

American Prison Writing Archive
90 Hamilton College
198 College Hill Road
Clinton, NY 13823-1218

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Re: Incarceration

'Nevada Department of Corrections'

For the past twenty seven (27) years I've been incarcerated at the Elko State Prison in Elko, NV. There is no rehabilitation here, despite all of the people involved with the Nevada prison system claiming that it would be their priority. They lied and continue to lie to the public, to the communities, that the Nevada prison system is no longer just about locking up offenders, sentencing them to strictly prison terms to "serve time", but rather claimed to be more focused on rehabilitating them so that they could learn to be productive citizens. They even went as far to change their name from 'the Nevada Department of Prisons' to the 'Nevada Department of Corrections'. Sadly enough, too many people believed them, myself included. Truth be told, the "N.D.C."; specifically the Elko State Prison, is not about, nor has ever been about, corrections/rehabilitation, the inmates are simply being housed here. Those that know and understand the criminal system, incarceration, have figured out long ago that part of rehabilitation is putting offenders into programs that can actually change their lives, providing life-skill courses so that they are able to function and provide for themselves once released from prison, identifying why an offender commits a

crime(s) and how to possibly prevent them from reoffending, and to reestablish familial relationships so that they have family ties once again, giving them support, and giving them purpose. These were just some of the things that was to be focussed on and individuals like Catherine Cortez Masto (one-time Nevada Judge) and numerous Wardens, Governors, Attorney Generals for the state of Nevada all promised to the public, committees, and those in the justice system. That changes had to be and would be made.

None of that has taken place. High school diplomas and G.E.D.'s are the only things being offered at the S.S.P. of which neither are enough for anyone to plan for a future beyond prison walls. The S.S.P. does not provide, nor ever has, life-skill or job-skill type courses so that offenders are able to learn something helpful towards possible employment after release. There's nothing going on here to make anyone want to change let alone deter them from going back to the lives they once lived prior to incarceration.

The N.O.O. Con-Artists convinced the communities and the public that rehabilitation was the solution to recidivism. Studies had proven that an offender who had family support throughout his or her incarceration and beyond to release, would be less likely to reoffend. People like Catherine Cortez-Masto claimed they would focus on helping offenders to rebuild bridges that may have been burned between offenders and their families so that they could receive the support needed for success, but yet they continuously house offenders in prisons and facilities hundreds of miles away from their families, making it all but impossible for them to visit and have that face-to-face communication that goes much further than any phone call or letter could afford. They continue to lie saying they house us so far away due to classification reasons, or "points" but I know the truth. I speak from experience, first hand knowledge. They

do whatever they want and will tell the public made up realities to excuse whatever they do.

Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the NDOC refused to install video visiting or provide such access to our tablets, so that we could be in touch with our families during this crisis. But yet they want us to not depend upon release. The NDOC, specifically the E.S.P., is probably one of the few remaining systems that do not provide video visiting, some form Snapchat/face timing, or even text/email capabilities to its inmates, but they expect us to remain current with technology and the times.

How are we expected to do anything but want to bite the faces off of those that hold us captive? What exactly are they, the Department, "Correcting"? We're simply being warehoused, awaiting parole or release, stuck in the same (in some instances, worse) mental state prior to incarceration. Most have only learned how to commit other crimes, others how to improve not getting caught. The cycle continues.

The N.A.O.C. continues to beg for money but what exactly does it go to and what is it being spent on? There's no out-of-cell time here so lets not fall for them spending it on "rec equipment." It's not being spent on courses or classes as all that's provided are high school and G.E.D's.

It's not going towards staffing as the E.S.P. is being ran at less than half the capacity (meaning there's 4 units shutdown, with the remaining 4 not at full capacity). Expenses are being listed in generalities with the public being conned once again. The Department does not give its inmates anything as we pay with our own money.

The NDOC is a fraud and needs to be overhauled, putting in people with the goal of true rehabilitation. Stop putting in people that once worked under the previous regime as they tend to take on their predecessors ideologies and the door revolves. If any Department chooses to attach the word 'Corrections' to their title, then apply it to both the inmates

and those that work in it. That goes beyond the wardens and judges. This needs to be applied to lawmakers too. (A)

Submitted by:

Gilbert Palotta # 46244

P.O. Box 1989

Sty, NV 89301