

feedback

inside & outside, voices from the jail struggle
Durham, NC ~ may 2016 ~ volume 17

'We all matter, not just those in higher positions in life'

To: Whom this may concern

My name or who I am is not very important at this point in time. "WE," the people in the Durham County Jail finds you at fault for criminal acts that is indictable, holding people hostage unjustly, while in the Durham County Jail, by giving us overly excessive high bonds for non-violent offenses and violent offense. We have placed our own investigators throughout the Durham Co. Jail. "We" have found said parties to be in fault of holding inmates against their will by unjust acts of unfair practices. These acts involve the governor, mayor, chief of police, magistrates, and corrupt police, sheriff and state patrol officers, including FBI and SBI departments, and the DA office. "We" also find you at fault of tampering with evidence and planting evidence, or withholding evidence by working with the Magistrate of this Jail, making up evidence, so that the arrestee can get higher bonds and more serious charges than what's actually intended, where it is then indictable to superior court. I hope you take this letter serious enough and call it a "courtesy call" from me to you. STOP! treating us like just another statistical number of this already deteriorating society because of economical causes by the Government. STOP! undermining society's apocalypse. "We" all matter not just those in higher positions of life. When the news of corruption comes to light, some people will have to retire and/or resign, or get fired; while others that are in the elected offices will not get re-elected!! I will also guarantee you, that you are about to see some of the biggest (PEACEFUL) street and in-house demonstrations that the City of Durham has ever seen. There is no need to find out who I am because already it's too late.



‘Try to be stuck up in a room all day...that’s something to be depressed about’

Man a lot has changed around here since I last wrote IOA, but most of it has been for the good. We now get three hot meals a day. We’re still dealing with a few small problems like the side of the pod I’m on most of the rooms don’t get hot water, and Sgt Davis said that they will be in to fix it, but they still have not.

And the mail lady everybody could find something wrong with her job. She holds pictures for days and books, too. I think she needs to be fired. I have nothing more to say when some of these officers come to work and be mad cause they have some bullshit going on at home, and then they try to take it out on us. Them motherfuckers should be happy they get to go home every day. Try to be stuck up in a room all day with a motherfucker telling you what to do, then that’s something to be depressed about.

— Q.E.

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

—W.M. (Hebrews 13:3)

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.

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

*** Se habla español. ***

‘We deserve better point blank period’

To IOA,

Whatever you all are doing is making a difference slowly but surely. We now receive three hot meals a day, but there is a catch to it...they slack on our portion sizes terribly...I understand this change just started but before, during and will unfortunately continue after this change that the employees will eat tremendously better than inmates. Truth be told, employees eat nothing of what we eat. Employees have even expressed themselves on how grotesque the appeal of our food is to theirs. Some enter the pods with their employee meals bragging about how much better the food they eat is from ours, rubbing it in our face as they eat their meals. Saying they don't know how we could fix our mouths to eat what the jail serves—some of us don't have choices. Employees eat, from what I was told for the past two months, real shelled eggs not liquid, real sausage not soy, real bacon (we never see any), real cheese in their foods not powdered like ours, chicken, pork chops, real juice, real biscuits (not half-baked dough). We deserve real meals, too. The only real food we get in which you

all know is on holidays or when you buy a canteen hot tray (costs \$8.99 or more). Durham County Jail and the judicial system is a money trap. Durham county Jail charges you to even spend your own money, but we can't receive better care. No one said this jail was the Holiday Inn or the Marriott, but we deserve better point blank period. I'm an analyst and I see through what they are trying to accomplish by doing these minor changes, to insult us and IOA's efforts...

P.S. Please fight vigorously for

NO MORE 18 HOUR LOCKBACKS

Progress is a slow process but IOA is making change.

Sincerely,

Willie M.

The Star Within

A star within the child of poverty, will it
ever be realized

Or will it be dimmed by the struggles of
oppression.

Oh, let the star shine even when
repressed to confinement!

Oh, let the star shine even when captured
and trapped in bondage.

Oh, let this star reach the heights and
shine enlightenment onto the masses!

This star will join the brightest after the
closed casket.

— D.D.C.

'We are breathing dead skin and drinking Flint water'

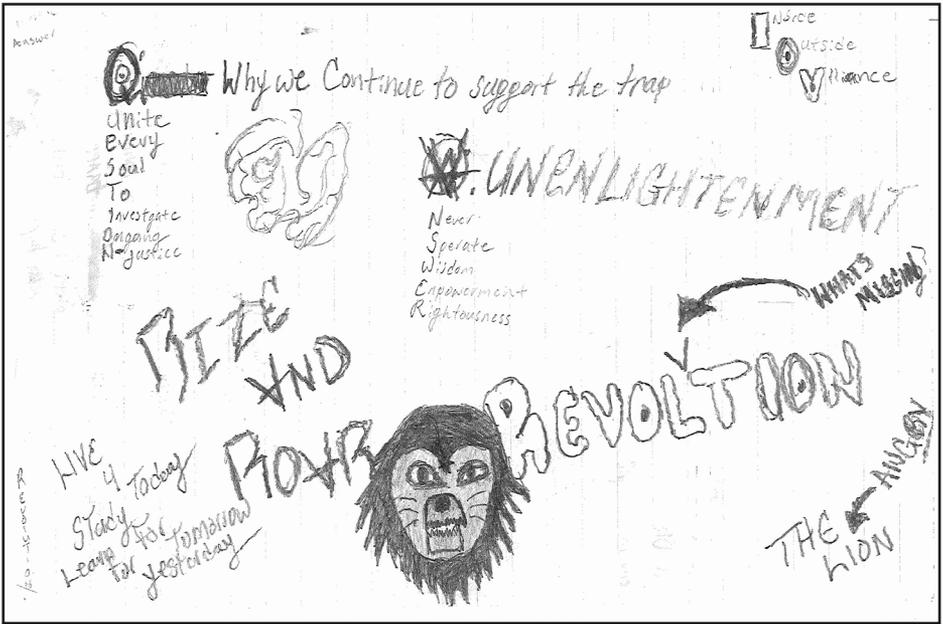
I've been in the Durham County Jail for 50 days. I made a request on the computer that my sink did have cold water in cell #1. In Pod 5B also there are at least 3 more cells that don't have hot or cold water. I've been with cold water since March 3, 2016. Today is March 28, 2016. If you put in maintenance request, they should have fixed by now. I've wrote the maintenance people 3 times in this matter. Another thing: some of CO have other inmates to different room so they can see the TV and everything works fine in the room that they sleep in. I asked to be moved for my cold water issue. They have not moved or fixed anything. Beside that the water in the jail after drinking it for a while leave you with a scratchy throat. It feels like you have hair in your throat. When you tell the CO, they all say you shouldn't come to jail. Also if you leave your cup and have juice in it overnight you have some film in. Where's the film coming from? Well, I found that the heat/AC vents have never been cleaned out. Send OSHA to see all the dusty vents in the hallways in the pods. If you go in Pod 4c near the rec yard and look up in the vents you will notice that the dust is flying down from the vent like it's snowing. What is dust? Dead skin. We are breathing dead skin and drinking

Flint water.

Also, Pod 5B downstairs doesn't have the correct fall on the ground for the water to drain, so it flows on the ground. When you step on it, you slip, and the don't have any wet floor sign. OSHA needs to see this. They sell you flip-flops. If they are going to sell them, why can't they slip proof? When wash your clothing, why do your shirt and socks get taken and no one will replace them? When you tell the guards, they all have the same line: you shouldn't come to jail. I also spent 9 days in this jail. I'm here for a probation violation. They will not give me my jail credit but it's in the computer that I've did nine days. Why can't I get credit? They just sent me a statement saying they will not allow jail credit. If I did the time, I should get credit for it!

I would like to add this jail is hurting the County of Durham. They making this gang land. From what I notice young man come in on high bonds and a court date so long that they should have time served but that's not the case. They don't get a court date until 8 ½ months to a year and the young men join a gang. 90% of the guys in the Durham Co. Jail joined the gang in jail. So let's thank the jail for helping the gang population go up

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



‘The court and this jail work together to get people to take pleas’

I’m going to be leaving soon, cause I got 9 months of prison when I went to court. I know, I didn’t want to take the time, but I took it because I wanted out so bad and pay for it later. The court and this jail work together to get people to take pleas, so they go home or to prison, but out of here. They force us to drink out a sink / toilet and not allowed ice. The juice take the paint off the floor. I pass out info to a lot of inmates. A lot of them scared to write and put their name on the letter because, when you do, they keep your mail. But I don’t care. I’m going to keep writing.

Sincerely, G.F.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in our town. They done a great job with this. Taxpayers are paying for the C.O. to sit on their ass for 12 hrs. All they do is push a button. Most of them are getting payed to play poker, chess, checkers, and always Facebook. I’m surprised they don’t have hemorrhoids from sitting down for 12 hrs a day. They work 3 days that week: 12X3 that = 36 hrs of getting paid to sit down and look at TV and play on the computer. Great job...

- S.M.

The First Five Grieving Committee of the Durham County Jail

Preamble:

We, the members of this Grieving Committee, in order that we may establish a more excellent environment for the inmates and the detention officers of this jail facility, establish justice, and advance the general welfare, we have ordained this Grieving Committee for this very purpose.

Why are we here?

To prevent abuse or injustice and lend support to inmates while incarcerated.

The First Five Grievances:

1. Arrest
2. Interrogation
3. High Bond Set
4. First Appearance
5. Doing Time (Grieving while doing time)

The First Five Traditions:

1. Never disrespect an officer, but speak in a respectable manner
2. We are a non-violent organization
3. We will always seek help from outside sources and enterprises, including radio, television and film
4. We are representatives of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities.
5. We are non-gang affiliated, but we are willing to listen and lend a hand of any grievances that they may have.

The Five Rules for the Doorman:

1. No violence, cussing, joking or horseplaying.
2. If 2 or more people have a heated discussion, one of the parties have to take a 10-20 minute break immediately.
3. When there is a heated discussion, all other conversation is cut off until the problem is resolved.
4. No other outsiders, when the board meeting is in session, unless otherwise specified.
5. No letters or gang signs being passed while in meeting, concerning the outsiders.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Grievances of the Durham County Jail Facility:

1. The time we should be out at night (9:00 p-10:45p) has been taken away from us permanently. We now cannot call home after 6:45 pm, but are locked in our cell till the next morning at 6:45 a.m. (12 hours). Some of us cannot reach our family during the day because they are at work, but after 6:45 pm, they are at home, but we cannot call them, cause we are locked back (12 hours).
2. Most of us in this whole dormitory 5C, 3D, 4D and the rest of the jail have extremely high bonds to match the charges that they have. Some bonds are 1.5 million dollars for simple drug charges that is non-violent. (For example) Emanuel Lennon has a half million dollar bond because of a simple 'habitual felon' charge which is non-violent charges. The bonds are excessively too high for us inmates.
3. We ought to be able to watch Gospel shows on Sunday if we want to (at least for 1 hour), without depriving us of our religious rights.
4. We need to be able to go to the law library to check out law books regardless if we have a lawyer or representing ourselves.
5. The G.E.D. program or life skills program should not be for only ages 16-24 year olds, but it should be for older men/women as well that's in this facility that wants an education enhanced.
6. We need mats that is more up-to-date when sleeping on this "concrete slab"; because there is a lot of old mats that is no good, worn and torn.
7. Laundry comes back "dingy" and dirty because the colored clothes are also washed with the white clothes, together.
8. Inmates need to be fully screened and treated for health issues before sending them to populated dorms: at this time, inmates are sent up to populated cells without being treated for lice, etc.
9. If our grieving wife (that we are married to) is locked up in the same facility with us, we should be able to come together, at times, to talk to them face to face or at least with the thick glass between us as we talk to one another. At this present time, there is no visitation between spouses.

Thank you for considering our requests and grievances; if there is any way you can help us, please "feel free" to do so and we will sincerely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Lennon, Secretary of the

First 5 Grieving Committee of the Durham County Jail

‘We’re not the animals they’re treating us like’

Hello, I give I.O.A. permission to use my name and letters at anytime for the sake of awareness of all amplified voices...

Update: the kitchen’s inmate staff is now being worked to the bone, just to cover any tracks of anything that shows lack in the D.C.J. staff members. We’ve experienced a hot tray for dinner for the first time. Hopefully it will continue. As far as officers go, there is another who decided to show their true colors this night of 3-24-16 by the name of Officer Perry – a male. 5-B. So, let’s dissect the issue. Majority of the time, us inmates are locked back or out in the pod, the officer is sitting at their desk usually doing nothing is the most honest thing one could say. So, after only 1 hr into his work schedule, Officer Perry at 9:00pm states he’s not going to open our doors to our cell unless he feels like it. So I had a moment of clarity which was: Officer Perry clearly isn’t satisfied with the pay he receives to just sit and push some buttons. Also, when we’re let out of cell at 9:00pm, it’s a wonderful privilege that’s appreciated 100% until you get an officer such as Officer Perry who instead of pushing the button that opens all doors so we can exit cell, the officer will walk to each door of at least 47 doors and unlock them only to cut into our free time at the least 10-15 minutes, which we do not receive back. Sad isn’t it?

Officers in general also lack respect when it comes to your personal phone calls that may be \$10-\$20. The officers sometimes just hang up on your phone call without notice, leaving you with the loss of money and an unfinished phone call, all with no consideration for the inmate. Last but definitely not least, there is, I repeat, there is something in the water we drink and bathe with. It is a thin foggy white film that floats in and on top of your water. Also, the water you bathe with is so harsh it chafes your skin very badly...

Also, for all medical visits here at Durham County Jail it will cost you \$20, unless you’re dying, is what the nurse told me. I asked for the medical policy and was told that they could provide me so I wouldn’t be confused about how to be seen appropriately. I stated: it was my (Right) to have this information, and was told again there is nothing to give you, but if you’re sick she said, put in a sick call not a grievance cause it usually is the least concern...

Also, I’ve heard specifically from inmate kitchen staff that fruit flies / gnats are all over the kitchen and sometimes have crawled onto the food that they serve us. Kitchen staff has also said when they notify the kitchen authority of the issue, they threaten them to mind their business if they wish to continue working in the kitchen. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

'It's rules within rules that aren't even documented'

To whom it may concern,

My name is Deontae Richardson and I don't care if you use my name. First off, let me say I personally work in the Durham County Jail kitchen and the infestation of fruit flies is getting out of control. I am ServSafe Certified, and I know that it's against health regulations seeing these bugs flying and landing and crawling on the food people is going to eat. And the only thing I've seen was it get fanned like we're at a cook out—it's ridiculous. They came and sprayed, but it was a half job, because for one they're still there, and it's picking back up.

The second thing I want to address is the rules and policy about work detail. I've been working for 31 days in the kitchen and was supposed to get 4 days taken off, and upon me asking for it I was told that I can't get any because I'm in treatment and I receive days for that also. So I asked for a copy regarding work detail policy and was told

there is no policy. The jail made up the rules and implemented work detail and takes days off from whom they want to take days off of. So I asked why would it be said we can work and receive days off our sentence, but I can't get it because I'm in treatment and they're giving me days off for that. Then, if that is so, why was this information withheld from me? I basically work for free with the intentions of receiving days off my sentence, only to be told no I can't get any. And it's not in black and white but made up rules on what they think and who they think should get it. What happened to equal opportunity? I work so I deserve these days. But seeing though I'm receiving treatment for my drug addiction I'm receiving days off, but working 31 days, making 300 people trays and then cleaning it every day is not good enough to receive my extra days I worked for. It's rules within rules

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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So, basically if you notify staff of these health related issues you're fired from your kitchen position. I personally witnessed the jails head kitchen officer come to 4C pod and make a mockery of the guy who found the maggots, say strip him of his blue uniform immediately. He no longer works in the kitchen anymore and never will, not while I'm working here. OSHA, please save us. We're not the animals they're treating us like. Even a dog deserves and receives better treatment than this. OSHA just needs to come unannounced and justice will be served. Please help us. — *Tony King*

Con un hispano, se portan más racistas / With a hispanic person, they act even more racist

Hola _____

Soy L.L.L. y quiero dar gracias a dios y a ustedes y a ti que se preocupan por nosotros los presos, no tengo mucho que contar a cerca de Mateo (Matthew McCain), pero para mi crea que fue una negligencia medica su muerte ya quel día anterior el se quejó que ya se sentía mal y no lo atendieron. Tambien estava laqueado porque no salia junto con nosotros.



Refiriendonos al trato, para nosotros aqui si no tenemos dinero en nuestra cuenta, no nos atienden rapido, ya que nose cobran 20 dolares. Bueno apenas paso un caso de un hispano que se sentia mal su boca se le estava llendo de lado, y no lo atendian. Ya que por el ingles pero otra persona X le ayudó a escribir en ingles en la computadora la verda no se sabe que escribio la persona X. Porque rapido lo llevaron al medico. Pero lo raro fue que cuando regresó , lo movieron de piso y no se sabe que paso con el. Bueno con respeto a los guardias a veces no nos quieren dar papel higienico o champu que dan aqui.

Con uno hispano se portan más racistas, y con respeto a la comida, yo desgraciadamente llevo un año

aqui y todas las tardes lo unico que nos dan son pan con jamón y bueno ya que uno no tiene familia aqui, que le pongan a uno dinero. A veces los amigos se acuerdan de uno, pero con respeto a la cantina, o a la tienda que vende comidas o articulos que uno necesita, como javon, pasta, sopas' están demasiado elevados los precios por ejemplo, una tarjeta telefonica

e 20 dolares la venden en 27 dolares y cada sopa 89 cent. Bueno, yo para llamar a un amigo en Raleigh, me cobran 8 dolares 10 minutos, es mucho, mucho dinero, espero y le ayude o nos ayude la información gracias y dios los vendiga a ti y al grupo. y aqui le pongo 2 anillos de regalo.

— L.L.L.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9
that aren't even documented. It's not right, it's not fair and it's cruel and unusual punishment being worked hard only to receive nothing at the end. And it's not just with work detail, it's throughout the jail, even for the officers says my inside source, that it's policy inside policy but not in writing.

— *Deontae Richardson*

VOICES OUTSIDE

'It's appalling that we are still warehousing people for profit'

[This is a shortened version of a talk that Cynthia Fox gave at Duke University, Abele-Ville encampment outside the Allen administrative building, on 4/18/16.]

Hi, I'm Cynthia Parrish Fox, a mother of 3 young men, a health homecare worker, an activist, and a member of Inside-Outside Alliance.

As we well know, mass incarceration in this country is another method or undercover form of the New Slavery, whose job is to rid 'so called' undesirables (people of color and the poor) from being a part of mainstream society. Jails and prisons are now warehouses that incarcerate for profit.... My task and doing God's work is fighting for the poor, the oppressed, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the outcast, and those with little or no hope.

It's really appalling to me that Durham, NC as well as other cities and states throughout the US are still warehousing people for profit and at the same time, again, enslaving a people. That goes back to the very fiber of past slave-days.

The inhumane treatment of a people because of who they are, I thought was unconstitutional. But, as we witness everyday, the Constitution has been consistently used to validate the actions of those in power.

What mass incarceration will birth is a divided and civil unrest to a people that only seek the necessities in life that all so-called Americans have the right to acquire.

As for the DCJ, we in Inside-Outside Alliance have been rallying, protesting, speaking with the Mayor, County Commissioners, Durham Sheriff Andrews, and DCJ house staff in efforts to put an end to the inhumane treatment. Inmates are being medically neglected and are refused proper medical care, unless they have a \$20.00 fee available, and even then, no matter your health issue, you are dispensed only a Tylenol or Advil, or whatever is present to dispense, whether it's in accordance with your health issue or not....

These inmates are awaiting their day in court and have not been convicted of anything, yet are abused both physically and verbally, as though they are not people and have no say over what happens with them. The majority of the staff (C.O.s) are disrespectful, arrogant, and dismiss many requests of medical grievances and nutritional food, even sleeping mats and cells are accumulating fungus and causes all kinds of infections there....

Incarceration is BIG BUSINESS and this money making industry is doomed to cause up-coming problems within a society that uses this method to further enhance one's personal lifestyle while stepping on another. The methods only serve to cause even more crime, because Durham is building up but pushing out the very fabric that has built this state.

‘It’s messed up when you see people treated like white man’s pets’

What’s up in and out. My name is Donavon Bright along with my cell-mate Curtis Jackson. We want to speak out about all the things wrong about this jail. From the molded bread they feed us, to the now COLD shower water, power surges, crooked, hateful d.o.’s, and even the dirty mold-infested showers and cells. This is no way to live. Being held for he say she say, when they can’t even prove they have the right people. Each day we get shitted on in some kind of way. It’s messed up when you see people treated like white man’s pets. They don’t care if we live or die in here. Punk-ass Boria still gets assigned to our pod, even after someone died on his watch (that tells a lot).

Yea, this is 3D. We hate it here, where you’re told you’re innocent till proven guilty, but really you’re guilty till proven innocent. Help us find a way to fight this upside-down system. Shout out to the people in our pod that helps us get through this: Goon, fella, Jizzle, Jay, Quan, Scott Akala, Biggs, Red, Jamel aka crazy cuz, say so, Bless, Cali, and Will.

till next time,

Donavan B. and Curtis J.

