

feedback

inside & outside, voices from the jail struggle

Durham, NC ~ march 2018~ volume 38

'All I see incarcerated in here are a majority of my people'

Since it is still here, let me elaborate on the winter's bite of the frosty winter nights within the neglectful walls of the Durham County Jail. As temperatures drop, the brick and metal holds tightly to the cold within the harsh facility. Nothing but a mocking cool breeze blows through the vents of most cells, if any at all, of the Durham County Jail. In the dead of winter, as temperatures decline to 14-25 degrees, no heat is blowing to assure the inmates stay warm. No extra blanket is offered, and any inmate that requests one will be laughed at and declined. Nothing more than an extra thin sheet to keep your teeth from chattering and your body from shivering caused by the bitter cold. And that was just to the women. There can only be hope that the male inmates received the same.

If you are lucky enough to have someone on the outside able to scrape up a couple bucks in this dwindling economy to add to your "books," you may be spared by purchasing some long johns. For the costly price of \$5.98 plus a .02 cent tax, you can buy the top and

bottom each for a total of \$12.00 even. And even with that you can still catch inmates shivering from the cold that lingers because of the brick and metal building and cells. That is a steep price to pay to still be cold.

I understand that jail was not meant to be a place of comfort, but a place where presumed criminals are held until proven guilty. Unfortunately, statistics show, and my up close and personal experience proves that the majority of inmates that house the Durham County Jail as well as other jails and prisons across the American injustice system, are African Americans males and females. Most of which are being unjustly held with ridiculous unaffordable bonds over their heads, for charges given by lazy harassing law enforcers, who help to continue the injustice cycle.

I can say this with the utmost certainty because I am one of the many African Americans who has fell victim to the unjust American dream. I can bear witness in Durham County alone, that so far,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
all I see incarcerated in here are a majority of my people. One trip to the library, I had only a glimpse of the many male pods that make up this facility. From my viewpoint, I witnessed exactly what I had always expected; every shade of melanin from our lightest and brightest to our darkest and richest shades and not a single white male. Now, I am not saying that there are none. And there are many pods that I have yet to lay my eyes upon. But one fact remains: jails and prisons all across America hold a majority of young Black African American males. On observing this, once only speculated truth, I was also able to find support for another racial theory. Not only do we populate the major-

ity of the facility as inmates, but as employees as well. And, for some reason, no matter what government position black females hold, they tend to be the ones “power trippin” the most.

Furthermore, just as America would not and could not be that which its greatness is today without our people’s demise, both African and Native Americans, so too would this injustice system be powerless without our help and aid. So now then, whom shall we truly blame? Meanwhile, the inmates in Durham County Jail are still freezing their asses off and suffering the cruel and unusual punishments of the American injustice system before they are even convicted or proven guilty. - A Conscious Mind

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. ***

'It's an emotional rollercoaster you go through'

Hi,

It's B___ or ___ is my nickname. I'm currently in Durham Co. Jail and tell you the truth, I'm getting my life back in order. I'm in here for a simply assault & damaging property. This is my first charge in Durham (if my boyfriend doesn't show up for court). But not my first time in jail. Since you want to know what goes on in the inside, I'll be happy to share my experience.

When you (or I) first get here, it's a emotional rollercoaster you go through. I cried for the first 3 or 4 days when I got arrested. If you don't get bonded out, you have to wait to see the judge. So my bond is \$150.00 with a bail bondsman & I'm waiting to see if my friend can get me out. (The one I got the charge for.)

N-E-Ways

As you sit in here, time goes slow & you have a lot of time to think about things. On my part I choose or GOD choose me to get back closer with Him & I did, it feels good too. So I read a lot of the Bible and have bible study with my cellmate. And we laugh & joke & talk about the way we're going to be

"Build strength amongst ourselves..."

On the question about how IOA should operate I say that first we should build strength amongst ourselves what's the need to fight if we dont have the morale support from each other cant go to war without an army although I havent met the whole family but I know if they're as sweet as you then I'm willing to bet we can pull it together for the better.

- Ghost

when we get out. So it has been a positive experience for me this run & I'm going to stick to it.

The down side of being in there is, you have lockback if a person does something wrong. It's not enough food if you don't have \$ (money) on your books. So all you think about it is something to eat. (Like me, I have no \$.) You can't sleep because it's uncomfortable with the mat you sleep on & I cover they give you. It cold in here in the winter time. Also people fight & it can get overwhelming or for real it can be exciting. It can get boring because of the same routine everyday. We play card for entertainment, watch TV, talk on phone, & to each other and sleep.

So now you know what it's like, but it's really what you make it. GOD show me a lot being here within 1 week. Sometimes, it's best to sit still & pray for the better. Good change is good for you. I'll be out of here soon, next month 2-26-18 or when I get \$150.00 for my bond.

Thank you & Hope you write back. I'll tell more or come see me.

‘They need to fix the law and keep these officers in check’

Dear C__,

This is G. K. I am here waiting to go to court Monday for probation violation. This is crazy that you must be at home when you don't have to be in at a time given by the judge. I see if I had to be in at 7 pm but I just have probation. They need to fix the law and keep these officers in check on that. Because we have family's and job's out there and unless the judge gives a person a time to be in why do we have to be there when the probation officer comes. And the meds here aren't the right ones that I take on the streets. The meds here are cheap and don't work the like meds on the streets does. And they take their time seeing you in medical. Things around here need to change "SAP". We need help in here. Thanks for helping us and I could use a book or two. Thanks,

Sign G. K.

‘Why are you throwing them in jail...?’

Dear---

They been holding me on a charge that does not exist..... Oh yeah they haven't did anything about tempature but they ended up giving us a extra sheet, do to it being cold!!!! To the question about them letting it be cold, I don't really know. Well they have found one who is not going to let them get away with what they have done to me!!! I got locked up _----- I can work whenever they release me from here... no they don't let me work while I am in here. They let the guys work. The men does canteen, the kitchen, laundry too. Yes I am trying to work on my GED. I love doing hair, so I would like to get my cosmo license. I wouldn't mind helping out. Because the jail is not doing what they need to do. They have men and women locked up with mental health issues!!!!!!... They housing people that can get out and make a living. What i mean by that if you know this person is doing this because, they don't have somewhere to go. Why are you throwing them in jail, instead of helping them? Like finding a program that would help with their situation.

P.S. please keep doing what you all are doing to help us.

God bless you!

WFTP 92.9 airs a monthly radio show with music, interviews, and news from prisoners.

Tune in on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 7pm at 92.9!

'Justice desires for us to protect the weak'

Hey u! Smile! I truly hope my letter finds you and your students in extremely wonderful health and having a great new years! I want you to know that your letter reallllly made my day and gives me a lot of hope! It means the world to me to know that you care about me and that you are helping me draw attention to our plight! Thank you!

It blows me away to know that you are having discussions with your students about my prisoner's situation! I'd really like to know what you think about what I bring up on my blog, etc....

You asked me if there is any questions i think they should reflect on? Sure! Smile! What happens to weak people or people who can't defend themselves when we don't protect them? We live in a cruel world where a lot of people prey on the weak, handicapped people, the old, and others that are not able to protect themselves! I think Justice desires for us to protect the weak and to speak up about injustice regardless what it is! I won't lie I haven't always cared about others! When I was a kid I didn't value my own life so I can honestly say I didn't care about others! It took being raped and beaten bloody to open my heart to other's pain and suffering! I grew up in a rough world and when I came to prison it was even crazier! After I was hurt, I noticed what happen to me was going on all teh time but before this happen I didn't realize it - or cared - we learn to mind our own business! But after this hap-

pened , I had a deep deep need to help the ones that were being hurt, etc! To me there is nothing that feels better than to be able to help someone that is being abused, etc! To see the relief in their yes when you stop someone from hurting them or standing up to someone that is mistreating someone! I will be honest with you - I don't like sex offenders - but I don't think anyone has the right to hurt them, mistreat them and if I see someone doing it - I set my own feelings and pain to the side and stop it from happening because hurting someone isn't riht! Over hte years I have changed my views about them - and I have a few friends that have sex cases - I learned that they are only repeating what happened to them. Hurting them isn't the solution!

Anyways, Thank you for the card! If you would like to stay in touch don't be afraid to write!

...Once again, thank you for caring! It really gives me hope that my future will be brighter!

Love ya,

W... (Wake County)

'Black Man Listen' (a poem)

Before we didn't have to curse u and yell like this
Things were different b'fo we got on
dem slave ships
Back then u vaulted ur queen's
opinion
Wasn't no trouble gettin yo ass to
listen
Seems now yellin is tha best way to
get ya fuqn' attention
Back then, a queen was her king's
fuqn- equal
But then ya massa told u that we
were beneath u
Now it seems u only copin' everything
that he do
N u wonder why black women have
attitudes
Ignorant to the fact that we have
ALWAYS stood by u.
N on God's green earth but NOTHING
Above u
N now when we need u much more
Than ever
U wanna bail cuz u jus can't
take tha pressure
So u put it down, n I pick up
tht weight
N u like, yeah its 'bout time dat u
gettin' a break
Forgettin' all the other ways I've tried
To help u
Forgettin' even still, tht my load is
Heavy too
Ever since tha white man has conquered
Our families
Black Man u've got nothin' to say
To me
I stand by n try to warn u of the

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Dangers still
Tellin' u it's gettin' closer and the threat
Is real
U gettin' all mad and u acting
Defensively
When he gonna see tht I am NOT
The enemy
He right there smiling in yo face
Distracting u wit in ya life wit style and grace
Pacifing u wit all the things u desire
(money seduction)
All the while, eyes closed, u headed straight
For hell's fire (self-destruction)
N I'm steady tryna warn ya ass
But the devil's got a hold on u wit a
Tight ass grasp
So tell me how wht tha fuq am I to
Do
When I'm fightin' wickedness n yo ass too
Fame n' Forture are ur main destractions
White women is a fatal attraction
Black women is ya #1 subtraction
Self-destruction is two-thirds of this fraction
Add a drug, fuq it let's add some more
Now the DEA come knockin' at yo door
Subtract the black man
Then all u have is me
Already two kids
Pregnancy makes three
And the saga continues painfully.

-- A Conscious Mind

‘Medical will be ready to point the finger..’

I sure hope your day is going well cause so far mines has been very shitty I feel like I’m about to fucking die I dont know if I’ve told you but I have seizures I told the guards to call downstairs to medical over 3 hours ago which they’ve did more than twice so I’ve been having dizzy spells and seeing what they call floaties in the medical field all day which mean I could go into a seizure they know this cause it wouldn’t be my first time having to do so, so I don’t see why I aint been called down yet not to mention the fact that I put in a sick call too. But if something was to happen to me medical will be ready to point the finger to me and the two guards thats working the block right now when the three of us has did what we needed to do now they need to handle theirs. I do have to say its some nurses down there that does their job and they know who they are I don’t have to give names but the Jail really do need to tighten up on this...
Ghost

“Brotherly Love 2”

It comes straight
From the heart
When I say
I miss my
Brotha’s like
Hell
I can’t wait
Until the day
We’re all free
And out of
Jail
We’re not animals
God didn’t create
Us to be
Locked in a
Cell
I can’t speak
For you
But I know
This aint me
We got to
Learn from our
Mistakes

So we can
Better ourselves
In the future
I love yall
Keep your heads
Up
Because its far
From being over
Only God can
Take a life
So what dont
Kill us
Will only make
Us stronger

-To my brothers locked behind
these walls Que, Fox, TJ, Sam you
hold ya heads as well as all the
other souls suffering behind the
walls of prisons and jails around
the country and world
- Ghost