

Reply ID: "d2 6x"

From: <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/518/>

Librado Clemena, Jr. J-94579 (Valley State Prison / P.O. Box 92, B4-18-3L / Chowchilla, CA 93610-0092)

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Hi jrowan!

February 16, 2014

What's going on? Wow! I really do apologize for not responding to your response to my blog "Just A Shout Out To All Bloggers!" back in March 2012. I have no excuse or anything else to say but I totally had misplaced your response and added your envelope to the rest of my mail as if I had already answered it. See, periodically I will browse through all my mail and get rid of the old-old stuff and I'll be damn, there I see your envelope and nothing is written on the outside of it as I have a habit of writing the date on the outside of the envelope once I've answered it.

Wow I don't even know where to begin, I feel so bad for not answering your reply. We're almost two years from the date I received it. Anyways, I find it very interesting that you said you're pro-rehabilitation rather than incarceration. For me, that is all I do in my spare time - I am always in some self-help group/program or I'm submitting proposals to implement new groups/programs here in the prison. I believe in helping those who seek and desire change in their lives. As I was told many times before, "Nobody can change an individual, but themselves!" and as my twelve step sponsor shared with me many times, "You will change or you will not change, the choice is yours!" Doesn't this make so much sense?

You remember what I wrote in my article back then, right? About the millions of dollars the government spends on incarcerating non-violent people? Look, that was practically two years ago I wrote this and still today, the local government is continuously refusing to abide by Federal Court Orders to decrease the inmate population here in California, due to prison overcrowding! I have mutual feelings as you do about incarcerating those who require and need to be imprisoned, for heinous acts of crime though.

However, here in California we have been going through so many changes with overcrowding prisons, that the Department of Corrections has been under Federal Receivership for quite some time and if you were to ask has there been any improvement? The answer would be, "I Think Not!!!" We continue to experience the news that there are still inmates suffering and dying at the hands of irresponsible Medical Staff or outright *does not care about incarcerated human-beings!* (Browse the internet site of [www.cdcr.gov.org](http://www.cdcr.gov.org) or Los Angeles Times and Sacramento Bee February 4, 2014). You will find some interesting news about California's Penal System.

Jrowan, I am one of California's Third Strike Offender's. I've been incarcerated for the past twenty years for a First Degree Residential Burglary that I **did not** commit! I am guilty of purchasing stolen items from a couple individuals and shame on me for doing this, but for a non-licensed Prosecutor to find me "Guilty" of the actual crime of Residential Burglary, this is injustice! Yes! I said **non-licensed prosecutor** because I received some documents from the California State Bar Association informing me they have no record of a Carolyn N. Peck being licensed to practice law in this state, imagine that? I have attempted to contact attorney's and law firms to

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see if I can get some assistance on this and you know what they want, something I don't have - the financial means to hire private investigators and so on...

However, I am at peace with myself in understanding the circumstances of my case and what have you - I have accepted the fact that this life term I'm serving, is for a reason and you want to know what that is? For all the bad I've ever done in my past, I am paying my dues now and I'm comfortable with that, know what I mean? By all means don't ever think I'm crazy for saying this, it's just how I see it today. I feel when it is time for Librado to be released from prison, then it'll happen, whether it be on the expected release date by the Prison Board or if the laws change etc.

What is your opinion on the California prison system if you are aware of the turmoil CDCR has been going through and along with the Federal Courts? It is so interesting to hear those from the outside world on their perspective of what's been occurring and it gives us in here a better idea as to where the voters minds are at.

I say this to say, look when the Three Strike Law was passed in California back in 1994. It was **ONLY** meant for **VIOLENT CRIMES** because of Richard Allen Davis kidnapping and murdering Polly Klaas, which he had been recently paroled from prison. The Bill was initially put out to the Public that it would only pertain to those who are repeated violent offenders i.e. murderers, rapist, and child molesters - which once the local government manipulated the voters to pass the Bill into Law, the verbiage was completely changed to affect anyone whether they committed a violent and/or heinous crime or not. And now the local government wants to complain about the recent rulings from the Federal Courts!

The Courts have ordered back in 2009 for the CDCR to decrease its population and since then there has been nothing but extension after extension, with the most recent order by the Three Judge Panel granting a two year extension to the CDCR to comply with their Orders. I wish those of us who have, in the past, violated court orders, were given exceptional treatment as has been provided to CDCR and the Governor of California! Someone with some common sense needs to step up and make CDCR abide by the laws set forth!

Jrowan, I will close on this note because I can go on and on but I don't want to bore you with prison stuff. Therefore, I hope to hear from you soon now that you have my direct address as I have at the header of the page. Take good care and I patiently await your interesting reply.

Gratefully at Peace,

  
Librado Clemena, Jr.