

## Seven Hot Topics Concerning North Carolina's Prison System

### "Administrative Prison officials and Authority"

In the month of September the year (2000)  
I was twenty-one years of age, making  
my departure from the Guilford county  
jail to a youth prison called "Polk youth  
Institution" located in butner, North-  
Carolina. I had recieved a twenty-five to  
twenty-eight year prison sentence. I  
had never been arrested for any crime  
this whole situation was new to me. As  
I entered Polk youth institution my heart  
was still broken as I pondered on the  
facts) that I had sinned against God,  
against humanity, and thirdly I was  
engaged to be married to the woman - →

→ of my dreams (Samantha L. Torres) but I knew within my heart she would eventually depart from me due to my present situation. Most men who came to prison like I did were in the streets caught up in the game. So when they come to prison for a long period of years, they lose the game. However when I came to prison, I did not lose the game (I never had it), but I lost love and the pain from losing love is far greater than the pain of losing the game (streets). Two things I have found to be true: Everyone needs love, and Everyone needs to love somebody! Growing up as a man I was never under any authority my grandmother raised me and as

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- a christian women should, she brought me up in the ways of the church, however the band of authority and discipline never gripped me. When I arrived at Polk youth institution the inmates housed there were very reckless and indifferent towards each other. The level of violence was unspeakable and never ceased. I knew that this type of behavior amongst the inmates there was common, however the correctional officers displayed a type of attitude and aggression that although this was my first time in prison, I knew that how they treated the inmates there was not in accordance with policy pertaining to a correctional officers conduct.

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→ I can remember at night on our beds when the lights were turned off there could be no talking, yet you always had one or two inmates that rebelled. So a correctional Sgt. entered the dorm, with about eight other correctional officers, made all of us (inmates) get out of bed, pack all of our property into a mattress cover and stand outside in the cold holding our property for forty-five minutes to an hour. Not to mention that some inmates only had boxers and t-shirts on as they stood out in the cold as punishment. On several occasions I witnessed correctional officers physically assault inmates to the point of bloodshed.

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→ In every situation I witnessed, no  
correctional officer had been justified  
in they're actions toward assaulting an  
inmate. The right authority when  
exercised within a prison places things  
and people in order, while yielding the  
fruit of a moderate (balanced) environment  
that functions within the policies and  
procedures established. The wrong  
authority when exercised within a  
prison allows inmates and correctional  
officers to conduct themselves in a  
way that is contrary to prison policies  
and procedures, while yielding the fruit  
of a immoderate, chaotic, and uncontrolled  
environment. When administrative officers  
abuse they're authority it can contaminate —  
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- a entire prison from the office of the superintendent, to medical staff, to the chaplaincy, to the units and dorms. Eighty-five percent of Administrative officers in north carolina's prison system use authority to be vindictive towards inmates they personally dislike due to the crime that an inmate has committed and for they consider inmates to be less than human, so the measures used by these type of administrative officials are inhumane. A prison located on the western region of North Carolina in spruce pine, north carolina called, Mountain View Correctional is most notorious for being inhumane towards inmates.

→ I can recall eighty-eight percent of the prison staff being white (pertaining to race) and though hatred without partiality was shown to most of the inmate population, there was no hesitation towards the inmates that were not white.

I can remember the yard (recreation time) opening up, and on most prisons the yard doors remain open so that inmates may exit the yard when they've had enough recreation time. At Mountain View Correctional inmates that enter the yard must stay out on the yard for an entire hour then they may return to the dorm. The only problem is that a lot of inmates had medical conditions some had issues with their kidneys -

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- or prostate making it impossible for some inmates to hold the flow of urine or control bowel movements so the same inmates would defecate on themselves. When it was brought to the attention of prison staff and administration, the same inmates were given an infraction, thrown in segregation (isolated cell) and beaten. I've witnessed other inmates pass out (faint) and have seizures because they had to stay out on the yard for an hour, and did not have access to their medication.

These inmates were also thrown in to segregation, beaten, and given an infraction.

Please note that I don't have a problem

with rules or authority my prison record -



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- confirms that, and I must say  
that a lot of the rules, policies and  
procedures instituted by some prisons,  
in north Carolina are not being used  
as preventative methods optimistically, but  
are intended to keep the spirit (influence)  
of confusion, hatred, and violence, between  
inmates and correctional officers alive.

It is my belief that prison is never  
suppose to be a joyful experience, there  
should be no special treatment for any  
inmate, however neither should an inmate  
be willfully, maliciously mistreated under  
any prison authority, in any manner more so  
vindictively. The prison term given to an inmate  
by the judicial system is sufficient.  
Any administrative official (correctional officer) -

→ who has some personal interest  
towards any inmate whether good or  
bad for any reason should not be allowed  
or employed within north carolina's prison  
system. Across north carolina there are  
many prisons that are guilty of  
abusing inmates through authority, I've  
only named two that I experienced  
as perfect examples of Administrative  
officials, and how they use their  
authority, in the wrong manner. Out of  
the eight prisons in north carolina where  
I have served my prison term all of them  
failed in exercising authority. Make no  
mistake I am not saying that all prisons  
should be flawless in how they treat  
inmates or without error as pertaining -

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→ 40 authority, however the standard  
for exercising authority should be high  
and steps taken to secure every effort  
to meet that standard. This is  
essentiality seeing that people's lives  
are at stake, and (though inmates) their  
lives still matter to God, and to the  
household they came from. When I came  
to prison in the year 2000, the  
administrative officials (correctional  
officers) had quality of character and  
they fulfilled that which a correctional  
officer's job requires nothing more or  
nothing less, they were neutral! At that  
time the north Carolina prison system was  
called the Department of Corrections.  
However between and for December 2011, —

→ - and January 1, 2012, the North Carolina prison system was no longer called the department of corrections. The name was changed to the department of public safety. It is my opinion that around this time the north Carolina prison system became a business that made primary two things: currency and keeping the public safe. Yes the prison system has always been about money, however its purpose used to be the rehabilitation (creating the right conditions for the inmates to change) process as an inmate carried out his prison term. However now presently (2016) north Carolina's prison is all about incorporating means for finica (money) - →

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- While making sure most of the inmates either spend the rest of their lives in prison or die in prison. For an example; now presently (2016) when an inmate receives an infraction, he doesn't just lose privileges like the phone, visitation or canteen, the administration also takes 4 dollars from the inmate.

This happened when the North Carolina prison system changed from O.O.C. to O.P.S. The cost to go to medical became greater, the price of everything became higher, however the amount of cents an inmate makes from job assignments did not change. So what does an inmate do, he gets on the phone and asks his family to send -  
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→ him money, which is what the prison system wants. The inmate who does not have moral support from family and friends suffers greatly. I am familiar. There was a time during my prison term that all the support I had morally was from my grandmother, however through the years my heavenly father has blessed me with a real big family who loves me and supports me in every way. The amount of inmates that I've witnessed die throughout my prison term is heartbreaking. The minority die from natural causes, the majority die from Administrative officials and the authority misused!

Administrative officials And  
Authority