

PROPAGANDA: Debunking The Talking Points

OJORE DHORUBA KHAFRA AJAMU

"Deathrow, what a brothah know?"-Public Enemy

Days after a recent United States District Court ruling, former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti took to the airwaves to discuss the ruling. During his interview with Sonali Kolhatkar, on Uprising (7/18/14), a radio program airing on KPFA/KPFK, he made comments concerning the living conditions of California's deathrow prisoners. His statements of fact were skewed, bordering on half-truths, and an absolute lie. As are most "Talking Points" by politicians.

"They have their own cells, and a right to their own T.V.'s, and their own computers."- Gil Garcetti stated during his interview.

Garcetti's goal was to deceptively imply San Quentin's deathrow is "The Comfort Inn" for prisoners. To counter U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney's ruling (Ernest D. Jones v. Kevin Chappell; Cite: 2014 WL 3567365 (C.D. Cal.) July 16, 2014), detailing the administrative dysfunction of California's death penalty system/system. He addressed the inordinate and unpredictable delays—during post conviction—of appointment of counsel and appellate procedures that leave prisoners to languish for years on deathrow without any foreseeable threat of execution. He concluded California's system is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual.

For those interested in the truth, I as a California condemn prisoner will unravel Garcetti's statement to give you my poignant reality and the facts of my confinement.

First let me address the overt LIE.

I am not aware openly nor secretly, of anyone on S.C.'s deathrow with a computer. If it's my right, I demand one! If this is the case, access is only afforded at the sole discretion of the administration—S.Q. Officials. I can assure you no one possesses one in their cell. Firstly, there are no outlets/connections for a computer within the cells. Secondly, the cells are regularly searched, and there is no place to conceal a computer.

Yes, every prisoner on deathrow is confined to a single man cell, 21 to 24 hours a day. These cells are not ours. We possess no keys to enter or exit as we please; have no out right claims to a particular

cell;nor any ability to keep C.O.'s (Correctional Officers) out.This policy is at the sole behest of the administration and they alone dictate who is assigned to what cell.C.O.'s also have full access to each and every cell to invade and ransack arbitrarily.

If I may,let me give you a descriptive tour of a S.O. cell/concrete box that you can visualize: The demensions are 5'x12' and 10 feet high;walled in on three sides,and barred—with a grated mesh covering—at the front.Built within the box;a metal bunk (2½'x6') bolted to the cement floor,accompanied with a thin mat that offers no orthopedic comfort;two light fixtures;a stainless steel sink and toilet;a four-quarter cabinet that's bolted to the back wall;along with 6 cubic feet of personal property;and obviously windowless.Never have I been offered a mop in 15 years,to clean the floor.The toilets operate on a flush timer (1 flush every 6 minutes or 2 flushes every hour within six minutes).A constant film of dust coat the cell.During the summer the cell becomes an oven,and during winter a freezer.

This box effects everyone differently.Some individuals endure;others become mentally debilitated,requiring medication;and others opt for suicide.

T.V.'s are not a right,but a privilege.A privilege regulated according to a prisoner's program status;and can be arbitrarily confiscated at the disposition of a C.O. Not everyone possesses a T.V.;we must purchase our own appliances or a prisoner may donate his old one to another prisoner with the approval of the property officer. T.V.'s must be 13",clear casing,with the speakers removed;purchased from an "approved" vendor at an inflated cost;and usually operationally defective.

This is the undisputed TRUTH.Not some ideological talking point to deceive the public.Nor is my account an attempt to campaign for deathrow to become the "Comfort Inn".I fully accept and acknowledge the fact this is prison.But as a "Human",and prisoner living in a nation that professes to be civilized,and a champion of Human Rights,I question their indignity.Also their systemic disregard for violating the U.S. and California Constitution;as Judge Carney ruled in his oppinion.

To have a politician dismiss the U.S. and California Constitutional violations as a sideshow to the purportedlt cushy living conditions

of California's condemn prisoners speaks to the willful disregard of the real issues regarding the application of the law. These violations question the notion we are a nation of laws when those appointed to uphold them freely and openly violate them capriciously, while their political cronies attempt to distort the issues of Constitutional Rights with prison privileges.

From my stance on Maa, this is a voice from DEATHROW.