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Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

Conditions of Confinement Testimony

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*Despite the retaliation this makes me susceptible to

To the Correctional Advisory Committee and The Public:

No Secret Society

1/12/26

Prison is not a secret society. Books, documentaries, testimonials, movies, lawsuits, news outlets, and vigils continue to expose prison for the systemically racist and treacherous conveyer of Harm and Punishment that masks itself as "corrections," and/or "rehabilitation."

Any time in prison, under any conditions, is More Time - More Torture.

The system in Connecticut--akin to a Mausoleum--I refer to as the "Department of Commodification," or the "System of Family Separation," an institutional leader in the way of Harm convention.

Every day we awake to an uncertainty, at the mercy of an officer's discretion- lieutenants, captains, and wardens only made up of those who have harmed their way to the top. Promotions based on disciplinary implementation, on one's ability to enforce arbitrary rules by any means necessary, rules created just to enforce the policy of punishing one's way to a promotion. I ask, what is being advised? Who but US are under this watchfulness of the state? Our captors a Committee of Cruelty punishing us perpetually beyond our punishment of imprisonment. Where's the justice in this department?

But this is not new information, prison is no secret society. So what can the tales of my testimony truly make you see that you continue to choose to turn your eyes and oversight away from? Must I explain again, detail for detail, every psychological trauma, every physical and sexual assault, every constitutional violation, every law broken by those holding us in custody for the laws we've broken??? Our time in prison just doesn't attempt to break us, it also attempts to break the very foundations of justice that claim to prevent harm in the first place.

My conditions/Our conditions: are daily deaths. We are being killed slowly, and systematically. In one moment, it's the ventilation that spews mold into our coffins as we sleep. The next, black mold in the showers, rusted doors dripping lead, the floors slick with semen, the conditions are that debilitating. A lack of custodial care leads to an internalized lack of self-worth, self-respect, and self-love. I witness kids get high smoking paper laced with Roach Spray, because they literally spend over 20 hours in a cell every day with nothing but their feelings to bury, no counseling, no treatment, no "corrective" or "rehabilitative" opportunities to "take advantage of," so they take advantage of each other, selling each other poison, selling each other false realities. But as you know, the drugs that come into a prison are not, and have never been, manufactured in a prison. Statistics that you have access to show that prison staff account for, are slapped on the wrist for, are fired for, are arrested for, the majority of illicit drugs captive individuals digest. Again, where is the oversight?

Where is the oversight when one of these kids overdoses, coming-to, shackled to the floor in

administrative segregation, not in a hospital or center for detoxification? Or when they hit rock bottom and ask for help only to be told that they have "too much time remaining" on their sentence to be eligible for any programming or schooling? Where is the oversight when those who finally get into school are harassed at literally every turn on their way to school? Metal detectors, pat downs, German Shepherds, and derogatory comments assault aspirations when students are being barked at by guards who fume that "tax payer dollars shouldn't be spent educating criminals," even though most educators who come into a prison are unpaid volunteers of higher educational programs run predominantly by private donor fundraising.

Education is used as leverage, control by "privilege," and not accessible as a right, or as a means to educate incarcerated individuals toward the productive members of society that their loved ones actually hope their tax dollars are being spent on. Not to pay uneducated men and women to put on uniforms and exacerbate the conditions that make American prisons the home of Harm and Punishment. What purpose does the More Time - More Torture model of incapacitation by incarceration serve? Who does it serve? Surely not society.

The communities we come from are comprised of formerly incarcerated individuals as well as predominately justice-impacted individuals: those on some form of state sanctioned surveillance, or those with a close friend or family member either incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, or continuing to serve their time under state sanctioned surveillance. So if prison affects our lives so much, why do we continue to ignore the evidence, to look the other way, and not demand more from our justice system?

In the summer time, as recent hunger strikes inside, coupled with protests outside, around the state have brought awareness to, officers collectively organize "call outs," leaving the prisons understaffed and going into operational lockdowns, especially on the weekends. During which our families cannot visit us. Turned away without notice after driving hours from their respective towns. Yet we witness on a daily basis correctional officers taunting us with their cellphones and 24 hour access to their loved ones. A federal offense I might add. They break the law openly as we are systematically separated from our families. All week we work. 7 days a week just like our captors, albeit for pennies, just to afford monthly cosmetics, giving all our earnings back to the prison commissary, but we want to see our loved ones on the weekends as well. This Department of Commodification and System of Family Separation operates with sovereignty, as if the laws of the state and country do not apply. And how do we respond to these conditions outside of choosing to look away?

On-Site Oversight is one way to begin to address these issues, the web of psychological, physical, and sexual violence, the deprivation revenge, the punishment of entire families and communities for individuals' convictions, the torture, the exasperated inequality and racial discrimination. A Policy that gives the community immediate, unaltered, and All Access Oversight of our "institutions of corrections and rehabilitation." A Policy that subpoenas all records from inception to present day, all reports, all footage, all audio recordings, all the treachery we already know to be blatant and conspired injustices that we have chosen not to condemn, address, or transform since prisons first captivated us all. More Time - More Torture will continue to be a reality for all of us as long as any of us are incarcerated under these conditions of confinement. How many more testimonies are required to prove a systemic pandemic of institutional harm? How much more punishment must we all endure before we intervene and transform?

Prison is not a secret society, and we can't reform Reform, or institutions that claim to be "reformatories," when we can clearly See the evidence that they are not! It's time for the public and this committee to commit to ending More Time - More Torture. Not now, not in "our time," or after more meetings and more hearings, but Right Now! While we still can.