

1-15-26

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

MY NAME IS ANDRÉ WEST. I'M CURRENTLY AN INMATE HOUSED IN THE "SECURITY RISK GROUP" (SRG) HOUSING UNIT. I'VE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR 17 YEARS STRAIGHT, AND THIS IS MY THIRD TIME BEING PLACED IN THIS UNIT. I'M WRITING TO SPEAK ABOUT NOT ONLY THE CRUEL & UNUSUAL TREATMENT OF INMATES IN THIS "SO-CALLED" PROGRAM, BUT ALSO THE PROCESS OF CLASSIFYING SOMEONE AS A "SRG" MEMBER.

WHILE BEING HOUSED IN THIS UNIT INMATES ARE STRIPPED OF ALMOST ALL OF THEIR PRIVILEGES. LOSS OF TELEVISION, LESS PHONE CALLS, NON-CONTACT VISITS, LOSS OF ABILITY TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES, MORE FREQUENT, AND LONGER LOCKDOWNS THEN GENERAL POPULATION.

WHILE IN THIS UNIT YOU SUPPOSE TO STAY TICKET FREE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS "SO-CALLED" PROGRAM, BUT OFTEN INMATES ARE GIVEN TICKETS FOR PETTY REASONS, OR PUT IN SITUATIONS THAT FORCE THEM TO CATCH TICKETS IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM HERE LONGER.

INMATES IN "SRG" UNITS ARE

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DEEMED THE MOST DANGEROUS, AND TREATED THE WORST OUT OF ALL THE INMATES IN CT PRISONS. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT THE REASON WHY MOST INMATES WERE PLACED IN THESE UNITS IT WAS FOR NOTHING VIOLENT! PEOPLE ARE OFTEN PLACED IN HERE FOR TALKING TO FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS ON THE OUTSIDE WHO D.O.C LABEL "GANG MEMBERS", AND EVEN IF THAT COMMUNICATION WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH "SRG" ACTIVITY, THEY CAN STILL BE PLACED IN THESE HELLISH UNITS. THE POLICY HAS TO CHANGE! INMATES SHOULDN'T BE PLACED IN HERE SO EASILY. WHILE BEING HOUSED IN THESE UNITS IT SHOULDN'T BE SO DIFFICULT TO MAKE IT OUT. THEY CALL THIS A PROGRAM, BUT THERE IS NO PROGRAMS IN HERE AT ALL! NO ANGER MANAGEMENT, THRESHOLDS, THINKING FOR CHANGE, NOTHING! LIKE I STATED EARLIER WERE NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES!

THE FIRST TWO TIMES I WAS PLACED IN THIS UNIT WAS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH FRIENDS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE LABELED "GANG MEMBERS", EVEN THOUGH NONE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS INVOLVED GANG TALK. I WAS STILL PLACED

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IN THIS UNIT. WHILE IN GENERAL POPULATION I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES. I'VE COMPLETED SEVERAL VOL-ED'S, PROGRAMS SUCH AS THRESHOLDS, VOICES, PEOPLE EMPOWERING PEOPLE, ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE. I'VE BEEN A PART OF COLLEGE BEHIND BARS EARNING CREDITS FROM WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN, AND RIGHT BEFORE I WAS PLACED BACK IN THIS 'OPPRESSIVE' UNIT JUST LAST YEAR I WAS A STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE YALE PRISON INITIATIVE PROGRAM EARNING CREDITS THROUGH YALE UNIVERSITY.

THIS TIME I WAS PLACED IN THIS 'OPPRESSIVE' UNIT JUST FOR HAVING PICTURES OF FRIENDS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS. EVEN THOUGH THE PICTURES DEPICTED NO "GANG ACTIVITY" THESE WERE PICTURES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE A PART OF MY SUPPORT SYSTEM.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN IS THERE NEEDS TO BE AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN HERE? WHO'S BEING PLACED IN THESE UNITS? HOW LONG ARE THEY STAYING HERE?

WHAT'S THE REASONS? A LOT OF TIMES IT'S DUE TO A DISCONNECT IN CULTURES. IF YOU LOOK AT THE NUMBERS IN HERE YOU'LL SEE THAT IT'S PREDOMINATELY BLACKS & ~~LATINOS~~ <sup>LATINOS</sup> WHY IS THAT? A MAJORITY OF US COME FROM COMMUNITIES WHERE CERTAIN THINGS LIKE GANGS ARE PREVALENT. BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU TALK A CERTAIN WAY, OR YOU COMMUNICATE WITH CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU AN "ACTIVE" MEMBER OF A GANG YOU SHOULD ONLY BE PLACED IN OPPRESSIVE UNITS LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'RE CAUGHT RECRUITING PEOPLE, SENDING HITS, INVOLVED IN VIOLENT ATTACKS, THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

THERE IS NO REASON WHY SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO WAS AN ACTIVE STUDENT IN YALE COLLEGE PROGRAM, A PRISON MENTOR, AND BASICALLY A MODEL INMATE SHOULD BE PLACED IN A UNIT LIKE THIS JUST FOR HAVING PICTURES OF PEOPLE. HOW DO YOU GO FROM YALE ONE DAY, TO COMPLETE ISOLATION, LOSS OF A TON OF PRIVILEGES, AND RESTRICTED COMMUNICATION JUST FOR HAVING PICTURES?

OTHER STATES HAVE ABOLISHED S.H.U (SECURE HOUSING UNIT), AND IF THEY HAVEN'T ABOLISHED THEM THEY'VE DID A COMPLETE

OVERHAUL OF SAID UNITS. I'M ASKING THE CORRECTIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DO THE SAME THING.

THIS IS MY TESTIMONY. ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE OPPRESSED, MARGINALIZED, VICTIMIZED BROTHERS GOING THROUGH THE STRUGGLE. ~~PLEASE~~ PLEASE HEAR OUR VOICES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

IN STRUGGLE

ANDRÉ WEST

\* EVERY STATEMENT MADE IN THIS LETTER IS ACCURATE, AND TRUE AND CAN BE VERIFIED

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the

importance of the problem and the methods used in the

present work. It is shown that the results obtained

in this paper are in agreement with the results of other

workers in the field. The results are also compared with

theoretical predictions and it is shown that the

agreement is very good. The results are also compared

with the results of other workers in the field and it is

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theoretical predictions.

References

1. J. D. Jones, *Proc. Roy. Soc. (London)*, **1930**, *A*, **131**, 1-12.

2. H. A. Lorentz, *Arch. Neerl.*, **1880**, *2*, 417-426.

3. G. B. Airy, *Phil. Mag.*, **1835**, *3*, 262-275.

4. C. G. Darwin, *Phil. Mag.*, **1857**, *4*, 190-195.