

# BREAD & WATER

Issue 1

"Resistance Is A Duty"

November, 2013

## IN THE NEWS

- European Union Votes to Ban *Life Without Parole* Sentences 17-1 (Britain only Country to Vote against)
- 160,000 Lifers in the USA.
- 49,000 Serving Life Without Parole in USA (x4 since 1984!)
- 1 in 9 in Prison Serving Life!
- Life Without Parole Sentences up 22% Since 2008
- 700,000 Prisoners released back to the streets EVERY YEAR. (to your neighborhood!)
- 1970—250,000 US Prisoners
- 2013—2.3 Million US Prisoners
- 65 of 300 Million Have Arrest Record in USA!

## This Month in History:

John F. Kennedy, America's first Irish Catholic President, is murdered in Dallas. Kennedy, a descendant of Irishmen who were themselves enslaved by the British for 700 years, was an outspoken *Civil Rights Advocate*.

## Parole Issues

By Mike S.

Since the current Parole Board was put into place in 2010, they have failed to comprehend the value of parole, which protects society, rather than endangers it. Bread & Water will fight for a more diversified board membership; a system of presumptive parole, and statistical data & research to share with the public to prove that the current program is failing miserably—at a huge cost to the tax-payers and society as a whole.

Changes are necessary. The prosecutorial mindset of the Parole Board must change in order to give prisoners fair, unbiased hearings and a real chance to succeed upon release—and to create hope.

## Veterans Issues

By Joe L.

Veterans imprisoned who were convicted of a capital offense cannot be buried in any state or federal cemetery. Their families do not get an American flag, nor do they experience the pride of an Honor Guard, or a bugler playing Taps. The disabled veteran cannot be seen at any V.A. Hospital and treated for his or her wounds that were received while upholding the ideals of our American democracy. Whatever pensions they may have been receiving are reduced to 10% irrespective of how much they were receiving prior to prison. For one bad decision in their lives the veteran is cast as unworthy trash.

## Compassionate Release

By Tim M.

Massachusetts is one of only nine states that does not have some type of compassionate/medical release legislation. The associated security costs attached to caring for the aging prisoner population are astronomical and an extreme burden on the taxpayer. We are working to ensure that real and viable compassionate release legislation is written into law here in the Commonwealth, and we are currently supporting the measure authored by State senator Patricia Jehlen—Senate Bill No. 1139.

## The State of Justice

By Shawn F.

The More than 2.3 million incarcerated individuals in the U.S. are often regarded as a throw-away population. While the criminal justice system focuses on giving offenders "what they deserve", it does little to restore the needs created by crime, or to explore the factors that lead to it. This is an observation that encapsulates the attitudes of the Department of Correction. Many citizens believe that when a judge's gavel bangs, and the prisoner is convicted, their involvement ends. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The American people, starting with Massachusetts, need to be more aware and involved in the comings and goings of the Department of Corrections. As of now, the DOC is a jobs program being funded on the backs of the working class and the victims of avoidable crimes. There are cost-effective solutions that are not being utilized



## PRISONERS' RIGHTS ADVOCACY

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*Saving Lives With Your Help!*



### Mission Statement

*Bread & Water is dedicated to the reduction of crime through the reform of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice system, and holding the Department of Correction to their legal mandate to rehabilitate offenders.*

### About Us

*We are a collection of individuals, both free and incarcerated, working for the enhancement of public safety, and the application of sensible justice, by working with, and raising the awareness of, citizens, legislators, and prisoners alike.*

# The State of Justice in Massachusetts Criminal Courts & The DOC

### Juveniles Await Fate

How many of the 62 Juveniles in MA will go home, now that the Supreme Court has ruled that youthful circumstances must be considered?

### Lady Justice Hopes

for another Gov. Patrick Supreme Judicial Court appointee before he leaves office - Court currently is 4 to the right, 3 to the left - Spina or Ireland leaving would benefit justice.

### SJC to decide Courtroom Closure

Decision in next few months. Massachusetts' "culture of closure" should have resulted in 100's of New Trials.

### Sniff, Sniff

DOC implementing Canines to harass visitors. Stay Tuned for Fido Facts.

### "Garbage" in/"Garbage" out

#### 11,000 MA Prisoners

- 53% do not have High School Diploma or GED.
- The #1 Cause of Crime/Recidivism = Lack of Education

- And Yet...
- Only 139 GEDs awarded By The DOC Last Year—

*No Wonder Recidivism rates are at 60%!!!*

### By the Numbers!

*Costs to the Taxpayer*

*Life Without Parole Sentences*

*(Prison Life Exp. 70 years)*

*Sentenced at 20 yrs. old:*

*\$2.5 Million*

*Sentenced at 30 yrs. old:*

*\$2 Million*

*Sentenced at 40 yrs. old:*

*\$1.5 Million*

*Sentenced at 50 yrs. old:*

*\$1 Million*

**Thanks for the Memories!!!**