

TURKEY PARDONS: A Mockery of Clemency
OJORE MCKINNON

"Deeply troubling!" - U.S. President Obama

As an Innocent Man languishing on Californias' death row for the past 16 years,I find it impalpable to watch news reports of Obama pardoning turkeys on the eve of Thanksgiving (2015).This year,in a historical first,Obama had the distinguish honor to spare the lives of two California Foster Farm turkeys,that will spend the last of their days on a farm in Virginia.As one of seven hundred plus condemned prisoners in California,I find this act deplorable,and a disrespectful transgression against my life.

For the past two decades I have been conscious of this annual White House tradition,and every year I take it in as a mockery of executive power.Most importantly,it's a tradition belittling human life and justice, simply to produce a politically feel good story line.

In 1776,one of the founding powers bestowed on the United States President,was the sole executive power to grant pardons to anyone accused or convicted of a federal crime.This power was equally bestowed on Governors,of each state within the union.Initially this power of clemency was regarded and exercised with some sense of moral authority and a just notion to balance the scalepans of (blind Lady) Justice.In those situations where officials deemed some sense of injustice or misfeasance occurred,and wrongly effected the lives of the accused or the convicted.In this modern era of immoral authority by the political caste,we regularly witness pardons being misused and abused.Granted only in the interest of political cronies and lackies,or issued as favors to the financial elite or well connected.

Presidential turkey pardons began with Harry Truman (1945-1953),fifty-two years ago.Governors in Alabama,have been participating in this time honored tradition for sixty-one years; and I have no doubt other governors across the nation participate in such misfeasance.With the knowledge,none of these pardoned "Thanksgiving" turkeys spared the slaughter house actually live

long. Simply because the turkeys are traditionally fattened-up for the annual feast, and their bones are unable to bare their weight.

How many turkeys have been spared from being slaughter by presidents and governors? More emphatically, how many of the condemned have been granted pardons from this nations archaic and barbaric death penalty by these presidents and governors who've exercised their executive power to pardon turkeys?

Every year a hundred or so prisoners are exonerated after being imprisoned for decades. Take into account many of these individuals were on death row or had spent years as one of the condemned. For this reason alone, turkey pardoning is an insult to the exonerated and the innocent that remain wrongfully stranded on death row. Back in July, Obama, called for criminal justice and prison reform; to now appear jovially and jokingly before cameras proclaiming america is a place of second chances and, "surely Abe (the bird), is deserving." This openly displays an act of insensitivity and mockery of compassion simply for public relations. Simultaneously, he demonstrated his callous disregard for the seriousness of the death penalty. In contradiction to his comments in April 2014, after being asked about the haywire execution of an Oklahoma prisoner, where it took over a half-hour to suffocate him. He replied, "Deeply troubling!"

Every year I find it "deeply troubling" that presidents find it politically and socially acceptable to issue pardons to turkeys on the White House lawn, with pomp and circumstance. Even if this time honored tradition is nothing more than a gimmick, it's done in poor taste.

From my stance on Maa, a voice from DEATHROW!

Note: I find it ironic, these "Thanksgiving" turkeys spared from being slaughtered, actually suffer a "cruel and unusual" death, after the collapse of their bones from the weight of their bodies. Leaving them in a state of paralysis and suffocating. Just as the drugs used in state sanctioned murders are injected to induce unconsciousness; and induce paralysis, then suffocation.