

The Killing of Tom Clements

Recently Tom Clements, the head of the Colorado Dept. of Corrections, was shot and killed by a recent DOC parolee who had been held for years in solitary confinement and had ties to a white supremacist prison gang.

While this killing was a tragedy I hope that people will focus on how the inmate did his sentence. Being in solitary and subjected to prison gangs who are permitted to do as they please in prison damages the psyche of any man. Why should it surprise anyone that an inmate became bitter and exacted revenge on the prison system's chief? I don't condone the evil of this killing but we must as a society be pragmatic and ask if what the Government does to prisoners promotes rehabilitation or perpetuates a vicious cycle of recidivism, deterioration of mental health and fosters feelings of bitterness, rage and a misguided desire for revenge? The question needs to be asked and answered.

- Jeremy Pinson

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