

feedback

inside & outside, voices from the jail struggle

Durham, NC ~ march 2016 ~ volume 15

‘I won’t give up until I’m out of these doors’

Hey – I got your letter 2day. Glad to hear from you. Glad to know we have people that care like you all. I didn’t see my story in the newsfeed 1’s again. You can put it in there and use my name. I’m not ashamed nor scared. Well, so far things haven’t changed. To me they never will because people don’t care, they act like they do but really don’t. Yes they need to shut this bitch down a.s.a.p. Best believe this is my 1st and last time ever being locked up. Animals get treated better than this. It don’t make any sense. Most of all it’s cold in here, they keep on the air with one lil thin blanket. This jail just sucks as a whole. They let people die. We need more time out and it shouldn’t cost to call home. I wish yall could come inside and look for yallself. They just need to send us home instead of sitting here waiting. Got our life on hold while they out doing whatever. They don’t have the last say-so, God does, and when somebody gets in a fight the whole pod gets locked back for two people and we don’t even get our time back — not fair at all. Me my-

self, I get along with most of the c.o.’s, well they act like they get along with me Idk!! but today I heard that my name be in their mouth. Well great. Who are they to judge? Just because they have on a brown uniform that don’t mean shit. We are all human. They talked about God so I know they gonna talk about me. Only God can judge me. This is a bullshit jail and I won’t give up until I’m out of these doors. I know that God got me and my family and so do you all. To all my brothers and sisters, we are all going home in Jesus’ name. They can’t hold us down forever.

Sincerely, Melanie Battle

“Everyone here is tired of bologna and the processed meat we are forced every dinner meal. I have basically stopped eating the dinner meal. Canteen food items are outrageously expensive designed to make money off hungry inmates. The markup seems to be 400-500% or more on individual food items.” —OPS

‘Whoever’s in supervision should be subject to criminal charges’

How are you and the I.O.A. family doing out there?? Hope that this letter finds you all in the best of health!....As for me, same ol’ same here at DCCC (Durham County Concentration Camp)!! Hasn’t too much changed around here!

Oh yeah, have you all heard about the unsanitary conditions in the kitchen? It’s so nasty in there (this comes from other inmates that used to work in the kitchen before), that they need to bring hazmat in here, and quarantine the kitchen (more or less quarantine this whole place)!!

FEEDING INMATES MAGGOTS, RAT FECES, ETC.!!!

***Whomever over supervi-**

sion should be subject to criminal charges!! Rat feces and maggots!! Now does society believe that we are living in inhuman conditions, in this modern day concentration camp?? What more can we possibly do to prove this?? But other than that, just another day going through different phases of oppression from the staff here at DCCC! So until next time Your brother in the struggle,

—Gregory Wilson

*Note: the documented presence of maggots in food Aramark was serving prisoners in Michigan was an impetus for the termination of that state’s contract with the company.

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. ***

'I just want the pain to stop'

When I first entered this jail I was asked if I had any medical problems, I told the medical staff yes I did. Prior to entering this jail I was involved in a car accident where I tore my AC joint in my shoulder and damaged my rotary cuff. My AC joint was about healed but my rotary cuff was not and still isn't, it will require surgery. The doctor and the nurses have reviewed my medical records from Duke where I was receiving the treatment I needed which would eventually lead to surgery. I was in need of another MRI first. Anyway my medical records clearly stated the medicines that I am suppose to be taking, but I was told I can not receive them because some of them were narcotics. I believe the doctor's words were "I know those rotary cuffs can hurt, I had to have surgery on both

of mine." Then he continued on to say that he cant give me anything stronger than Tylenol which I told him multiple occasions was not helping my pain. All this time I've been believing that I cant get anything stronger and now the past 2 weeks I've found out I've been lied to. The past 2 weeks two people in my pod have had injuries, one was a broken finger the other has a kidney stone. One of them is receiving Hydrocodone for his finger which he just had surgery on and the other has been receiving Tylenol with codeine. Both of these people are receiving narcotic pain killers so why have I been lied to? I've been in this jail for 10 months without my much needed surgery which I didn't know was even a option, thinking I had to get out

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The Chasm on Mangum:

Look across the street: this jail kills people.



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of here first. I've also been in pain everyday I've been here because of lies that are being told to me for a reason I'm not sure of. I'm not sure what to do to get help.

Put this in your next newsletter so hopefully someone can give me the help I need or at least so the public will be aware of the kind of inhumane treatment I have received in here. I would also like to state that I am not drug seeking,

and there is no reason for them to treat me like I am.

I don't wish to abuse my medication by over doing the recommended amount or by selling it I just want the pain to stop, even surgery if they will allow it so I will no longer require medication at all. Please help me anyway possible even if it's by just making my story known.

Sincerely, -Garrett Hatch

'They guarded the health inspector like he was the president'

Hey —,

Sorry my letter returns be so inconsistent, but here's one anyway. I can't tell you how much progress I've seen over these last 3 years I've been here that the IOA has been making. It feels awesome to know that we have a voice through you and the rest of the IOA team. Thanks everyone. I know I don't communicate with you as much as I should, but believe me when I tell you I'm a soldier in this war we are in.

Whatever you did to get the health inspector here was awesome progress. No one wanted to approach the man because Major Couch and like 4 other officers guarded him like he was the president. They did NOT want us talking/complaining to him. I think you would be excited to know what I did.

LOL yeah I went to talk to him. I didn't know he was coming, so I didn't have a list of complaints ready. The first time I walked up though Major Couch blocked me off. So when I asked to talk to him, he said, "Why?"; I told him, "to give him a run down on all the health risks I believe to be problematic in the jail." He (Couch) said, "If you have concerns you can tell me or one of the officers." Basically so he could intercept any negative feedback. So when he turned his back I ran up to the inspector and asked if we could talk. He said he didn't mind, if it was ok with the officers, and right then I knew it wasn't a problem in the beginning because all the officers reluctantly (in front of him) agreed. Our conversation was brief, I walk with him while he inspected some cells and showers. I informed him

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of a few things and he was honest with me. The things I was telling him about like mold on the beds, insects in our food, gnats and other bugs in the showers, he said that our “standard” of living while in jail was not unreasonable but a bit high. Also that the rules that they enforce are out of date and were made in the 70s, so that was another major technicality (Maybe that’s something you all could talk the commission of the health department into updating).

Also, I haven’t got a visit but twice lately, so more than likely they’re doing something to where I can’t see you. Just another day in the Durham County Jail.

— S.B.

“Phone fees are entirely outrageous. They’re breaking my bank. I don’t even want to answer the phone.”

— J.C., visitor to the jail

Do you?

Do you??

Do you know what it’s like

To be locked up

Do you know what it’s like

To be us

Could you endure the pain

Of sitting in a cell all day

Away from your family and
friends

Being told what to do

Like a bunch of small kids

This is modern day slavery

We’re pushed around and
talked to

Like Hitler did the Jews

Do you know what it’s like

To be fed food

That you couldn’t even name

Do you know what it’s like

To be guarded by people

Who think they’re better
than you

Because they’ve got a badge
on their chest

They treat us like they’re kings

And we’re their peasants

Could you switch places with us

So you could feel how we feel

And see what we see

We want you to know what
it feels like

To live life

Begging to be free

— T.R. Evans

‘Quiero agradecerles’

Hola, soy H.V.

Recibi su carta. Quiero agradecerse por las protestas y el esfuerzo que acen ustedes para que este lugar horrible y las personas que trabajan en el tengan un mejor trato para nosotros.

Aqui es muy difiicil la vida, amigos. Algunos oficiales son buena gente pero ay otros que los tratan como animales. El 2015 fue muy difiicil porque abia beces que pasaban asta 3 dias sin papel de baño no podia acer mis necesidades. como resultado de esto me enferme de emoroidis estube 2 meses con esa enfermedad sufri mucho. Porque la medicina barata que me daban no

me alludaba a mejorar.

Pero han mejorado un poco este año al menos papel de baño si tenemos siempre.

Nada es bueno aqui en esta carcel solo salimos 6 horas al dia y lo demas del tiempos estamos laqueados. La berda no entiendo porque en esta carcel asen eso con uno. Por ejemplo, en el condado Wake no laquean a los presos. en el condado Orange tampo laquean.

La comida esta horrible parese que fuera comida de perros tengo 7 meces de estar aqui y he comido sanguich de bolonia en la cena todos los dias.

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FREE US ALL!

First of all I just want to say to all in the jail, stay strong and just that God is going to take care of us (God always gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers). I also want to shout out a few people like: Jax, Rex, RodLo, G, Santana, Short, One, Fella, Rick, Young, Mel Britany, Jessica, Smiley, Ellis, Ghost, Kasper and so on to the pods: 4C, 4D, 3D, 5A, 5D, 5C, 5B, 4A, 4B, the hole and shout out to the one and only Biggs. We all going home soon. Just have faith. I got to say I hope they do shut this jail down and let the feds take it over, because they not doing a good job and a lot of these c.o.'s don't care about us, and it's a few who do care and trying to help, too—I send my love to them. I don't know why I didn't put Boria's name on the Shyt List—that goes to show you it's more like him who don't give a fuck about us. He don't want to do shit but watch The Walking Dead on TV and lock us back for dumb shit. He didn't answer the emergency call. We the detainees feel like he should not be working the pods no more and he needs to be out of a job. Until next time, -Biggs

'It's like telling these doors to open themselves and let us go'

I'm doing ok, just another day in jail. Thanks for writing. I don't really know too much about the death of Matthew McCain, but I know the guard that was working that pod (Erick Boria) the day it happened is very lazy—all he does is sit at the desk either reading a book or looking at TV. He doesn't do his rounds every 15 minutes like a lot of other guards here.

I'm still on administrative segregation. Major Couch refuses to move me so I'm stuck in pod 3B locked behind my door 22 ½ hours a day. It's 8 other inmates stuck in this pod with me and we're allowed to do next to nothing. No GED/school program, STARR/Grad or church. We're allowed 1 ½ hours a day out of our cell which is sad because none of us has gotten in trouble within a six month time pe-

riod. Sitting in this cell 22 ½ hours a day is very hard on me because I'm not active at all and lot of the time I have nothing to do which gives me way too much time to stare at the walls and think, which is bad because I get depressed very quickly. I've talked to Major Couch about my situation more than once. Even the jail mental health worker Ms. Kelly backed me up saying that I should be given more privileges but nothing has yet happened. Andrews and Couch could care less about what goes on or happens to the inmates in DCJ. So at this point I've given up on trying to go to them for help because it's like telling these doors to open themselves and let us go.

Sincerely,
T.R. Evans

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Aqui hay much injusticia porque la comida que compra uno aqui esta bien cara. Por ejemplo una sopa instantania afuera valen 4 por un dolar pero qui estan a 82 centabos cada una. Esto no tiene sentido si aqui ni podemos trabajar mas bien dependemos de lo que nuestra familia nos da con mucha dificultad. Yo pienso que mas bien aqui adentro deberian de costar menos que afuera las cosas. Aqui esta gente se aprovechan de uno de toda forma pocible. Por una tarjeta de diez dolares tenemos que pagar 17 por una de 20 dolares teneos que pagar 27 esta gente injusta no se conforman con ganarse un par de dolares por tarjeta. Son unos desgraciados. Yo gracia a mi dios ya voy a salir de este lugar. Esta es mi primera bes que estoy tanto tiempo en este infierno y tratare de que sea la ultima.

Gracias con mucho cariño! Que dios los bendiga amigos!

“A blatant lie and coverup’

Hello Brother _____,

My real name is Eric C. Williams. I appreciate all that the Alliance is doing, for the brothers and sisters that are incarcerated in the Durham Co. Detention Facility. Thanks for allowing our voices to be heard.

Concerning brother McCain, I only know what I heard through the grapevine and the newspaper. I hope that whoever is responsible, gets prosecuted to the fullest, cause it is a shame that this tragic incident happened.

There are two other incidents that happened, that has been concealed from the public/community. One is criminal in nature and the other is immoral and unethical, and I hope that something can be done to keep this from ever happening again.

On 12/17/2015, around 0800 hrs, a medication nurse, give knowingly, an inmate (a close friend), unprescribed medication (100-200 mg seroquel). A direct result of trying the said medicine, the inmate was taken to Duke Regional Hospital's ER, in a semi-conscious state. This facility in cahoots with Duke Regional, said the cause of his condition was from carbon monoxide poisoning. Eleven inmates, two aramark employees, and one detention officer (kitchen security) were all in the kitchen, from 0400 hrs until the incident. None

of us were affected by this carbon monoxide. Why? A blatant lie and coverup. This inmate has not been allowed to return to kitchen duty since. Why?

The next day 12/18/2015, around 1030 hrs, at least eight inmates, detention captains, two detention sergeants, and one detention officer (kitchen security), discovered rodent feces and maggots in food warmers used as the tray assembly line. Several inmates said that maggots fell/got into potatoes being served, and the Aramark employee on duty, scooped the maggots out, and ordered the inmates to keep putting those same infested potatoes on inmates trays, being served for lunch. This is as inhumane as it gets.

All of us incarcerated in this facility are somebody's father (grand) or mother (grand), brother or sister, son or daughter, uncle or aunt, and/or husband or wife. We are not caged animals that will eat anything to get nourishment.

They took the infested food warmers out, and I was personally told by the deputy director (Lt. Col. Perkins), that new food warmers were in the warehouse waiting to be delivered. A week later the same old warmers, a little cleaner, were brought back, and we still use them as of today.

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‘We still place his chair at the table where we eat’

Hello —,

The fellows in Pod 3D, we send our condolences and our prayers out to the family and children of Matthew McCain (R.I.P.)

I read your letter and we are writing back hopefully to be heard, the hard way.

We laughed, cried, talked, slept, ate and prayed together, every day for 6 months. And (now) we still place his chair at the table where we eat. Anyway, he expressed that he was not getting the right medical attention at the beginning. I’m not sure if you guys are aware, but there was an altercation a couple of days before his death. Me, myself, I believe things could have been avoided/handled a different way. ..

After that he had a seizure, still left in his cell with poor supervision and lack of medical attention and the next morning he was found, not breathing...I saw a lot from where the room is that morning...

Anyway, he just had a lil girl, she looks just like him (gorgeous).

Justice delayed, Justice denied.

What is it that we can do?

— S.N.



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I feel my health, welfare, and safety is in serious jeopardy, because of the severe incidents that have taken place in this facility in the last year. I am a navy veteran, with health problems (liver damage), that are not being addressed properly either. The VA Hospital has a treatment to cure this and I have been denied access to this treatment. Today, I took a plea

bargain, so I can leave this facility in the near future, so I can get the proper medical care.

Hopefully, this letter can get the ball rolling even more, so current or future residents at this facility can be healthy and safe.

Thanks for lending an ear of concern. I will write in future as to my whereabouts.

— E.W.

VOICES OUTSIDE

Durham County Jail Staff doesn't deserve to be paid. Your tax dollars contribute to inhumane treatment at the D.C.J.!

2-25-2016

As-Salaam-Alaikum (Peace be unto you)

I'm Cynthia Parrish Fox, an activist, mother, citizen and concerned member of I.O.A. It appalls me at the persistent abuse from staff at the Durham County Jail against inmates, who are not convicted, have been convicted and/or are awaiting their day in court, to defend pending charges.

Because of their unveiling of circumstances surrounding the neglectful death of Matthew McCain, inmates are being intimidated, shipped out to other facilities and outright mistreated. The staff at the D.C.J., including Lt. Perkins (head of the jail), Sheriff Andrews (responsible for its operation), Major Couch (head of security), Sgt. Hicks, officer Boria—to name a few—are guilty of covering up the medical neglect and misconduct by staff on a daily basis. Durham Jail is a house of horrors.

Disgusted at the deplorable and deliberate neglect of inmates has once again compelled me to speak out against inhumane treatment by DCJ staff members.

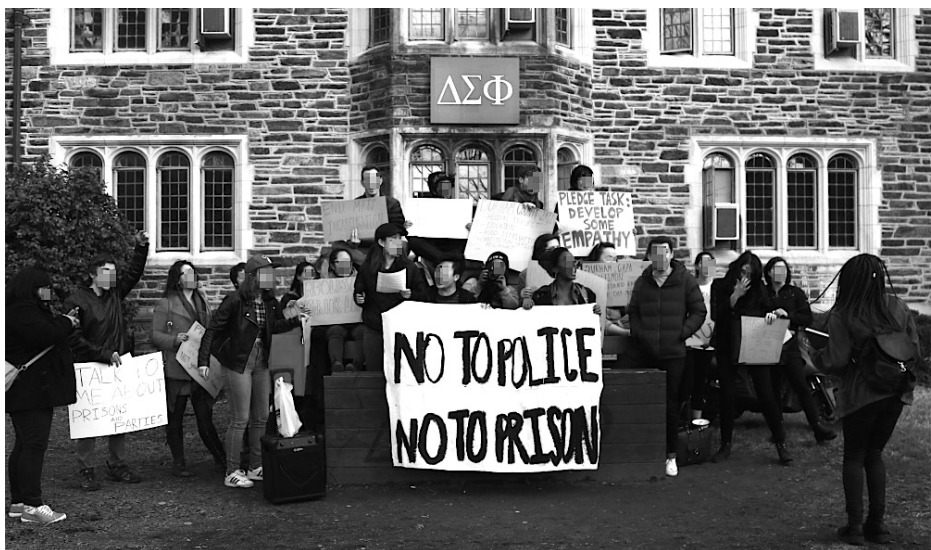
Mr. Demarcus -- was shipped out to a federal prison before his pending court date on other charges. He was told by a staff lieutenant and Sgt. Hicks that all charges had been dropped and that he was being returned to federal prison to finish out a 3-year sentence. None of this was true; in fact, Demarcus was shipped out so that he could no longer speak out about the terrible conditions and treatment imposed by staff at the Durham jail. Well, I say it's out now, and the public as well as I.O.A. will no longer sit still for the continued and unnecessary abuse of inmates.

The covering up of neglect and deplorable conditions inside the jail, from poor nutrition to unsanitary conditions to medical neglect, must be investigated thoroughly by an independent investigative team, and not by those that have a vested interest in the Durham County Jail.

These house negroes that oversee this corrupt and inhumane jail lack morals, compassion and even common sense. No human being should be subjected to the treatment these inmates endure. There will be other deaths, suicides and persistent health problems should not we as a community hold our county commissioners, city leaders, Sheriff

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Protest of incarceration-themed Duke frat party



On February 19, 2016, a group of students and community members marched across Duke's West Campus and occupied the bench of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity in protest of the incarceration-themed party the fraternity held a few days prior. There, students dressed up as police and prisoners, complete with a cage/jail cell and a mugshot photo booth, and posed with their fake guns, cops outfits, and inmate costumes. We condemned this vile mockery of those whose lives have

been touched by this racist prison system. We called for the abolition of prisons and Greek life, understanding that they are intricately tied reproductions of violent power structures. We, the protesters, stand in full solidarity with those struggling to resist on the inside! We ended our statement with the words of Fanny Lou Hamer: nobody is free until everybody is free! In solidarity from students at Duke—all power to the people!

— Duke Enrage

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Andrews and his incompetent staff accountable!

So my fellow residents of Durham, and the public in general: please avoid entering the DCJ at all costs, (although with a society being run such as it is that may be difficult), because you may not be returning from your visit to the DCJ except in a body bag, or railroaded into a lengthy prison sentence in this state of North Carolina which loves imprisoning its people. — CPF

Bob Sheldon Award for 2016 recognizes work of IOA

Taken from a press release:

Each year, in memory and celebration of its founder Bob Sheldon, the collective of Internationalist Books & Community Center (in Carrboro) chooses a local group, individual or movement to uplift with the Bob Sheldon Award. The 2016 Award recognizes the work of the Durham-based group Inside-Outside Alliance (IOA).

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Bob's death. In 1983, Bob said, "the world situation demands sweeping changes and we must do our part to meet that challenge. We support the unity and liberation of oppressed peoples worldwide, and are working toward the day when all oppression and inequality will be removed from the face of the earth." The Bob Sheldon Award celebrates individuals and groups whose work is done in this spirit.

Since 2012, IOA has fought both the abuses of the Durham County Jail and the isolation and violence of a society that uses cops, jails and

prisons to break apart communities. IOA is made up of folks who are incarcerated in the jail, people who are formerly incarcerated, friends and family of those incarcerated, and community members. IOA has fought to amplify the voices and experiences of the people inside the Durham County Jail through prisoner support, demonstrations, pressure campaigns, and media tactics. IOA has fought brutality by law enforcement and corrections officers, inhumane conditions in the jail, medical neglect, restrictions on writing and reading materials, and other specific conditions of the Durham County Jail. The immense bravery of this resistance on the part of those held in captivity at the jail cannot be overstated.

IOA will share info about the jail struggles at upcoming Internationalist events. Members of the collective of the Internationalist will also join IOA for a monthly letter writing night, to celebrate and extend support to organizers on the inside.

