When you segregate a man and treat him worse than you would treat an animal, you not only break his spirit but you slowly crush his soul.

— Walter J. Coto, J-88438

“When I was a child, I often wished someone would break me out of the prison system. Today, I wish I had never been born. If you wouldn’t believe me, ask all the young people in prison. They would tell you exactly how I feel."

— Todd Ashker, C-58191, Pelican Bay State Prison SHU

“I’ve been in the SHU [Security Housing Unit] for over 25 years…I’m permanently disabled and suffer chronic mental and emotional pain. This shows that preclude them from equal access to the criminal justice system has not changed with the passage of time. Millions, particularly many of today’s young people of color, are disproportionately impacted by laws, policies and policing that preclude them from equal access to housing, education, and other sustainable services. Contrary to popular belief, many kids are pushed out of schools as opposed to dropping out, similar to the experience Malcolm had to endure. Young Malcolm excelled in junior high school but dropped out after a white teacher told him that practicing law his aspiration at the time, “no realistic goal for a nigger.” Just like Malcolm many of our youth are dissuaded from pursuing college callings and would rather not settle for humdrum careers of servitude. Despondently, instead of escaping poverty, many youth of color find themselves ensnared in the stigmatic web of delinquent behavior. Recognizing the need to secure and control raw materials and a labor force as well as preventing political uprisings, transnational corporations deployed political strategies through their media enterprises (FOX, ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, etc.) to manipulate and galvanize the support of the U.S. population towards investing in prisons and more punitive measures.

One of these strategies was “The War on Drugs” campaign propagated by the American apple pie couple, Ronald and Nancy Reagan. Who could resist Nancy’s “Just say no!” plea of simplicity? Not recognizing the ruse for what it was, marginalized people from poor communities became casualties, or mere products, of the so-called War on Drugs. To attest to this fact the U.S. incarcerated population expanded from close to 500,000 in 1980 to 2,300,000 people inside correctional institutions in 2013.

During this span, California built twenty new prisons, practically tripling its original number (Coincidentally California built only one new university during this time. UC Merced opened in 2005). We can only speculate what Malcolm would think of what our society has become: an incarcerator of the poor and displaced. Perhaps his following words can help put things in perspective, “We live in one of the rottenest countries that has ever existed on this earth. It’s a system of exploitation, a political and economic system of exploitation, of outright humiliation, degradation, discrimination – all of the negative things that you can run into, you can run into under this system that disguises itself as a democracy.”

California’s version of democracy was forced to take drastic measures for its so called Criminal Justice system, due to its economic fiasco. In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown passed the “Realignment Act,” shifting some of the economic burden of the State’s prison population onto its 58 counties. The “products” are people who have been sentenced to prison for “non-serious,” “non-violent,” and “non-sexual” crimes, also referred to as the “non-non-crime.”

Why is California wasting tax payer dollars to imprison this non-threatening population? The answer may be simple to those who have a historical, political and economic understanding, but may be difficult to those who simply subscribe to the pursuit of the American Dream. In Malcolm’s own words, “You’re not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can’t face reality. Wrong is wrong no matter who says it.” The challenge is recognizing the
To all true love ones, the best of health. Thank you for the kind words of love, pho- tos, boxes and letters. I do appreciate all that you do for the children and for giving in my name to a family in need, three bicycles! WOW! I am so touched.

In spite of the terrible experiences in our lives, no matter what else we must do to make positive things happen on our jour- ney, our lives can be enjoyed in a fuller way when we take good care of ourselves and our comrades in every way possible. I was very upset when the jury in the San Quentin 6 case came back with a ver- dict of simple assault. The case started in 1971. The trial started in 75 to 76, a whole year and a half. The state had nothing on anyone in the Adjustment Center but the state became the targets. They managed to con- vince the jury to ignore the chains all over us and to try each one of us separately on charges we would be facing by the state. I got convicted of assault in 1976. Back then, an assault sentence was harsher than a murder conviction. I had to wait for 9 years and I was out of the SHU board – I waited until 1985 to become eligible for release. So I had no choice but to prepare for the long stretch ahead. The whole case was a sham, but I am a man and I know I will not accept this isolated confinement. I’ll never get used to living alone and not being able to have a contact visit, to maybe never again touch my beautiful mom who has suffered unmercifully and unjustly over my extreme incarceration. My time has been up! No matter what they said I did or didn’t do! My life has been and is serving the people working for our human rights.

Because of the chains and jury miscon- duction, I did not have any help to file an appeal to the appellate courts, every year from 1977 to 1986. However, the most im- portant motion was in me to keep pushing and growing and not burdening or both- ering anyone out there. To make matters worse, I lost my housing lockup in Decem- ber, 1976, the only integrated exer- cise yard at that time. The racial violence became quite intense. Inmates support each other, and it was too hard for me to get clean which I felt I needed to have in case I got no breaks from the courts. At the pa- role board, in 1985, I was delayed 1 year. In 86 and in 89 I was denied three years. In Feb 1989, I was moved to the SHU in Corcoran and staff gave me the same message that they had given me when I was in the SHU at Tehachapi about working myself out to the mainline in about a year. In Sept of 1990, I was moved to this Pelican Bay SHU where I am now. I hope to grow my crop soon. IT is my clean time and prepared for the 1992 hearing, although I wouldn’t show up and [Po] of the appeal, anymore. It’s a way of life. It was 3 years, so I got charged up ready for 1995. Not only to be released, but to live out the rest of my life doing family and community work and constantly evolv- ing. I am now going to become together and wholesome person. I am here still, because the board has continued to deny me. But, with the true love, care and justice of those who feel for me, I have been able to push on, to find new spaces where I can feel free and really human, because I will never acqui- scence to or be bound by an isolated government. I’ll never get used to living alone and being alone. I will be free to make contact visits, to maybe never again touch my beautiful mom who has suffered unmercifully and unjustly over my extreme incarceration. My time has been up! No matter what they said I did or didn’t do! My life has been and is serving the people working for our human rights.

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A Mother’s Story

Sheila Blake

Looking outside your window, your door. Who do you see? Neighbors, strangers, family possibly, or friends… all components of the community we live in. What kind of connection do you have with them and creating these days? Do we even care? Are we willing to take a close look at what we are doing about or to it?

The impact of mass incarceration is felt deeply in Black and Brown communities where incarceration has felt deeply in my own life. The experience of having two sons and as a grandmother has been “on the inside,” has provided me with a long-term and undesired relationship with the prison industrial complex. This system includes law enforcement, surveillance, the courts, and prison industries. A prison record – making employment, public housing, voting, and many other rights and benefits.

We’re creating a movement and working to bring change that will positively impact the suffering we see and experience in our community every day. Will you join us?

Moving from Pain to Power

Dorsey Nunn

By the time I was seventeen I had helped produce two children. As with most men who become a father so early, it was more about the thrill of the chase than anything else. When things more difficult, in order to survive I was involved with the street culture and had spent time in prison. We are creating a movement and working to bring change that will positively impact the suffering we see and experience in our community every day. Will you join us?

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continued from page 2... I have been housed in isolation for 23 ½ years. Almost daily now I wake up to a feeling of dread. Over the past five years, I have become convinced that death has to be better than this.”

- Political Prisoner Michael Reed

Dorrough, D-83611, Corcoran State Prison SHU

“I am 63 years old and my chronic asthma has worsened while in segregation. I find myself fighting for oxygen in my SHU cell. I have been disciplinary transferred over 12,000 times to other facilities over the years. My composition was changed in the middle of the night and feeling like I have been subjected to six to eight cell searches during my time in the SHU. During my time in the SHU, I’ve been disciplined and given a distrust for all prison staff and the treatment of prisoners, the prison guards – mood swings, loss of interest, restlessness, and the mundane repetition of doing the same thing over and over. I have witnessed the horrors of self-inflicted torture of prisoners, the prison guards assisting prisoners, myself included.”

- Michael E. Spencer, K-90235, Pelican Bay State Prison SHU

“My right to self-preservation is diminished by daily demeaning humiliation and torture in a country that prides itself on defending democracy, equality and humanity, in which my existence is nil.”

- Donald Lee Moran Jr., J-20212, Pelican Bay State Prison SHU

“It takes my breath to think I am spending my days in total isolation, without human contact. It is breaking my will. My psychiatrist says I have been in a manic state for 17 months. This is called torture.”

- Carlos Roberto Robledo, T-72730, Calipatria State Prison ASU

“They (CDCr) want to take away your humanity. There is nothing more dreadful in the world than waking up in the middle of the night and feeling like you’re in a nightmare. Even sleep cannot spare me from this hell. I have been left to hope for many years.”

- Derek Carbalaj, M-46035, Pelican Bay State Prison SHU

“During my time in the SHU, I’ve been subjected to six to eight cell searches a year for false reasons. During these searches I’ve had the only things I consider dear to my heart respected, including my family photos... Is that human?”

- Richard Satterfield, T-79743, CA Correctional Institution SHU

With each passing year I see a change in myself. I no longer trust anyone and I have a distrust for all prison staff because I feel they will assault me again. I wonder how I will function normally once I have been released.”

- Scott C. Stoner, K-40009, Pelican Bay State Prison ASU

Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement

Stop the Torture!

California is operating what thinkers in the Corcoran Prison SHU call “perhaps the largest, most well-hidden, domestic torture program on earth.”

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCr) agreed to “re-jail” their policies and make substantive changes, the strike was ended. Top CDCr officials admitted the strikers’ demands were reasonable, but have made only minor concessions – SHU prisoners are now allowed their calendars and watch caps. Pull-up bars have been installed in some of the pods at Pelican Bay. However, the Pelican Bay participants had more success, however, with bringing the world’s attention to the fact California is operating what the thinkers in the NARM (New African Revolutionary Nationalist) Collective Think Tank (NCTT) in the Corcoran Prison SHU call “perhaps the largest, most well-hidden, domestic torture program on earth.”

At some point in California, around 12,000 people are in some form of solitary confinement. Although the US is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Torture, California subjects people to long-term sensory deprivation for exactly the reasons prohibited in the Convention – intimidation, extracting information, obtaining confessions and punishment.

So far the CDCr has not proposed any substantive positive changes that address the core issues of the strike: the loss of hope, the unending punishment and outright deprivation of the CDCr’s 2012 “Security Threat Group Pilot Program” and the Truth Commission, and the “Step Down Program,” allegedly an avenue for release from the SHU, they are not interested.

Most likely, on July 8, 2013 the hunger strike will resume. But due to the continuing ripple effect of the 2011 strikes, it will occur in a different political landscape.

Positive Impacts of Hunger Strikes

Out of the tremendous unity forged during the hunger strikes, the “Agreement to End Hostilities” emerged in August 2012. Issued by prisoner representatives in the Pelican Bay Short Corridor, it called for an end to violence among racial groups. This was a huge step towards further uniting across racial and organizational lines against a common oppressor: CDCr.

Family members who came together to support their loved ones in the SHUs during the strike formed Californian Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement (CFASC) and California Families Against Solitary Confinement - now ominously referred to as “broken men” will continue to the beginning.

Public Safety Committee. The first hearing was in August 2011. Just two weeks after the release of the truth commission amending California penal code in August 2012. Given this increase in public awareness, naturally CDCr is fighting back to protect their taxpayer funded SHU cash cow.

The strikers’ five core demands were: 1) abolishing group punishment and 2) reducing overcrowment; 3) eliminating debriefing; 4) ending long term solitary confinement; 5) adequate and nutritious food; and 5) constructive programming.

After 3 strike participants died and the California Department of Corrections and rehabilitation (CDCr) agreed to “re-
store good behavior credit off SHU sen.

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The Pelican Bay reps are again calling for a “peaceful, non-violent hunger strike.” This is direct action in the face of the total repression of a prison and an extremely violent institution. Just as in the days of the Civil Rights era, people are going on strike to demand their basic human rights and live in the line. There is a difference is that this is non-violent against the prison system. It is non-violent against the prison system.

As Kamau M. Askari says in “Unity in Organization,” “any activities geared to divide and organizing prisoners pursuant to the particulars of a prison movement – in this instance would be utilized for the torment of the ordinary citizen – will be targeted for neutralization by prison authorities.” Askari calls on “all truly committed hunger strike activists and organizations to step forward and join us in our struggle to help save, restore and transform the hearts and minds of the people of our communities through the continued building of the Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement via the perfect soil, water, sun, and connection of power.”

So, what will YOU do to help spread the word about what’s happening with the hunger strike? After all, as Imari Ra’dki says in “A Message to Supporters Regarding the 5 Core Demands” “What CDCR responds to is not the demonstration in and of itself, but the power of the people’s – i.e. voters – outrage and indignation at us having to go to such lengths just to be afforded basic human rights.”

Agreement to End Hostilities

To whom it may concern and all California Prisoners:

Greetings from the entire PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Hunger Strike Representa-
tives and all those who are standing up for the human rights of all racial and ethnic groups here in the PBSP-SHU Corridor. Wherein, we have arrived at a mutual agreement concerning the following points:

1. If we really want to bring about substantive meaningful changes to the CDCR system in a manner beneficial to all the individuals, who have never been broken and upon whom has been foisted in the last 7 years, then the prison/racial group hostilities have to come to an end and if personal issues arise between individuals, people need to do all they can to exhaust all diplomatic means to settle such disputes; do not allow personal, individual issues to escalate into racial group issues!

2. Therefore, beginning on October 12, 2012, all hostilities between our racial groups... in SHU, Ad-Seg, General Population, and County Jails, will officially cease. This means that all non-consensual racial group hostilities groups here in the PBSP-SHU Corridor. Wherein, we have arrived at a mutual agreement concerning the following points:

3. We also want to warn those in the General Population that IGI will continue to plant undercover Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) debriefers “inmates” among the solid GP prisoners with orders from IGI to informers, snitches, rats, and obstructionists, in order to attempt to disrupt and undermine our collective groups’ mutual understanding on issues intended for our mutual causes, ... and to continue with a rehabilitative-type system of meaningful programs/privileges, including ider conjugal visits, etc., via peaceful protest activity/noncooperation e.g. hunger strike, no labor, etc. People need to be aware and vigilant to such tactics, and refuse to allow such IGI inmate snitches to create chaos and reignite hostilities amongst our racial groups.

4. We can no longer play into IGI, ISU, OCS, and SBU’s old manipulative divide and conquer tactics!!!

In conclusion, we must hold all strong to our mutual agreement from this point on focus our time, attention, and energy on mutual causes beneficial to all of us...; i.e., prisoners, and our best interests. We can no longer allow CDCR to use us against each other. For their benefit! Because the reality is that conditions in California’s prison system are an empowered, mighty force, that can positively change this entire corrupt prison system into a system that actually benefits prisoners, and thereby, the public as a whole. So, we are asking all current and future prisoners of the California prison system, IGI, ISU, OCS, and SBU, to continue to get away with their constant form of progressive oppression and warehousing of tens of thousands of prisoners, including the 14,000 (!) plus prisoners held in solitary confinement torture chambers i.e. SHU/Ad-Seg Units, for decades!!!

We send our love and respects to all those of like mind and... onward in the struggle and solidarity.

5 Ways to Support the Hunger Strikers

Letter from the New African Revolutionary Nationalist (NARN) Think Tank, Corcoran Prison SHU (Security Housing Unit)

By this writing you should be aware of the illegal steps California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), at least Corcoran SHU staff, are taking to undermine the hunger strike. Journalists are still attempting to control the narrative to the detriment of us all. After careful discussion and analy-
sis, there’s a way activists, family members, friends and concerned community members can support and raise awareness of this vital struggle in such a way that the machinations of the prison industrialists are countered. 1) Demand Compliance with Health Regulations for Hunger Strikes

When the protest action begins, and in the weeks leading up to it, call in to Sac-
ramento, and each SHU and state prison, and demand that CDCR staff comply with the “California Correcational Health Care Services (CCHCS) Mass Hunger Strike, Fasting and Refeeding Care Guide – Sept, 2012,” specifically as it relates to critical input data and diagnostic observation of hunger strike participants by nursing staff (i.e., height, weight, blood pressure, and body mass index).

2) Organize Visiting Teams to Hunger Strikers

The other is talking about issuing a new health care policy, and shutting down all visiting. Coalition members, activists and supporters should organize “visiting teams” right now for each SHU and major participatory prisons, to visit a specif-
ically determined number of hunger strike prisoners each week on attorney and/or legal visits, to monitor the legal compliance with CCHCS medical hunger strike policy, and ensure protesters are not completely cut off from the world. This may involve handing out and/or Distribution of CCHCS FAQs. This is a VITAL component in any successful struggle on July 8th and beyond. I cannot stress this point enough.

3) Call the Prison if You Don’t Hear from a Hunger Striker Correspondent

Each activist and/or family member currently corresponding with a protest partici-
 pant, or other coalition members corresponding with protest participants, if you do not receive a return letter from your correspondent by the 7th day, contact the prison and give them your correspondence number. This could be the peaceful protest initiation CALL THE PRISON immediately and, repeatedly, inquiring as to your correspondent’s welfare and why his/her mail is being withheld. If you’ve not heard from them in 7 days, and they don’t have their mail is being withheld. This was a common tactic in the first two hunger strike actions and will no doubt be again. 4) Deluge Legislators with Regular Hunger Strike Updates

If at all possible, activists should target specific legislators and state/federal of-
cials with daily or weekly protest updates via email. One of the things activists noted at the last hearing on solitary confinement on Feb. 25th was most legisla-
tive intern were unaware of the US domestic torture program being carried out in SHUs and Ad-SEgs across California and the US. Such an approach will ensure they can be educated on the reality of the isolation, degradation and abuse of thousands of men and women are starving themselves to death to end it, and there are thousands more friends, activists, family members and supporters who will be moved to take their final stand on the right side of history as well.

5) Try to Mainstream New Media Coverage of the Strike

Finally, one of the most notable actions in the last two hunger strike actions was that of mainstream news media coverage – especially in Crescent City (Pelican Bay) and Fresno affiliate (Corcoran). If at all possible activists can, and should, bombard local and national media outlets with email solicitations to cover their stories – and not simply from the CDCR’s perspective, but with a focus on the perspective of the Stop the Torture campaign; Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity (PHSS) Coalition, and the international human rights organizations who’ve all uni-
versally condemned this type of torture as the heinous human rights violation it is. Suggest key activists be interviewed, challenge them to have the political courage to be truly fair and unbiased. Contact PBS local affiliates around Pelican Bay, Corco-
ran and Tehachapi to do investigative journalist pieces – a series even – on the US domestic torture program and peaceful protests before, during and after the July 8th Day of Action, and serve to expose the existence of this contradiction to segments of the population which may simply be ignorant of its existence, their public official’s culpability in it, and the money – their money – be diverted from education, infrastructure development and job creation to support it.

These are 5 practical, concrete ways those particular segments of the com-
munity support of this human rights struggle can both support and raise awareness of it. If nothing else, people can donate their time or their treasure to the PHSH Coalition or the Stop the Torture campaign. This type of struggle is a battle for “positive discrimination,” another term for cultural hegemony. This type of social change, especially in the capitalist state’s repressive apparatus (prisons) where it has enjoyed virtual autonomy, is only going to happen in the wake of successful civil rights movements. But even if the struggle is not heard from your correspondent on hunger strike within 7 days of the July 8th, they are confronted daily with the reality that they are complicit in this torture, not hear from your correspondent on hunger strike within 7 days of the July 8th, and if personal issues arise between individuals, people need to do all they can to exhaust all diplomatic means to settle such disputes; do not allow personal, individual issues to escalate into racial group issues!!!
Haven't been taught to fight their oppression. Prevention.” I shared that hurt pressed people for their violent behavior. We have allowed the people to be economically oppressed of Black and about those who are incarcerated are still incarcerated. And We can't talk about the formerly incarcerated without talking about those who are incarcerated without talking about the social, political and economical oppression of Black and We can't talk about the formerly incarcerated without talking about our voices will be needed to bring about change, we know that our voices will be needed to bring about change, we know that our voices will be...
SACRAMENTO

Our Annual Sacramento Clean Slate Day was cancelled this year in order to facilitate both local and national celebrations. All of Us or None chapter in Sacramento, along with partners like the California Coalition for Justice, can arrange legal representation for the court appearances necessary for the expungement process, and can provide better services, including housing and employment law.

Contact:
Macy Thompson in the process of planning a Job Fair for Formerly Incarcerated people, in collaboration with the Sacramento Black Lives Matter Community. Keeping employers hire formerly incarcerated or if they just put our applications on the side.

We have received our Study Guides for The New Jim Crow Study Group. The New Jim Crow: Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander, is a book provides a “stunning and detailed chronicle of a new kind of caste system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status — denied the very rights supposedly available to all in the Civil Rights Movement. We are using this study group as a basebuilding.

Contact:
Aaliyah Muhammad: 916-501-9988

Our next membership meetings:
• Saturday June 15th at 12 noon at the Martin Luther King Community Room, The New Jim Crow: Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander, is a book provides a “stunning and detailed chronicle of a new kind of caste system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status — denied the very rights supposedly available to all in the Civil Rights Movement. We are using this study group as a basebuilding.

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MALCOLM X

truth behind the reality, as Malcolm did while in captivity.

Malcolm recognized the value of education. Educated Black and oppressed peoples are a threat to the status quo. Malcolm placed great emphasis on improving one’s educational level...once a prison house, now a workhouse, and the education and knowledge that middle class Black professionals and students are acquiring today is to keep our people under self-imposed ignorance and prejudice...not even to talk about the shame of the book..."I considered spending the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity."

Prison administration recognizes the threat of educated prisoners. So it shouldn’t be shocking to hear that people are currently and indeterminately held in solitary confinement inside California’s State Prisons Security Housing Unit (SHU), for “offenses” such as trying to educate. The autobiography of Malcolm X: The Autobiography of Malcolm X (New York: Grove Press, 1965), with A. Alexander calls “the New Jim Crow,” the system of mass incarceration in the US primary service provider for those, particularly African-American. Recently Steve and other members gave a presentation to the Sons of Allen Men’s Ministry, Bethel A.M.E. Church San Antonio. We hope to continue working together to bring awareness of the prison system to the public.

Our chapter maintains participation in the County Reentry Councils, providing a human face to policy changes. We began working with local attorneys like Luis Salazar to create a clean slate clinic. We hope we will become a part of the discharge process from probation.

Although we are averaged sized, we know we are the future in the room. We are the community we represent, we are more than one, and we are many. Together we make up the sleeping giant.

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POLICY

All of Us or None is co-sponsoring or supporting several landmark bills currently in the California legislature:

Supporting

AB 149 – requires Sheriff to inform people sentenced to county jails of their right to vote while in jail

AB 218 – “bans the box” regarding conviction history on applications for public employment in all California cities, counties, special districts, and state agencies

AB 651 – clarifies that anyone sentenced to county jail has the right to clean slate remedies for those convictions

AB 831 – allows anyone to assist and seek help for an overpopulated person without penalty

AB 870 – “bans the box” for all state contractors

SB 283 – repeals the lifetime ban prohibiting people with drug felony convictions from receiving welfare and food stamps

SB 469 – reduces sentencing for any one arrested for possession of a controlled substance

Youth Justice Coalition

Supporting several historic bills affecting youth in the criminal justice system.

AB 260 – gives young people tried as adults the opportunity for court review of prison sentences after 10 years served

AB 458 – requires police to notify parents of any youth placed in statewide Cal-GANG database; first bill ever to challenge the secret classifica- tion and surveillance of youth as young as 10

AB 744 – requires due process for school transfers

AB 549 – requires schools to define role of law enforcement on campus and prioritize counselors over police

SB 61 – severely limits the use of solitary confinement for young people in county jails, juvenile halls, or state prisons

Opposing

SB 565 – stops anyone with a felony conviction from volunteering in their child’s or grandchild’s school
I see prison as the parlor of the graveyard; being here as long as I have is as close to being in hell as one can imagine...