, two 12-year-old girls were accused of repeatedly stabbing their classmate to honor the Internet character "Slenderman." The Supreme Court for the state made the decision to try these two girls as adults. Both of them chose to plead guilty to the crime, of which their "friend" was able to survive. One girl was sentenced to 25 years in a mental institution, while the other was given 40 years. The adult system simply does not have the capacity to respond to the needs of children, especially those who are young, in ways that are developmentally appropriate.

3. It creates an element of risk for the child while they are in prison.

There are approximately 10,000 children who are currently housed in adult prison or jails on any given day in the United States. This response to the crime places them at a needless risk because a child is five times more likely to be sexually assaulted when serving time in an adult prison than they are if they are in a juvenile facility. These kids are 36 times more likely to commit suicide as well. There are untreated mental illnesses to consider, limited experiences in managing anxiety or trauma, and impulsive actions that are related more to biological development than logical outcomes.

Kalief Browder was 22 years old when he eventually committed suicide in June 2015. He had spent several years in solitary confinement as a teen at Rikers Island because he had allegedly stolen a backpack.

4. It reduces the number of options that are available for sentencing.

Judges who work in the juvenile justice system have multiple options available to them when sentencing children who commit a crime. Their options include house arrest, curfew, counseling, or treatment in residential programs in addition to juvenile facilities which are similar to jails or prisons. Moving a child into the adult court system exposes them to the mandatory sentencing guidelines which exist in most jurisdictions.

For the 10-year-old girl in Wisconsin who is accused of committing first-degree homicide, it is a Class A felony which can be sentenced to only life imprisonment. There are four

articles of defense which can shift that penalty to something shorter, but it requires adequate provocation, unnecessary defensive force, the prevention of a felony, or the event occurred through coercion or necessity. There is very little wiggle room in these guidelines to address juveniles who are charged as an adult.

5. It creates more opportunities for youth to become repeat offenders.

The recidivism rates of juvenile offenders are typically much lower than they are for adults who are sentenced to jail or prison. General rates usually range from a low of 7% at 1 year of follow up to a high of 79% after 7 years of their initial release date. For youth offenders the rates range from a low of 0% after 1 year to a high of 41% after 5 years when following up if they were sentenced to a youth facility. When juveniles are with adults in the justice system, then their rates begin to climb to match those of the older offenders.

Statistics gathered from 15 different states revealed that juveniles prosecuted in adult court and released from a state prison had a recidivism rate of 82% compared to a 16% rate for their adult counterparts.

6. It prevents a child from having a fresh start even after they make necessary changes.

When children receive a conviction in the juvenile justice system, then their records are typically not accessible once they reach a specific age (usually 18 or 21, depending on their state). If the pre-teens or teens are tried and convicted as an adult, then this action stays on their permanent record. It becomes an accessible public record which employers, landlords, and others would research, which could limit their access to certain jobs or housing situations.

People who are convicted of a felony have an exceptionally difficult time trying to find employment in our current economy. Only 28 states have passed laws which ban employers from placing the conviction history of an individual on a job application. White males with a felony conviction receive a 17% callback rate, which is the highest of any demographic.

7. It does not reflect the understanding of the children in question.

There is an argument to be made that a 17-year-old committing a severe crime understands what they are doing and is willing to take on the risk of experiencing the potential for legal consequences because of their actions. When 9-year-old Cameron Kocher fired a rifle out of a window, accidentally striking his 7-year-old neighbor who was riding a snowmobile, that may not be the case.

When deciding to charge the young boy as an adult, the district attorney argued that Kocher lied in his answer – and lying is an “adult” response. He also fell asleep during the pretrial motions of the case, which showed a “lack of remorse” to prosecutors. We must remember that children and adults think differently, so trying to place adult responses on youth is not always appropriate.

8. It does not always reflect a measure of culpability.

Every day in the United States, offenders receive different sentences even if they caused the same harm because there are differences in culpability with each case. Adolescents are struggling with decision-making skills that are underdeveloped, immature, and impulsive. They do not experience future orientation in the same way that adults do. There is also a higher level of susceptibility to negative peer pressure in youth. Brain imaging reinforces the differences in physical structures that can impact the ability to reason or weigh the consequences of an action in children.

9. It does not provide them with youth-specific services.

Although there are advantages to having older teens in the adult system because they can take advantage of the available services, younger children require a juvenile-specific approach that is not available if they are tried and convicted as an adult. When kids enter the adult court system, then they do not usually have the same opportunity to acquire critical

skills, experiences, or competencies that are critical to their future success as an adult. They are instead subjected to an environment where adult offenders become their teachers and idols, which can often lead to an ongoing cycle of crime.

10. It is a process which seems to disproportionately target minority demographics.

According to the 2016 juvenile justice report released by King County, WA, more than 85% of the defendants charged with robbery were 16 or 17 years old, with 50% of them using a firearm to commit their crime. Out of this group, African-American teens made up 43% of those who were filed upon during the study period for the report. When looking at the racial demographics of the county (which is where Seattle is located), only 6.2% of the population is African-American.

11. It does not give a defendant an opportunity to be tried by a “jury of their peers.”

In the United States, you must be old enough to vote in order to sit on a jury. When teens under the age of 18 are charged with an adult crime, then one could argue that they are not having their case reviewed by people who are authentic peers. Someone who is in their 40s is going to have a very different life perspective than someone who is 16 years old. Although any crime deserves a potential consequence no matter how severe it might be, there is also a need to create a fair outcome which takes every element of the experience into consideration and that may not always happen when the decision is made to try juveniles as adults.

12. It can eliminate civil responsibilities for actions at the household level.

If a juvenile is charged with an adult crime, then such an action may limit the civil responsibilities that the parents have for the conduct of their child. Because the individual is being treated as an adult in the situation, some jurisdictions limit how victims can civilly pursue for damages that they may have suffered in that situation. There are other parental rights which may disappear in this situation as well, further limiting the way the legal system can attempt to make things right. In the quest to achieve justice, it is very possible to lose sight of it.

13. It creates a lifetime of effects for the child in question.

Charging juveniles in adult court will often cause exorbitant expenses that can often worsen the poverty that a family experiences. The economic burden of court costs, legal fees, restitution, and visitation can have long-term consequences for everyone involved. It creates a lifetime of negative impacts for the child because they have multiple obstacles in their way to create the change that is necessary – assuming that they are not serving multiple decades in prison for their crime in the first place.

The pros and cons of juveniles being tried as an adult are beginning to find some resolution. The Supreme Court of the United States declared that all states must retroactively apply a band on mandatory death-in-prison sentences for juveniles. Justice Kennedy at the time even wrote that children who commit heinous crimes are capable of changing. There is a need to protect the general population against violent actions. We also have a responsibility as a society to give our children a fighting chance for success.