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My name is Frederick Fisher, I am a Native American prisoner presently incarcerated in a Minnesota Correctional Facility. I have been incarcerated for the last (3) years, but I have extensive history also first hand of being in a Federal system also, dating back (20+) years ago. Experience that is far more different in many ways to this state prison system. Over the years the constitutional protections once held in high regards for state prisoners have been in regression and almost to a point of decay. As compared to the Federal prison system(s), where prisoners rights are at the utmost of protection and safe guard. One can definately see the erosion of our most fundamental rights, the first step into this arena. Whether that be impeded by staff or behaviors encouraged by the so-called elitist over seeing each housing unit. The old convict state of being is or has been replaced by inmate conformists or pacifists. Those whom are more so worried about bending a rule - getting caught - and facing the minimal sanctions such as in-cell restrictions. This new class is much more worried about self, than to assist the "brother" in need, who just stepped in the door and in need of basic items such as soap or an envelope. Education, if quality programs exist are offered as a privilege and then taken away quickly at the thought of a possible rule violation. There really is no rehabilitation programs here, and those that are available, one can usually only participate when a release date is within a year. They mandate completion of said "treatment", BEFORE a person qualifies for Minimum Custody placement or Work release, even if an individuals Classification score reflects the lowest points to permit proper classification. What should we expect, the System is financially driven, as they receive state money for our participation in said existing programs.

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Obviously, the motive isn't to help rehabilitate the person, rather it is to profit financially before "awarded," that which our custody classification points stipulate. Prison is nothing but Big business. Another example, the institutions have gone into a state of quarantine unannounced, due to the invasion of Covid, and all programs, work and Services Suspended until those positive results subsided. Yet, on a positive note, but only to line their pockets, we are still allowed to receive our Canteen orders. Religious services have been in a decline of outside support, mainly due to the many attempts of inmates of various faiths, attempting to bribe or Coerce volunteers to introduce Contraband. This has initiated the assault upon our religious rights for many years. In the present, Covid has only reinforced those admin measures. The influence of gangs into our religious programming has deteriorated any internal support and has left lots of prisoners to the faiths struggling to find Solace and Spirituality in the solitude of their cells. I mentioned earlier how I thought the federal prison system offers more protections for the constitutional rights of inmates. Although, they may lack rehabilitative/therapeutic programs, they promote and offer many educational, ABE (Adult Basic Education) and Vocational training classes. Many classes taught by prisoners, as well as religious services. While the federal system may offer stiffer Sentences for crime, they remain protective of prisoner constitutional rights, and is evidenced by staff conduct towards prisoners as well. I have never seen or experienced such a disregard of respect for prisoners, by staff in any correctional setting, until coming to a MN. prison. No wonder why there are high rates of assaults and disruption here. It can all be countered, if conduct by staff to prisoners is changed.

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Although, the majority of this is opinion, there is evidence based upon past and present experience to support this writing. I have already dealt with retaliation of staff by exercising my rights to redress complaints to a higher level of admin, I don't expect anything else to occur by me producing this writing, retaliation for outspokenness is a common practice in these parts. Yet, another harsh reality of how ones 1st Amendment rights are in constant state of assault by these Meglomorphic Key holders.

If there is something that I wrote and you desire more details feel free to contact me and I can discuss the specifics. I hope that what was shared here, helps in all ways of your development into the lives of the many people affected by the U.S. (gulag) system of prisons.

Thank you for your invitation of this writing.

- Blessings

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