

feedback

inside & outside, voices from the jail struggle

Durham, NC ~ february 2018~ volume 37

'This racist system we tolerate'

M____,

I got your address from an inmate here at the jail: I'm so inspired to know it's people like you on the outside concerned about this racist system we tolerate.

This is not to say I overlook my role in this but far too many of us are here who have never committed a violent crime. As you probably already know that 88% of inmates incarcerated are in here because of crimes related to drug use. Addiction is the most misunderstood disease it is. Instead of the system dealing with us addicts in a more responsible way, they concentrate on the symptoms; lock us up and throw away the key

I am a black man, forty-eight years old who have dealt with the disease of addiction since October 1988. I was 31 then and prior to being introduced to drugs (cocaine) I'd never been in trouble. I had no reference base of knowledge about a addict nor addiction prior to that first hit I took. If in fact I had a knowledge about it, I wouldn't have tried it.

People who are non-violent

as myself should not be harshly dealt with as people who are violent. Non-violent addicts as myself should not be treated as someone who is a obvious threat to our communities.

Outside of the unfair treatment concerning those non-violent inmate 58% of people housed in these jails and prisons throughout North Carolina are black. This is not by coincidence, this is obvious and powerful systematic racism considering we make up 12% of the population here in the State of North Carolina

What really annoy me is the fact of how many black people work in these positions enforcing this racism. And in my experience of dealing with them, they take great pride in participating in this oppressive system.

In closing, I'm incarcerated for possession w/the intent to sell and distribute. I have never sold drugs! Briefly, I've been taking care of this woman, 50 yrs old, white and handicapped who is homeless and an addict to heroin and cocaine. Her

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name is C_____ and her # is *****. I found her in an abandon house during winter and several guys were abusing her. I immediately took her in. She have no family outside of her mom who don't want to have anything to do with her. Five years and no one has called or sent her anything! That night I made her my family. We are not and have not been sexually involved. I had called and was outside picking a little dope and crack for her one night in a heavy drug area (Umstead & Dawkins). She was sick badly because of the heroin. As soon as I purchased it and the car had pulled off, some white police offers dashed from around

an abandon house and asked me to be searched. I had dropped the drugs on the ground. I denied to be searched and they did it anyway. I had no drugs on me. They saw the drugs on the ground, they arrested me and charged me w/the possession with the intent and distribute. They also took forty dollars from me. I have not been in trouble in double digit years prior to this and now they're considering charging me with a habitual felon.

I am a licensed minister, veteran, and once had a security and insurance business. I've had recovery houses, gotten people of the street doing drugs have been a respected person in the fellowship of N.A.

I am, D. S.

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. ***

'Thugs-Hoodlums-Killers'

Thanks for reading and understanding my story. I have it to you "in short" of course. But the truth is the truth. A lot of people sell drugs to get by. But that does not make them a bad person. Some of them wouldn't hurt a fly.

But in a courtroom, somehow, were looked at as THUGS-HOODLUMS-KILLERS...ETC. And might've only sold a bag of reefer. Is the word THUG even in the dictionary?? Cause a district attorney has called me that in the courtroom before. And I've been called "a Menace to Society"!! Why, because I sold some cocoa leaves. Cocoa leaves that they (the government) put here. They get the drugs over here so they can make more money. Do some history on the Miami skyline- it was made with drug money. Same as the construction of high rise buildings in New York. It was made with drug money from the Italian mafia and mob. Then when street level drug dealers, second in command or the man behind the curtain is arrested (no matter the race) we have to pay drug taxes. Bail bonds, court fees and fines as well as attorney fees. And who is this money going to? Mr. Government!! It's a vicious cycle from the money hungry IRS. I once heard this statement, "What's yours is the I.R.S.!" Tell me if that ain't the truth. LOL!!

I really like what y'all doing with the the whole IOA movement! The longest I've spent in that Durham County Jail was about 3-4 months. I seen more crimes get committed by officers than inmates. They brought in drugs, let inmates get assaulted by other inmates, and the physical abuse was the worst I've ever seen. I seen guards beat up one of my closest friends while he was handcuffed in the back. Then they threw him in the room, opened the flap on the door and sprayed mace all over for several minutes. It was so bad, he had to go to Duke Hospital in the an ambulance. He'd inhaled soooo much mace that he was throwing up green stuff all over hisself. I certainly wish IOA was out around that time. I would've been the first one to write y'all LOL! Then you said something about them gentrifying downtown. I've heard about that from my cousin. That's cool with me cause it gives tourist more to do. Durham has been boring since around 2004 or 2005. A lot of bars and clubs that was downtown got shut down for various reasons. People used to have to go to Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte etc. just to have a good time.

-Lizard (from Pasquotank CI)

‘Classification’

Dear L____,

I hope your week is going well. Mine's is a little frustrating, I'm currently in a battle with classification. They moved me out of my pod knowing damn well they wasn't pose to. I'm trying to talk to Colonel face to face about my situation face to face. I'm not with the kiosk thing they take too long to answer and when they do they answer with some bullshit. Half the time the person you write a grievance to don't answer. Best believe I will apply the pressure until this is fixed.

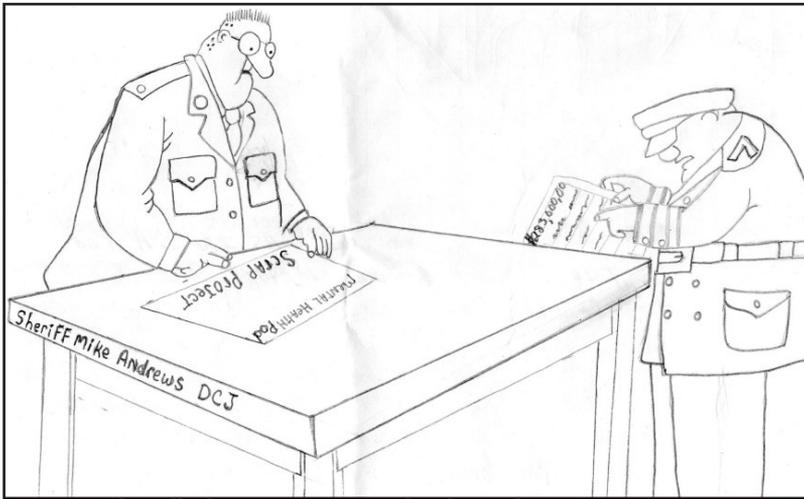
- Ghost

‘The officers have been very

‘hush’

What's up? I hope your week went by smooth. Yes, I've heard someone died in the jail, but the officers have been very hush about the situation. As soon as it happened they locked down the whole jail so we as inmates can't see what's going on or voice our opinion. Sort of like when the jail inspector came—they didn't want us to be allowed to say anything or ask anything. But if I hear anything, you and the IOA family will get it first cause shit is starting to get out of control...

- Ghost



Deputy: Sheriff what you going to do about these \$283,000 given to Durham County Jail to open up the mental health pod? People are starting to ask questions.

Sheriff: Hell, keep putting the public off, shit deputy how much safer can they be. There only about to get out for 3 hrs a week. How those mental dumbasses going get hurt in the hole. With the rest of them bastards that's causing us trouble in my jail!

I was in 3A pod. This is the new mental health pod. It is now temporarily classification. The jailors said they were painting 3B which is classifications. Note, they said 8 months or so they were working on 3A, preparing it for mental health. I seen no new work at all! All I seen was a run down dirty ass pod, period!

Justice for Abdul [*A Statement from Inside-Outside Alliance*]

Abdul Jalil Rasheed-Burnette is a 20-year-old young man living with Autism and ADHD. On April 17, 2017, he was arrested by officers of the Durham Police Department and charged with misdemeanor simple assault (stemming from a warrant issued on April 6, 2017 in response to a complaint made by Caleb Alexander Hoover on April 3), misdemeanor disorderly conduct at a public terminal, and misdemeanor assault on a government official/employee. He was released on a \$5,000 bond. On May 25, 2017, he was arrested again and charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct, misdemeanor communicating threats, and misdemeanor assault on a government official/employee. In addition, officer Baker of the DPD alleged that Abdul resisted during his arrest. For these misdemeanors, Abdul was held in the Durham County Jail on a \$13,000 bond, until on October 12, 2017, he was found incompetent to stand trial and all of the charges were disposed of. However, instead of being released, Abdul was sent to Central Regional Hospital in Butner, NC for “evaluation” under H.B. 95, which allows pre-trial detainees to be held in a hospital until an adjudication of their competence can be made. Abdul was held after October 12, even though he had already been found to be incompetent and his father had been appointed his legal guardian.

On April 24, Abdul was brutalized by the arresting officers. He and his friends were walking from a friend’s grandmother’s house and the police

pulled up and began harassing them. When Abdul asked why they were being harassed, the police grabbed him and his friends and slammed him on his face. Sergeant Johnson of the Durham Police Department later made a statement to Abdul’s mother, Estellalah Rasheed, admitting that officer Offenburg had subjected Abdul to excessive force. Both Sergeant Johnson and Officer Offenburg are white. Medical examination and photos later showed that Abdul had injuries to his head, face, and wrists. Inside-Outside Alliance has obtained these photos from Abdul’s father. On April 24, Abdul’s father filed a complaint with the Internal Affairs Unit of the Durham Police Department, who stated that they had received witness statements to the effect that Abdul had been harassed and assaulted by the DPD officers. Captain Pickel of Internal Affairs also told Abdul’s father that Sergeant Johnson had requested medical leave for two weeks while the IA investigation took place, presumably to avoid accountability. Since that time, however, he has not received any response to his complaint or even an acknowledgement of it.

As Inside-Outside Alliance, we want justice for Abdul Jalil Rasheed-Burnette not only because he has, himself, been heinously abused by every part of the “justice” system in Durham – brutalized by the police, held in the degrading conditions of the Durham County Jail, given an outrageous bond, and held far longer than was necessary or even legal by officials who are clearly incompetent,

Justice for Abdul (continued from page 5)

greedy, or both – but also because his case bears witness to the larger issue of how Durham County treats people with disabilities and mental health issues, particularly if they are black and working class. While those wealthy and privileged enough to afford it can get treatment and care, Abdul's case shows how Durham has effectively decided to make people with disabilities and mental health issues a police issue rather than a community or a medical issue. This is why, even though seven people have died in the Durham County Jail in the last five years, even though it continues to cost \$20 for those detained in the jail to see a doctor, and even though Inside-Outside Alliance and other community groups have documented a sustained pattern of abuse against detainees, the Durham County Board of Commissioners approved a \$228,000 grant from the US Department of Justice and kicked in \$55,205 of county money for the jail to create a “mental health pod” instead of redirecting those funds to provide disability and mental health services in the community. Durham County has effectively decided that, at least for working class people and people of color, it will address the problem of mental health and disability with cops and jails, not with doctors and caring communities. In Abdul's case, we see the result of that decision: the brutal beating of an autistic kid, one instance among way too many more of violence and brutality towards the members of our community whom it should be

our highest priority to support.

As Durham community members, as Inside-Outside Alliance, as friends and comrades of Abdul Jalil Rasheed-Burnette, we say NO MORE!

WE DEMAND

1. The immediate and unconditional release from custody of Abdul Jalil Rasheed-Burnette.

2. Police accountability – we want to know what Internal Affairs found and what, if anything, happened to the officers who beat Abdul.

3. Documentation – we want any body camera and dash cam footage of Abdul's arrest.

Fire Chief “CJ” Davis – and all other police officers in Durham.

Care for People with Disabilities and People with Mental Health Issues in the Community, not from Cops and Jailers – Durham County should take the \$55,205 and any other money for the so-called “mental health pod” and put it towards community care instead of policing and incarceration. The rest of the Sheriff's budget, too. Really, all expenses for health care should come directly out of the Sheriff Andrews' salary and the Sheriff's department's budget.

“Thrown to the wolves”

You and your organizations are the best thing to ever happen to inmates. I will support you now and forever. When I get out, I'm joining IOA and plan on helping in any way that I can. You got real deep on me with the “Nixon Era” history part. The U.S. government bringing cocaine and heroin to the United States for financial gain is very true. Cocaine is a white person's drug. If a person is caught with seven grams of heroin, its labeled as trafficking and the dealer gets anywhere from 4 to 8 years mandatory. Unless you snitch and give up a bigger supplier. The fines also cost more for possession of heroin. Its also a more serious crime and higher fines for crack cocaine versus powder cocaine because more blacks use and sell crack cocaine. And while I'm on this subject, lets never forget that the BLACK PANTHERS group formed to protect black people from the KKK was dismantled by the US government buy the Ku Klux Klan still exist today.

Not only do they exist, but they're able to hold meetings and have rallies right on public streets. But black people ca n't have a group to protect themselves? Ain't that about a bitch! After the murders down here at Pasquotank correctional on October 12th 2017, we're still on lockdown all day. We get 1 hours out our cells on mon-wed-fri. We're locked in them the weekend. Our food is brought to us from the kitchen and by the time we get it, its cold. They're violating

my (our) mail. Any outgoing mail is not suppose to be opened ore read. That's a federal violation, I've written letters to my mother and 3 of my girlfriends and they have been opened. In one situation, they kept a letter that I wrote and stole the picture that I was sending to my homie. When I received the word that my mail was being opened, and I sent out a “dummy note” talking a lot of BS to see if I would get searched. Not only did I get searched, they sent the PERT team (prison emergency response team) to tear my shit up. They ransacked my room and broke my radio, stole personal pictures, 3 bottles of cologne oil, squirted out my lotion and shampoo in the sink, went thru over 300 pieces of mail and scattered it all over the top and bottom bunk. Then when they didn't find anything they throw 2 rolls of tissues in my toilet for no damn reason. I'm not the type to fill out a grievance because (to me) that's a form of snitching. Even tho its directed towards prison police. But they went too far when they stole my personal pictures. So I wrote it up to administration how they stole pictures of me and my mother and pictures of me and different women in the club and pics of me and my banshee 4 wheeler. In all prisons and jails, the officers are the worst gangs. They look down on bloods and crips and say a lot of people join gangs for protection. But they're worse than crips and

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How Young Man This is Tech. Separated And Pressed; Had By Products, Feeds The Jail!

Yes Granny You Just Can't Beat That Southern Cooking From RBL!



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bloods cause they'll run in a room with 9 officers and beat up one inmate. The smallest guy will talk shit to an inmate cause he has 5 officers with him. If that same guy ran across that same inmate at Wal-mart he wouldn't say a damn thing to him. And if it was an argument the officer would run the other way. These officers in jails and prisons across America try to act so tough on the job. Outside of these walls without 200 officers on their side, STRAIGHT UP PUSSIES I don't know if you can print that. If not just use the word "soft"!!

It's a shame how these officers abuse their position of power. Ironically, the people who abuse their power most is black people. Especially black women. Its like they instantly get on a power trip because they have control over men. They wanna see how far they can go. Prison is full of poor people. Why? Because the system prays on poor people. Example: 2 people can

catch the exact same charge. I has enough money for a lawyer, the other 1 doesn't. No money for a lawyer means no money for the district attorney. So the person without money is thrown to the wolves. The with money is given a fine to pay for 1 year probation. And this happens in every courtroom in every city and state of America. We're served with injustice in the courtroom and injustice inside of prison, but inside outside alliance has finally given us a voice to bring this injustice to light. We couldn't thank you enough for everything you do. I can't wait to see the point where "Feedback" is thick as a 200 page book. Maybe then things will finally change/ So you *(who is reading this) write to IOA pass feedback to the next cell and have them write too. We "THE INMATES" can be heard now. Lets expose all of the wrong doings going on behind these walls. Thanks again IOA for all that you do! Its very appreciated. THANKS, Lizard

Another Day of Mis-justice in D.C.J.

“Maj. Prigano”

On the morning of Nov 18th 2017 in 5A pod cell #11 a black young man, was ordered by a walk-in officer checking cells, for him to lock back for 30mins for what simple reason only they know? The detainee went into his cell as the door had been shut, he turned around thinking the door was shut but wasn't! The officer walked away as the door flew open as both party's were surprised! My surprise and why I'm reporting this, as an eye witness. That there's only 9 detainees in the mental health pod which hold 24 detainees! Why in the first place is a mental health inmate in a open pod with regular troubled inmates, when he's shown aggression on a daily basis for over a month. Other inmates including myself has witness this mental health inmate on a daily basis sell his meds for soup and honey bun, now how could a trained nurse and a jailer who only job is to protect the nurse and make sure that people are in fact taking their medications. Looks to me we have a bigger problem then just wasting the tax payers' money on non-professional nurses and jailers who attentions are directed other than their job at hand. With personnel staff members such as Tamara Gibbs giving statements to the press that were changing policies, is nothing but B.S.

It doesn't seem to be enough that 5 deaths in such a short time isn't showing a flag to the people in charge of this jail! Durham County Jail! Well back to this mishap, now shortly after the door flying open, the goon squad arrives with even a capt present, three in total. They handcuff him and quickly take him out into the hallway where I was getting my medications. Which the nurse ask me to step back so she could give this guy his meds, before they take him to where every they wish. Well within seconds this problem inmate was yelling quit choking me, quit choking me. Without a doubt this would be a felony charge on the street, for assault on a handicap person. (Wouldn't it!) Now what do you bet he went to the hole, and is still there where for years at this jail the mental health patients was kept. Its bad enough to man handle a mental health patients but to have him hand cuff as well! States, there policy is bullshit, hasn't changed a bit! And to have personnel like Tamara Gibbs go to the press and BS the press on our policies for our staff toward such incidents have changed. Now when is D.C. justice going to be used on you? And put you where you belong!

- Todd Pope 5A

OPERATION “PUSH”: Florida prisoners go on strike

The following message is from a group of prisoners spread throughout the Florida Department of Corrections. They claim to represent thousands in at least eight facilities already and say they are prepared to “stay down indefinitely” until someone addresses their concerns. **Here is an excerpt of their message:**

We are calling on all organized groups as well as religious systems to come together on the same page. We will be taking a stand for:

1. Payment for our labor, rather than the current slave arrangement
2. Ending outrageous canteen prices
3. Reintroducing parole incentives to lifers and those with Buck Rogers dates

Along with these primary demands, we are also expressing our support for the following goals:

- Stop the overcrowding and acts of brutality committed by officers throughout FDOC which have resulted in the highest death rates in prison history.
- Expose the environmental conditions we face, including extreme temperatures, mold, contaminated water, and being placed next to toxic sites such as landfills, military bases and phosphate mines (including a proposed mine which would surround the Reception and Medical Center prison in Lake Butler).
- Honor the moratorium on state executions, as a court-ordered the state to do, without the legal loophole now being used to kill prisoners on death row.
- Restore voting rights as a basic human right to all, not a privilege, regardless of criminal convictions.

Operation PUSH

Every Institution must prepare to lay down for at least one month or longer: **No prisoners will go to their job assignments.** Our goal is to make the Governor realize that it will cost the state of Florida millions of dollars daily to contract outside companies to come and cook, clean, and handle the maintenance. This will cause a total **BREAK DOWN.**

Slave labor: We are encouraging prisoners throughout the DOC to band together in an effort to demand payment for work performances.

Price Gouging: We can no longer allow the state to take advantage of our families’ hard earned money by over-charging us, they’re taking food out our mouths!

Parole: We are demanding that the State of Florida bring back parole and come up with a payment for prisoners’ work performances, as the law required.

These are the things we’re protesting, and we are currently trying to mentally prepare Florida inmates throughout the DOC for January 15.

WE HAVE TO STRIKE BACK AND STAND FOR WHAT IS RIGHT!

IOA Survey Results

On December 11th, IOA sent surveys in to every detainee in the Durham jail who had been incarcerated for over 30 days, asking them questions about their concerns in the jail and what they'd like to see done. Here are some responses:

What is your biggest current concern regarding the Durham County Jail?

- The high bonds
- How innocent people are in jail and the system still holds you when they know you are innocent
- There can't be a biggest concern, because of everything extremely bad here and need to be changed completely. Medical and dentist shouldn't take \$20 in any case. Maybe start with that ?
- Grievances aren't answered in a timely manner
- Living here any longer. This is not a place to be. The food is cold and nasty. They don't care about you or what you going through.
- I don't want to be here no more. I cry almost every night about it...I WANT MY FREEDOM BACK.
- When ex-inmates re-enter society, we need to take into consideration service work they do in their neighborhood just in case they are ever arrested again so it could be included for decision making for judgements.
- We need to award ex inmates for their good, instead of just looking at the mistakes made.
- The cells are cold ...we need blankets and heat.
- It shouldn't be issues about people wanting to finish the education no matter how old they are. It shouldn't be just 16 to 24, it shouldn't have no age range on getting your GED.
- They also need to stop this 23 and 1 that we are on. I am not happy about just coming out of our cells and 9-12:45 then 4-6:45.

What should Inside-Outside Alliance focus on in the coming year?

- I think IOA should focus on getting our shoes back, unblocking TV shows, and the food
- You should focus on the innocent people in jail.
- You need to focus on changing this ridiculous schedule. We shouldn't be locked back in our cells at 6:45pm at night, it's not normal. Not noral to have breakfast at 5:30am. It's not even healthy. Can you help with this? Also it would be nice to have one more visitation day.
- IOA should push for hard copies of grievances for people inside, we should have a copy of grievances for our personal records.
- Food trays are often soiled from the previous meal.
- When I use the (kiosk) system to contact my attorney I am later told my attorney never received the request.

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SURVEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

- Young kids being trapped in a system like this.
- To be more effective, you need ex-inmates to spearhead this movement...I would like to join your coalition and help.
- Helping out people with high bonds on petty things, like not having a place to live, helping the elders with mental health issues or illness, having more churches coming, etc.
- More education courses for ones that wants PhDs, MBAs, etc, things of that nature

What action(s) would you like to see Inside-Outside Alliance organize?

- I would like to see IOA organize a protest for our shoes.
- I would like you to go to the media about the innocent people who are being confined in jail under high bonds, higher than murderers and all...It is not right.
- Protests, action in any way. Demonstration, petition to governor and sheriff. Letter to state and county government. Let everyone know what's going on here. Talk shows on TV, radio, etc...
- A lot of people in here need a push, like me... If y'all can think of some kind of comfort (like sending cards or something) I know that will help.
- We need to organize a campus for inmates as an alternative sentencing place.
- Something needs to be done about medical. I have an aggravated hernia the size of 2 golf balls. I need surgery and have not been allowed to go get it.
- Helping out the ones you see that fits the eligibilities of help to get their lifes back on the right track, help find them housing, jobs, education upon release from jail and prison.

Have you heard of Inside-Outside Alliance before? If so, which of our actions (Friday protests, publishing "Feedback", etc) do you think are more effective or ineffective?

- Yes, through Friday protests. I think it is effective.
- I think y'all's Feedbacks are effective.
- I have not heard of IOA.
- To be honest, this is my first time hearing about this organization. It seems there are people out there in the world that wants to help us out, that the system keeps messing with, and feel like they can because society or the community doesn't want to help us because of the mistakes we have done.
- Protests are ineffective – we shouldn't have to beg for justice. It should be given in a democratic nation. Publishing and Feedback are really effective if a hands-on approach is created through dialogue to attack the exact nature of this systematic racist system.
- Yes I did. I heard of IOA since I am in jail (16 months). I want to say thank you (all of you) very much. Your help is precious.