

This letter is from a former Durham Jail detainee about his time there

This topic is long over-due; so is replacing CCS contract over-seeing the health care and daily needs, such as dieting, exercising, mental, and scheduling medical and dental care here in Durham County Jail. I myself have been keeping up with their methods, response time, med cart, their all around services to the detainees here in DCJ.

I myself am disgusted with their service and excuses and in many ways shocked as to how people keep allowing this third party medical service to keep providing sorry to none health services in which each year around the end of June, re-appy for the medical contract. If people here in Durham don't stop this malpractice.

Or; its up to us and keep dying off or paying \$120 and get a form to sue this city. Know if us detainees in this jail had money like this to sue, we would have a medical card for a doctor on the outside which they would prefer anyway! I left with waiting two and a half months for acute dental needs, and like many here I left without being seen by the dentist, just to have medical tell me I was on the list and they aren't the one's who choose who's next!

I myself talked to the dentist and where they even agreed with my concerns stating that there was an average of 75 people each week here in Durham County Jail with severe acute dental needs and that they offered to come more than 4 hours a week on Monday nights and no holidays, never the less their request was turned down.

The only thing that's positive toward medical staff and not dental care is you get 120 days straight with motrin without too much hassle. Even though having been diagnosed with severe liver damage by an outside doctor, doesn't hold any weight with all these meds I'm taking for a seat in the dental chair!

Even though I've tried so hard to let those who care on the outside know what really happens with our health needs in Durham County Jail. My attempts no matter even coming from an outside dentist who is very good, has been distorted by excuses laying all blame on others.

feedback

inside & outside, voices from the jail struggle

Durham, NC ~ April 2018 ~ volume 39

A Young Man Who Has Had Enough

First thing first thank you for taking the time out of your day to write me it really means a lot. I'm actually thankful for you guys/woman for your support. Things are real rough in here, they feed us sandwiches 5 times out of the week, and other fake processed foods which doesn't help the excruciating hunger pains that mot inmates stomachs cause or feel. Commissary sucks we haven't received canteen for nearly 2 ½ weeks now nor ICares, and when we do get canteen it is never on time and it's never everything we ordered is like they don't care about us seriously, physically, mentally and emotionally.

The next issue that we go through is they lock us down whenever they feel I have been here 90 days and we have been (the whole jail) locked down 20 times for days at a time for no reasons. One time I asked sgt Cole (real big obese old man) why do we lock down for his response was "because this my jail and you people do what I say!!!" When I heard this I got on my knees in the cell that min and prayed for GOD to help not just me but all inmates.

The most major issue is out of 24 hours we only come out for 6 hours. So that's 18 hours in a cell that's 5 feet wide 10 feet long. A lot of time to get your mind right they say but in reality they really make people mind more unstable an more likely to go insane. The times we come out is 9:00am-12:45pm then 4:00pm-6:00m on that is the rest of your day takes place in your cell which is a shame even dogs have more freedom than we do I even think slaves had it better than us inmates in Durham County Jail. I have concluded in my mind this is modern day slavery at its worst and it is flat out wrong and injustice.

Another is how they keep you in here knowing your innocent like even in your legal documents it says you have no parts of the crime and they still hold you like why? Do you understand one thing you can never get back in life is wasted time, time stands still for no one. I really have lost hope in the justice/criminal system in Durham County.

I thank you for taking the time out to hear about our trials behinds these walls and hope that in due time even the mayor can help us... Yes you can use my letter in feedback and I hope you post it online and try to email the Mayor or city council or someone who can help because no ones know how they doing us and it need to be revealed. Thanks again write back soon.

Sincerely, a young man who has had enough, stand for something or fall for anything!!!

Visitation is 'Posed to be Our Personal Time

Hope all is well with you & shall remain that way! As for me, I'm maintaining just keeping a clear mind! I ask for your deepest forgiveness because I got your letter on the 5th but since I been so busy trying to get in touch with my lawyer & my loved ones I just forgot about responding to your letter of support so I send my deepest apologies! I appreciate a complete stranger taking interest in me because I do want to point out that there's a lot of people in here who charges got sent to superior court without a probable cause hearing which is against our constitutional rights. They supposed to give us probable cause hearings to dictate if there's enough evidence to charge us with the charges we are being accused of & if not then the charges are dismissed or dropped to lesser charges or we (the accused) can waive our right but that requires us to sign our signature on some paperwork but yet people are being cheated out of their right to "due process"! This same thing has been done to me which I am bringing to my attorney's attention because its not right for justice is posed to be blind! ... As far as visitation goes, I feel like the video visits are too invading in one's personal life because they record the visits visually & audibly & that's just not right. We can't talk to our own family members about our case because they recording out phone conversations & now they recording our visits I mean visitation is posed to be out personal time with our loved ones to talk about sensitive matters of the heart, of personal interest, family interest, I mean they have just killed any privacy that we once had with out family! Anyways I'm not trying to hold you from your day so I appreciate you reading a letter from a stranger & hopefully I'll hear from you soon enough!

Truth, L.Q.

What is Feedback?

Feedback is a publication of Inside-Outside Alliance (IOA), a group of people trying to support the struggles of those inside (or formerly inside) the Durham jail, and their families and friends. We recognize that any of us can be outside one day, inside the next – the revolving door of incarceration. We also participate in struggles against police harassment and brutality. IOA maintains a website called Amplify Voices Inside (amplifyvoices.com) that publishes the words of Durham jail inmates and former inmates talking about conditions inside and outside and how they see the world.

The name Amplify Voices Inside comes from something a brave and rebellious inmate wrote in the fall of 2012. This publication, Feedback, is a sampling of recent contents of the website. When something amplified is redirected at the source of the sound, the effect is called feedback. That is what this is: the voices that have been amplified to the outside world being re-broadcast inside the walls of the jail. Feedback is also distributed on the outside and sometimes includes 'outside' voices. Unless a person requests use of their real name, then writers' initials have been changed to protect identities and minimize repressive attacks and harassment.

To contribute words or art, write to: IOA, PO Box 1353, Durham, NC 27701.

You may be able to reach us by phone at 919.666.7854

Or, if you are not in jail and are able to, send an email: insideoutsidealliance@gmail.com

*** Se habla español. ***

Officers are quick to put in a grievance cause they know nothing will be done

Thank you all, for being one of the few words to let us know somebody really does care. Inmates sometimes may go through a lot. Then, when you have officers. That chooses to come to work here. Gives you a harder problems. With their nasty attitudes. Just, like, they didn't tell us to come to jail. We didn't take them tell them to get a job here.

You have some officers. Who's attitudes are so bad, and rude. They should be happy "were here". Cause, they probably couldn't find Any other type of work. I have this place. Jail isn't supposed to be fun, but it's okay to not be disrespectful and rude. When you are asking "I mean it", tellin us to do something. Officers are quick to say, put in a grievance cause they know nothing will be done. That's why officers are quick to say do it.

When you first get here, and no matter how many times you come back. Before you are let into population you have to watch this video. At the end of the video the sheriff says, while you're here you will be treated with dignity and respect. We are disrespected when he said that.

I do want to write more. But cause of my anxiety, I have to write a little at a time. But again, thanks for thinking about us.

Oh please, can you please them stop giving us milk in plastic, instead of a milk carton. The employees drink milk out of a carton.

"Just trying to get through this bid"

How are you doing? Me, I'm good, just trying to get through this bid. First and foremost, I want to thank you for taking the time out the day to write me, not many people do it. Anyhow, you like Durham? Believe it or not, I've been here all my life and I still haven't seen the whole city lol. It must have been fun to travel around the world, I hope I get a chance to one day. A little about myself: I'm 24, most people say I'm funny, but mostly I'm laid back. As you already know, I'm locked up smh. It's all good though, because if everything go right, I'm going to be out by the end of the year. It doesn't really matter, but I was wondering how you got my info? I would describe myself to you, but you probably already did your

research on e and looked up my mug-shot. I'm not use to this whole pen pal thing so I'm sorry if this kite is short or boring to you. Hopefully as time go by my conversation we get better. So you like to play the guitar, do you play other people song or do you make your own? I'm not going to front, since I've been in here I've been doing my thing with the music, hopefully I can get signed when I get out. To be real I'm praying that it keeps me out of trouble, but my words are getting short so whenever you want to talk I'm here, keep your head up and keep up the good work.

Love
is
Love -- T.

That's not how we supposed to live

Hey Mrs. ____! It was nice for you write me out of so many people her in Durham County Jail. But yes I would love your offer with the books + that's if I'm still here. I got court on the 21st + I should be leaving. Hopefully! But yeah being in here has been stressful for me knowing that I'm in here for nothing but it's okay I guess, nothing I can do about. God knows, but I really appreciate you writing me it shows that someone cares. This Jail is ridiculous we're locked back for 17 hours in a small room that's not how we supposed to live. I mean yeah we in jail but this isn't right. Our food don't even be right at all. The trays still be dirty from the day before + that's not healthy at all. The stuff they're feeding us don't be all the done, + the fact that the commissary food we order is not normal prices they taxing so much. Deodorant is \$3 and some change for a speedstick when out there in that world it's \$1.79 at Maxway. This is unfair treatment. I'm ready to go home this is stressful. We eating breakfast at 5:30 am how is that healthy? Locking back at 6:45 pm until 9:00 am in the morning. Hopefully I'm going home soon anyway I can't take this anymore. K.D.

"Just another number"

Hey, I hope everyone is doing well. I used to get letters from you guys. But they stopped coming in the mail. I miss having someone to talk to, I've been here for almost 1 year now. Some days are better than others. I don't understand this justice system. No one seems to care, I'm only a number on another another case load. I'm in the mental health block, it's better in a few ways but it's still jail. I feel forgotten and neglected. Maybe it's just in my head. I miss my family. I think the reason I've been here so long is because the D.A. thinks I'm faking mental health problems. 2 days before getting arrested I was released from a mental hospital. I beat up a cable truck with a bat and jumped in it and took off for no reason while the men were working across the street. My bond is \$271,000, I really needed help and to be back on my meds like I am now. It's crazy I don't get it. Just another number. Sorry I needed to get all this out. I'm not trying to get out of the charges I just want some help and another chance. I hope one of you will write me back soon. It will be nice to get a letter at mail call.

Well. . . until then, V. F.

'Coming together to stop bails'

How are things going your way? Fine I hope. As for me, things are going okay, but things could be better. U say that groups are coming together to stop bails? I think about how a plan in one's mind could affect their surroundings is a good thing. I really want you to know that GOD sent you because I need your help. I feel like my lawyer is holding back from me. Her name is Ms. Ingram. I let her know about how they treated me when I came in. That was in Nov. 2016. Miss Ingram stated that I would be receiving paperwork such as the two cases they indicted and the motion on my case. She has not gotten back with me yet. I think she's doing this deliberately. Well, I hope to hear from you soon so I can tell you about whats supposed to happen in May.

Take care!!! – A.C.

Life (a poem by Wallace Eubanks)

At times I'm stressed,
oppressed and I digress only
to become depressed,
pain not
for the benefit of gain, for
all in vain have I slain
the memories that haunt this
troubled brain,
love in my
heart, yet inside my blood
is blue, like sad jazz

songs that you know are true,
oh. . . what to do. . . what to dooo,
When you live you die slow,
each day the more know,
and end the end you still go.
I wish to be a bird to only
fly away, to run astray,
to live for only a worm, nest
and the sun to rise the
next day.



Drawing by E.K., in honor of International Women's Day, "Women created not for jail"

Family

Will always be
The back
The one's that'll
Comfort you
When you're feeling
Alone
Family
Are the one's
That'll help form
A fist
When you're ready
To strike a
Blow
The first one's
To help you
Up
After a fall
Family
Has unconditional love
Through the good, bad,
And the ugly
The emotional times
The hard times
I say that
To say this
It doesn't matter
Who you are
Or where you're
From

You all came
Together
For a purpose
So you got
To stay strong
Family
Love and forgives
That mean whatever
The problem is
Its time to
Brush it off
And move on
Everyone of
You has something
Special to give
Put your minds
Together
Fight towards
Achievement
They want to
See you loose
But I know
You have the
Strength to win
Come together as
One
We have a
War to win

When I first wrote this poem, it was to lift the spirits and try to form some sort of bond to help the IOA. But I can say these words go to any family going through any type of problems amongst themselves. I don't care what race gender or if you're even related, if you come together for any cause or just love being around each other. Family is family and life only comes around once.

– Ghost

'The Business of Bail and Bonds'

I personally have never had to deal with bail or bonds. However, because of a domestic dispute that was pushed far over the edge for too long, I now know the cruelty for which this business exists. It's like 'trying to squeeze blood out of a turnip,' as some old timers would put it. In this case they would be completely right, as this method targets poor and impoverished people and communities which are predominately black and latino. It's all part of a much bigger scheme within the injustice system. Black and Latino communities are the #1 targets of the injustice system, making it ideal for law enforcement to hunt and pick their prey.

Once apprehended, the charges that are 'the most serious,' whether true or not, are recommended to receive high bonds by the arresting officer to the magistrate and that person is held until bonded out or further notice. This is also used to fish out possible drug dealers or those linked to them. Through we have yet to see the manufacturers of street narcotics dealing with the laws. Nonetheless, if you are not linked to someone with the kind of cash it takes to bond you out, then you are stuck in jail until your court date. In Durham County that can mean a minimum of about 1-3 months depending on your charges and judge. Bondsmen are so accustomed to this routine that they are heartless and cruel when it comes to bonding anyone out. You have to have money or they simply will not give you the time of day. And most poor people just do not have 10-15%

of \$20,000 – \$500,000 laying around or saved up, let alone to dish out to the injustice system. The first thing they ask of you is to gather up more poor and impoverished individuals, such as family and friends to pitch their hard earned, low-income dollars to afford them a freedom that, if not for the harassment and lies of law enforcement, they would already have.

Furthermore, these bonds interrupt people's lives and add to already existing stress. Your life comes to a complete halt and is put on hold when you are in jail and cannot get out because of an unaffordable bond. It seems as if they courts intentionally take their time with these cases just to see if friends or family can possibly come up with the money to free their loved ones. The idea of the bond being placed so that detainees/inmates show up to court is a mere illusion. It is VERY clear why bonds are placed and that is to fish out drug dealers, extort the poor, and money, and control. The court system and bondsmen are the ONLY ones benefitting from bonds, as I am 100% that there are other alternatives to assure that people accused of the most ridiculous crimes can show up to court.

– Conscious Mind

'les mando mi apoyo desde aquí adentro!!!/I give you my support from inside!!!'

Hola hola!

Pues aquí andamos, esperando que pase el tiempo para ver resultados... pues que le cuento

"lo mismo de siempre"

Celdas frías, muy poquita comida, la mayoría de los guardias racistas con los hispanos. Algunos se creen los dueños de uno. La cantina muy cara etc. Pues ya ni modos no nos queda otra cosa mas que aguantar el sistema de aquí... que es de puritita injusticia, pero que bueno que exista el grupo Alianza Dentro Afuera y sepa de este sistema de injusticia sigan así puro para adelante les mando mi apoyo desde aquí adentro!!! Muchísimas gracias por la carta. Y por acordarse de uno

ERA

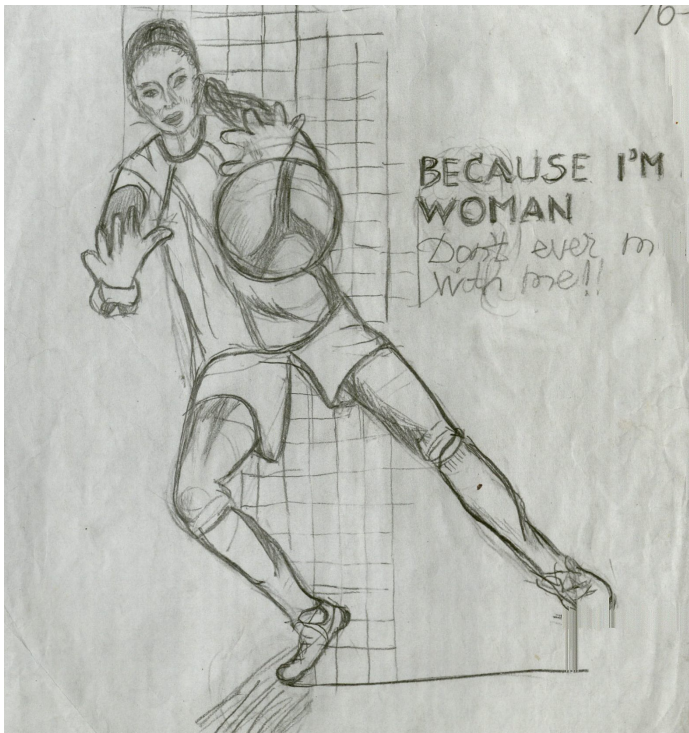
Hey hey!

Well, here we are, hoping that the time passes to see results.... So what can I tell you...

"the same as always"

Cold cells, very little food, the majority of the guards being racist to Hispanics. Some thing that they own you. The canteen is really expensive, etc. Well, at this point there is nothing left for us but to withstand the system here... which is PURE injustice, but how great that Inside-Outside Alliance exists and knows about this injustice system, keep moving forward, I give you my support from inside!!! Thank you so much for the letter and for remembering us.

ERA



'More trumped up charges, more profiling, more robotic and heartless court procedures'

I hope you & others will write and continue to write me. It would inspire and give me hope knowing that real people care about my person, not the charge or number beside it! You may use my letters as you see fit only if it's in a positive way, you can use my name as well. I do have a strong testimony and if it would help others in some way then please use it.

As I have told you before in my last letter I am in the mental health pod. It does have its advantages, yet my mind is still conflicted. I am doing much better than when I first came in, the mental health staff is limited due to the fact that this is still jail and we still inmates, mostly my concerns are more toward the courts. This system is not considerate to the situation in which the crime or offense happened. It is extremely robotic.

Early in my childhood I struggled mentally, school was hard I did not learn as others did. They "labeled" me "learning disabled" and A.D.H.D. They put me on meds but I still struggled. At 12 they sent me to a wilderness program. When I got out I still had problems, started using drugs and drinking. At 18 I had my first real run in with the courts, ever since, event till now I've been in and out of jails and mental institutions. A lot of it came from not having insurance or money to get my meds or go to a good rehab. From the outside looking in on my life I just looked like a thug who lives a criminal lifestyle. It could not be seen in any

other light. My family understands but I'm still a disappointment to them. I have tattoos of teardrops under my eyes, not because I'm a thug or whatever, but to show the world the pain they don't seem to see inside, the tears I cry when no one one sees. When I do get into trouble with the laws that I've broken they don't see the reason or the why or even offer to help. I sit in jail and wait. . . wait. . . wait until they throw me a plea that I take to be done with the mess. Now my record on paper or in the computer system looks like the criminal thug person that they think me to be. No help was ever offered, the mental health that I struggled with seemed a joke to them.

What if me or my family had substantial amounts of money, would things be different? Do I even have to answer that question? Yes, all in all I did do a lot to get into trouble, but what no one knows but me and the courts, a lot of my charges were trumped up, and with only the aid of a court appointed attorney, who is paid by the same government as the D.A. Everyone wins but me. I again do not claim to be totally innocent of these crimes, I just don't understand how no one truly stands up for me. Who? No one cares about the truth of the situation in the court system. Where is my justice, do you know why I committed the first crime I

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was charged with? The home I lived in with my dad, we had no lights and ate whatever food we ate out of a cooler, wore dirty clothes. Yes I know it's still no excuse to do what I did, but in my mind I did not understand or remember the morals I was taught as a kid.

So I acted on the need of my house, in an inappropriate way. Next door, my neighbor was well-off and I had heard someone had already stole \$400.00 cash from inside the house. I did, and continued to go into his home and stole large sums of money and goods, not all at once but over 16 times in a month. I used the money for us at home but was soon caught, my first conviction was to three breaking and enterings, three felonies. I did the crime, I plead guilty, I was.

Afterward life was still hard for me mentally. I could not hold a job and my relationships fell apart. I had become addicted to huffing "spray paint". It along with my mental health destroyed my life. I lived on the streets, I stole food, clothes, soap, "spray paint", and everything I thought I needed. Often I'd go to a mental hospital, then I'd be released but had no to get my meds. I'd break into buildings for shelter or for strange reasons. No one offered help, just jail. Now I have a robbery charge for smashing windows and hitting a parked cable truck while workers watched. I threw tools out of the truck & drunk an energy drink that was one of the worker's, then got into the truck and drove off.

I've been here for a year behind this. Who will help me this time? More trumped up charges, more profiling, more robotic and heartless court procedures, no emotion, no concern other than a conviction of another trumped up charges. My lawyer is a good one I truly believe but I feel even her hands are tied when it comes to me, C—. . .

Thank you for writing me, please write me soon and ask if anyone else would like to write as well. My social network is dead. I want to meet others of the same mind as myself, to grow to like life and enjoy the time we still have.

I wish the world were different, less hate and lack of love, lost in self and the little world they created around them. Thank you again for your letter. Please write soon, my mind needs more positivity and release from brick walls and steel locked doors. I will be pleased from anyone who writes and I'll respond to every letter.

Thanks again,

Wallace Eubanks

I don't have any rights now, I am already with immigration

[Translated from Spanish]

How Are you I hope really good thanks for writing me. I am very confused I am not how I would like to be I am very depressed and sad because I have never been in jail and I feel that here my life will end because I am here incarcerated and my mom is suffering from her illness and I can't do anything to help her. I feel that everything is my fault I feel this way because I can't do anything now and I already lost everything because I am an immigrant. I don't have any rights now, I am already with immigration they are going to deport me to Mexico and this makes me very sad because almost my whole life I have been working here and I was who helped my mom and my grandma, and I helped my mom because I don't have a dad and I am the only one who helps my mom. She can't work and now this is happening to me, well its not fair after 12 years of working non-stop in this country and all of the sudden it ends and I don't think that's good because here I will leave everything I have, and the only thing I have is my son, but yea, I don't know what will happen with my life, the only thing I know is that I am getting more and more depressed and I can't take anymore here. I feel lonely and I don't have anyone here, I am all alone and sad. Getting your letter made me happy, thanks so much because this lifted my spirits a little. Thank you and may god watch over you and bless you. I would like to tell you a little of my story, but it is very long. Thank you.

God is love.



Gov. Roy Cooper

We here at Inside Outside Alliance would like for you to ask yourself a question; since 2017 Mr. Cooper has stated that the SBI's labs average time for DNA, once shipped, would take seven and a half months before returning to the District Attorney's or responsible parties who controls one's case! I myself was shafted by detective Stevenson from Durham County's Police Department. She and the D.A. Stormy Ellison kept my DNA for 6 months before sending to the SBI lab, in of course delays your possibility for a fair trial until DNA is returned to proper law enforcement personnel. If this still continues, you could blame Sheriff Mike Andres for allowing such disregard for a fair time trial!

-Todd Pope