

BOBBY DIXON When most of us hear the words 'political prisoner' we think of someone who's down for a righteous cause. We think about someone fighting for what they believe in, by any means necessary. This next writer deems himself a political prisoner and after reading the two pieces he sent us, we can see why. So many people of color are locked up that it's sickening. And in his first piece he makes some brilliant observations of the California Department of Corrections. He also throws in some uncanny comparisons that when you read them, will have you like, "Damn, this guy surely knows what he's talking about." We throw these labels around that place false images of our young people in the minds of those who have the most power. Labels such as 'repeat offender' and 'career criminal'. Yet when the time comes for us to take responsibility for putting an end to the 'repeat' and 'career' in those labels, we fail time and time again. Quality rehabilitation doesn't exist in this state, or even in this country. We lock all our problems up, hoping that if we leave the 'monster' under the bed, we'll never have to deal with him again. But what if that was your child? What if we lived in a land where Black people were the majority and White people made up 55 percent of the prison population in this country? Would we still use the old draconian "sweep 'em under the rug" method? Well, Bobby Dixon lets us know his take on things as he writes from the California Department of Corrections in Vacaville, CA. And frankly, we think he has a very good argument.

The judicial and penal system's policies and concern, with successful rehabilitation of youth and adults is about as responsible as would be a plastic surgeon who drops a bus of people with burned faces off at a clinic and leaves them to operate on themselves. A few of them may succeed at improving their looks; others would become even more disfigured.

CDC Labels Youngsters 'Habitual Offenders,' Provides No Treatment

After the intentional and deliberate murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. young African descendants in American became even more of an endangered people.

There are 166,355 people incarcerated in California's correctional facilities. Approximately 55 percent of those imprisoned are of African descent. An alarmingly high number of individuals belonging to this social group have been in and out of penal institutions since childhood. America calls them either habitual offenders or career criminals.

For many years, I have been disappointed tremendously because of the California judicial and penal system's use of the term "habitual". It is hypocritical that this same institution had never offered a sincere approach to counseling programs for the hundreds of thousands labeled as habitual offenders. In any other area of human activity that we label habitual, people are automatically perceived to have lost the strength to be responsible when it comes to certain activities.

The Oxford American Dictionary defines "habit" as 1) A settled way of behaving, something done frequently and almost without thinking; 2) Something that is hard to give up, especially an addiction to narcotics.

The system labels a type of offender as habitual, yet proceeds to completely ignore emotional, psychological and social implications of the label. In other words, it is like a doctor diagnosing a patient with a chronic ailment and doing nothing to help the patient, not even giving any meaningful self-help advice.

What is ever more tragic is that hundreds of thousands of children and young teens are emotionally, psychologically

Cease Profanities

Everyone who knows Bobby Marion Dixon knows that he is a politically involved Black man. His goal is to bring young blacks together in love and respect for each other and to have them strive after the education that is so needed in order to get ahead in the world today.

We know for a fact that as Black Panther party members all over the world, the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would want us as brothers and sisters to teach our children that,

Profanity is a mild form of insanity that holds a mighty obsession over many Black Americans. Consider this mildly insane tendency to use profanity? Is there really a logical reason that would justify the practice of profanity?

Does profanity make you any more a woman or man of character?

Would you enjoy hearing your mother, sister, wife

On the other hand, daughters use profanity?

Would you advise your children to cultivate the habit of cursing or using profanity?

Do you really think that it makes you cool as a rapper or a member of the hip-hop nation?

As a freedom fighter, comrade, political prisoner and member of the Black Panther party, I cry out to appeal to clergy and community to have a dialogue our youth out to use profanity. We children of the 21 world, can't afford to.

This message is from a man that seem to come from our comrade Bobby Marion Dixon. However, the message is to the people. Let's give him support. Give love with dignity always with respect to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. May his soul rest in Peace.

and socially ignored by the judicial and penal systems in the state of California, so that often their delinquency evolves into adult habitual criminality.

Unfortunately, unsuspecting parents tend to believe that their children are receiving counseling, etc. during their stays in youth penal facilities. For the vast majority of children and teens, no help is offered. They are merely being isolated from society for brief, unproductive periods. With no love from the family or leadership from people in their community, many turn to crime and become gang members — both for emotional and financial support.

The judicial and penal system's policies and concern, with successful rehabilitation of youth and adults is about as responsible as would be a plastic surgeon who drops a bus of people with burned faces off at a clinic and leaves them to operate on themselves. A few of them may succeed at improving their looks; others would become even more disfigured.

The majority, however, would remain the same, feeling as though they have no idea where to begin and therefore are left with an even more debilitating feeling of hopelessness. This is the racism that exists within the California Department of Corrections. Even correctional officers of African descent, resulting from a long history of oppression.

I appeal and cry out to all my Black Panther Party members in the U.S.A. not to allow our youth's lives to be in vain, to allow them to suffer in prison or die at the hands of the pigs. We must save our children.

It's my request that political prisoners and prisoners of war reach out to all of the youth in prison and the outside world. Remember the young people and the children are our future. I welcome all response from people and all my comrades, sisters and brothers. So please answer soon. Power to the people, with one love always, in revolution of the mind.