

BOP Hypocrisy

by Jeremy Pinson

Today the Director of the Bureau of Prisons issued a memo encouraging inmates to be strong, seek help and don't commit suicide. I can't help but be nauseous at his hypocrisy. It wasn't until he was called to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee that he became at all concerned about inmates' feelings. Each year dozens sit in despair wailing, amputating appendages, mutilating bodies and most tragic committing suicide not rarely but literally by the dozen. Almost universally they were housed in segregation by callous and indifferent staff who equated mental illness to a chosen form of aberrant behavior and refused to acknowledge what the Supreme Court acknowledged in 1890: that solitary confinement is destructive to the mind, body and spirit. Hell even John McCain who once had his own taste of solitary described it aptly as "It's Hell". I've been in it for 8 of 9 years and my mind can never erase the horrors I've seen nor undo the damage it has done to me. The Director and his memo stink of hypocrisy. I live in America's most famous torture center, I know what it does to men because I have seen it and I have felt it. Just today the warden issued a memo to his officers. His chief concern? Suicide rates? Inmates mental health? Connections to loved ones? Nope. Dust. I wish I had a dollar for every memo issued by hypocrites in BOP. I'd be rich.