

Sabotaged Buddhist Meal, 2023

On the evening of Saturday, April 15th 2023 I was called out of my cell at around 3:30 pm by a floor officer who asked me questions about the Jameson Buddhist Group religious holiday meal to honor and show respect to our great teacher, the Buddha on his birthday. The meal was a few hours away and he informed me that the Cultural Activities Coordinator didn't e-mail prison staff about it so nobody knew the meal was ~~at~~ that evening and ~~at~~ that we may have to have it tomorrow. He would make phone calls and let me know.

When the cell doors opened for the evening meal, I was told the Buddhist meal was going to occur and myself and a few others went to set up in the visiting room the tables, etc. for the meal. I was told then to return to my cell and the ~~at~~ approved people would be called when they brought in the food, which they got from the Hy Vee store.

Things were going well until at the last minute the people on the approved list I had from the Cultural Activities Coordinator was changed. Previously approved inmates were no longer approved. The only explanation given was that they were NOT on the NEW APPROVED list that was just made. One inmate outside guest arrived, but the inmate whom invited him was

not allowed to attend. As you can imagine this was a strange occurrence, the approved list of attendees to the ~~religious~~ religious holiday meal being changed at the last second and inmates no-longer allowed to go, it looked like sabotage to me. The Cultural ~~and~~ Activities Coordinator just so happens to be a defendant on my active civil rights/breach-of contract lawsuit: Bell v. Young et al., civ. 21-4134 in the 8th circuit.

The ~~dis~~ disrespectful behavior continue with the visiting room officer treating us like children stating, "Be on your best behavior", "this is a privilege", etc. She further made it clear verbally she was in charge, disrespectfully stating this to me and ~~in~~ in front of others when I have been the facilitator of the Jameson Buddhist Group for over 8 years now. This officer further showed me and the Buddhist Group and their outside guests disrespect by telling me to "get started" and dictating when we would begin serving the meal before all the guests had arrive and before I gave my ~~speech~~ speech about why we celebrate Buddha's birthday and what the word NAMASTE means in sanskrit that we say to greet each other. To add further insult, the meal was approved to last until 8pm, but at 7pm we were told the religious meal was over and had to leave. The official oppression against me and the Jameson Buddhist Group continues, with no accountability.