

International CURE

Newsletter *Fall 2010*

To Reduce Crime and Uplift World-Wide Justice

Published by International CURE, *Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants*, www.internationalcure.org
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Registration for CURE's 5th International Conference in Abuja, Nigeria, February 21-24 2011

LODGING. CURE is raising some funds to support lodging and food for registrants. However, with limited funds, CURE urges those who can, to pay for their own lodging and food.

CURE has arranged a group rate of \$ 40 / night per person at the Abuja DRACC (Daughters of Divine Love Retreat & Conference Center) Breakfast will be \$6.

To register, please email curenigeria@yahoo.com and advise if you will: a) attend and pay for your own lodging and food at DRACC; or b) attend and pay for your own lodging and food at another Abuja hotel; or c) attend if CURE can help provide lodging and food. Also, please copy cure@curenational.org and cureny@bestweb.net

The Registration Fee is \$10 for registration in September 2010; and add \$10 for each month thereafter.

For payment, you could go to the International CURE website (www.internationalcure.org) and send it through Pay Pal. Click on "join" on the first page and you will be given two options. These are "join" and "donate". Under donate, you can use PayPal through a credit card. Also, this accepts currencies from most countries. Or, you can mail a check on a USA bank or send USA cash to International CURE, PO Box 2310, Washington, DC 20013, USA. Make sure you indicate that it is for registration for the conference in Nigeria.

SPEAKER. If you plan to speak on a panel at the Conference, a) Reduce your registration fee by 50%, and b) In ten words or less tell us the criminal justice reforms you will address in your ten-minute presentation, and c) If possible, Identify one of the following under which your talk would fit:

1. Universal Declaration on Human Rights, in regard to people in prison - e.g. voting and education.
2. Covenants on Civil & Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and people in prison.

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International Human Rights Expert to be Opening Speaker at CURE Conference

Bryan Stevenson, the founder and Executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, will be the opening speaker at International CURE's 5th Global Conference to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, February 21-24.

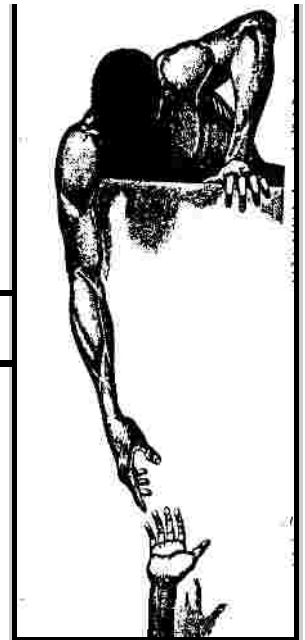
"We are very excited that Mr. Stevenson has accepted our invitation," commented Charles Sullivan, Executive Director, of CURE. "Bryan is nationally known in the United States as an attorney who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned."

Also, his speech will challenge participants to use the human rights documents as the tools for criminal justice/prison reforms and respect for human rights and dignity. "In many ways, Alabama is similar to Nigeria and other countries that will be at the Conference," explained Sylvester Uhaa, Conference Coordinator. "Just as Alabama ended segregation under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, so, for example, did apartheid end with the release of Nelson Mandella, and criminal justice/prison reforms in the world will begin with this conference."

"Thus," Uhaa continued, "By sharing with us how Alabama's prison system is functioning today we Africans can learn more on how we can develop a criminal justice system that is also operating in a post-colonial era."

After Mr. Stevenson presentation which will be translated in French, Portuguese and Spanish, there will be a keynote address followed by panel presentations from speakers from all five continents.

Mr. Stevenson is available to be interviewed now by English speaking and French speaking media in Africa.



"He Ain't Heavy"
by Gilbert Young



Making Law and Policy that Work

Excerpts from a Handbook for Law and Policy Makers on Reforming Criminal Justice and Penal Legislation, Policy and Practice, by *Penal Reform International (PRI)*

http://www.penalreform.org/files/PUB_makinglawandpolicy_200710_FINAL.pdf

This reference has been chosen by International CURE as a companion to the Conference Output Document. It can guide the planning and execution of law and policy for the achievement of the CURE 5 year Correctional Development Goals. Click the link above to read it. The Handbook contains three major sections.

1. A Fair and Effective Approach to Criminal Justice. This section outlines the principles that should underpin law and policy reform. These principles derive from international standards and norms.

- An important focus of reform is crime prevention.
- Diverting offenders from the formal justice system.
- Assisting offenders to lead law-abiding lives.

2. Strategies for Developing Law and Policy. This section makes a number of recommendations regarding the process of planning, implementing, publicizing and evaluating criminal justice reform initiatives. These aim to facilitate adoption by parliaments of legislation and policies that work. The need for professional research, widespread consultation, legislative costing and careful use of the media are highlighted, as are the need to comply with international standards and the importance of training and dissemination.

- Identifying problems and their causes.
- Drafting reform proposals.
- Cost analysis of reform proposals.
- Building consensus.

3. Substantive Issues for Reform. This section considers the options available to law and policy makers at all stages of the criminal justice process. It refers to the international standards that are relevant and recommends concrete actions necessary to improve and reform criminal justice and penal systems.

- Arrest as a last resort
- Pre-trial measures
- Legal representation
- Acting in the best interests of the child
- Conditions for effective rehabilitation
- Standards of care for the mentally ill
- Standards of care for drug addicts
- Women with babies
- Prison management
- Reentry planning
- Addressing unemployment
- Conditional release

IACHR Visits Ecuador

Excerpt from press release, Washington, DC, May 28, 2010 – <http://www.cidh.oas.org/Comunicados/Spanish/2010/56-10sp.htm>

The Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) visited Ecuador from 19 to May 21, 2010.

The Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom recognizes that there have been significant advances in the prisons in Ecuador. Notice is made of the momentum of positive public policies aimed at addressing the main problems of the prison system and the existence of four new construction projects for social rehabilitation centers.

Furthermore, the Rapporteur appreciates the concrete measures taken to reduce overcrowding, the considerable increase in the number of public defenders, maintenance and adequate funding of childcare in the Women's Centre for Social Rehabilitation of Quito and Guayaquil, and measures taken recently to reduce the rates of domestic violence at the Men's Prison Penitentiary Litoral.

Notwithstanding the progress made, the Rapporteur of the IACHR found that there are still situations incompatible with the effective guarantee of the rights of persons deprived of liberty. In this regard, the delegation noted that at a general level there is a lack of resources to provide adequate food to detainees, the daily budget of one dollar in custody is insufficient to adequately cover the nutritional needs of the prison population, a shortage of medicines, health supplies and medical personnel, particularly specialists in gynecology and mental health, prison overcrowding still remains, at national level there is no separation between remand and convicted, and the need to implement effective programs of rehabilitation. In particular, it found that the physical facilities, plumbing, electrical, hydraulic in the male prison and pretrial detention center (CDP) of the Penitentiary Coast are in poor condition and inadequate. The Special Rapporteur also is concerned about the detention of persons (at the administrative headquarters) for several days, for failure to carry personal identification documents.

During the visit the delegation held meetings with various non-governmental organizations who provided information about the situation of prisoners. For example, the delegation was informed of the continued practice of torture for the purpose of criminal investigation, and ill-treatment committed by police. With regard to the practice of torture in Ecuador, the IACHR, as in several previous reports, repeats that there is an international absolute prohibition of torture.

(continued on page 8)

Transformative Actions:

A library of Leadership Resources, drawn from worldwide prison and justice experience.

<http://www.internationalcure.org/pajart.htm>
all only a click away

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

1. TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION

IN THE U.K.: [Rest. Justice in U.K.](#) (see page 5)

IN ARGENTINA: [Penal Mediation](#)

IN BRAZIL: Toward Peace and Justice in Brazil

<http://www.internationalcure.org/newsletters/INL%20Summer%2009%20pp%201-6.PDF> (see page 3)

2. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND NONVIOLENT

COMMUNICATION: a comprehensive analysis focusing on techniques, accountability and empathy. *By Fran Delahanty, RJ and NVC* (see page 3)

3. RESTORATIVE VS. RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE: a comparison. By Rev. Samuel Kawilila, CURE-Zambia

if you have Power-Point: [Restorative Justice](#)
if you do not: [Restorative Justice](#) (file)

4. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESTORATIVE PRACTICES (IIRP):

A source of education and workshop training. [IIRP](#)

5. TRANSFORMING POWER AND THE PROCESS OF CHANGE

See the Newsletter of Summer, 2008, page 5, at <http://www.internationalcure.org/newsletters/9-Summer08.pdf>

REENTRY

1. LIFELINE: Parolees helping incarcerated persons to prepare for and then re-integrate back into society.

2. COMMUNITY AID

Discharged Prisoners Aid Soc. A community-based, non-profit, supporting recently released, formerly incarcerated persons.

3. NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER

Providing education, training, and technical assistance to organizations and corrections institutions working on prisoner reentry. www.nationalresourcecenter.org synthesizes and disseminates knowledge about what works, to reduce risk, and improve outcomes with adults and youth leaving prison, jails, and juvenile facilities.

REHABILITATION / EDUCATION

1. HAMPDEN CO. CORRECTION CENTER

4-Phase Programming Plan. See Programs at <http://www.hcsdmass.org> also see page 9 at <http://www.internationalcure.org/newsletters/11-Winter08.pdf>

2. REBUILDING BELIZE PRISON

See page 90 at http://www.internationalcure.org/pdfs/DignityIndividual_Complete_May14_08.pdf

3. PETER YOUNG HOUSING INDUSTRY TREATMENT PROGRAM

See page 2 at <http://www.internationalcure.org/newsletters/11-Winter08.pdf>

4. COLUMBIA BUSINESS TRAINING

See "What Works" on page 3 at <http://www.internationalcure.org/newsletters/7-Jan08.pdf>

5. KHAN ACADEMY

The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) with the mission of providing a world-class education to anyone, anywhere. Browse 1800+ videos by topic: Math. Science, Humanities. <http://www.khanacademy.org/#>



photo by Alan Pogue

Prisoners' Committees

(from the Assessment Report for Ethiopia
<http://www.internationalcure.org/pajart.htm>)

A special phenomenon in Ethiopian prisons is the presence of *prisoners' committees* that operate very professionally and rather autonomously. They run – with the full consent of the governor - a kind of shadow-administration. Every zone of a prison elects its own committee. All zones elect members of a central prisoners' committee. The commander of the prison police can reject elected candidates however.

The central prisoners' committee in Addis Ababa runs its own office, where an administrative function is kept. Every member of the committee has a specific task (education; welfare; health; financial matters; the management of prison shops, etc.). One member of the committee keeps records on the eligibility of fellow-prisoners for parole. In short: where prison management fails to provide services, prisoners committees try to handle matters by themselves.

Zonal prisoners' committees are empowered to elect fellow prisoners for remunerated jobs. They have certain disciplinary power too and can 'sentence' fellow prisoners to sanctions like collecting garbage, carrying loads or clean the premises. These zonal committees determine which prisoners are recommended to the central committee for entering the procedure for parole. If the central committee accepts a nomination for parole it will send the file to the prison governor who will refer the case to the proper court of justice.¹

Prison governors are very happy with these prisoners' committees and regard these as very useful instruments for maintaining good order in their institutions, which they cannot manage properly themselves, for want of sufficient trained personnel.¹

One prison is divided into 6 zones, each of which has its own Prisoners Committee. The zonal Prisoners Committees are elected by the prisoners. The head of the prison police may reject candidates for these committees. This Central Prisoners' Committee consists of: a chairperson, a secretary and members responsible for: the social department (health, education, training, work); the financial management of the central shop, the small shops, the tearoom, the profits of which are used to support the prisoners; the inspection of the shops and the economical-planning of the shops.

One committee-member runs the department of Safety and Justice, which (among other things) keeps track of the dates of release (parole) of prisoners. This is necessary because the prison administration is not failsafe in this respect. It also tries to speed up procedures, which is necessary because the criminal courts are coping with a huge backlog.²

The prisoners' committees are empowered to assign jobs and to mete out disciplinary punishments. Disciplinary sanctions are: 1) physical exercise; 2) garbage disposal; 3) transporting materials; and/or 4) cleaning of the zonal compound.²

Serious infractions of prison discipline are dealt with by the prison administration. Internal regulations regulate the power of the prisoners' committees. Cases of alleged abuse of power by members of the prisoners' committees are reported to the unit cell-heads and handled by the zonal and if necessary by the central prisoners' committee. If this proves to be not sufficient the case can be transferred to the prison director.²

^[1] Gerard de Jorje, "The Ethiopian Penitentiary System

^[2] Gerard de Jonge, report on the visits to Ethiopia from 7-21 July 2003. And from 20-25 October 2003 , University of Maastricht -the Netherlands. Acting for the Dutch Centre for International Legal Co-operation (CILC).



photo by Alan Pogue

Registration

(continued from page 1)

3. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, re prisoners.
4. Convention on the Rights of a Child; having a parent in prison; children sentenced to prison.
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; women incarcerated.
6. Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil & Political Rights; abolition of the death penalty.
7. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
8. Prison Conditions in Different Countries.
9. Legal Representation of Prisoners.
10. Pretrial Justice.
11. The Role of Restorative Justice.
12. Abuse of Prisoners.
13. Prisoner Health; HIV/AIDS & other diseases in prisons.
14. People with Physical and Mental Disabilities in Prison.
15. Prisoner Rehabilitation and Re-entry.
16. The Role of Churches and Mosques in Criminal Justice/Prison Reforms.
17. Fighting Crime, through investment in education, employment and youth/women empowerment.
18. Private prisons.
19. Prison Management.

IACHR Visits Argentina

*Excerpts from a press release, Washington, DC,
June 21, 2010*

<http://www.cidh.oas.org/Comunicados/Spanish/2010/64-10sp.htm>

The Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty of the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)* visited Argentina from June 7 to June 10, 2010.

The Rapporteur of the Commission wishes to express its deep concern over the conditions of detention where persons are deprived of liberty in the province of Buenos Aires. In this regard, the Rapporteur notes that in consideration of the special position of guarantor of the state against persons deprived of liberty, as well as respecting their lives and personal integrity, the state has an obligation to ensure minimum conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity.

According to information provided by authorities, the prison population in the province of Buenos Aires in March 2010 is 30,132 inmates, of whom 4040 were being held in police facilities. According to official figures, 61% of those deprived of freedom is appealable ruling, however, the Rapporteur notes that this percentage does not include those held in police custody. The civil society organizations, meanwhile, reported

that over 70% of detainees are on remand. The Rapporteur of the IACHR is concerned about the misuse of police custody, to the detriment of the principles of presumption of innocence. In this regard, the Commission reiterates that the detention of a person is an exceptional measure of precautionary nature and not punitive, obtained solely to insure that the accused does not impede the efficient development of the investigations or circumvent the action of justice. The Rapporteur of the IACHR notes that the judges choose the injunction that is more burdensome to the right to freedom during the process. The Rapporteur of the IACHR notes with concern the recent reforms process by which restricted access to alternative measures to deprivation of liberty and substantive criteria are applied to analyze the merits of the remand, in contradiction with international standards. In this regard, the Commission urges the authorities to implement preventive detention as emphatically exceptional and to implement alternative measures. It is necessary to adapt the law of the province to the international human rights standards.

Moreover, regarding the use of police custody, the Rapporteur of the IACHR found that in the province of Buenos Aires the permanence of a person detained by court order in one of these establishments depends on the places in the Prison System, which, in practice, due to the current shortage of prison places, can take months or even surpass the year. The Rapporteur stresses that police stations are designed for temporary detention centers that do not have the infrastructure and basic services to ensure decent conditions of detention. In addition, due to their training, police personnel are not prepared to fulfill the function of custody of detainees, which corresponds to public servants trained for the custody and treatment of persons deprived of liberty, in this case, the Provincial Prison Service. The Special Rapporteur urges the Government to take necessary measures to cease the use of police premises as places of permanent accommodation of persons and, therefore, no longer function as places of detention.

Furthermore, the Rapporteur of the Commission expresses its deep concern at reports that detention centers inflict torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Specifically, it was discovered that frequent beatings, often followed by cold showers, the practice of "phalanx" or "paw-paw", consisting of beatings on the soles of the feet, and ill-treatment by prolonged isolation in punishment cells, overcrowding and poor physical conditions. During the visit, the Rapporteur was informed, of cruelty inflicted on a member of the Prison Service as part of an "initiation ritual" to join an elite group of that body.

In this regard, the Commission reiterates that there exists in international law an absolute rule of prohibition of torture, and that States have a duty to protect prisoners against all threats and acts against them, physical or mental.

This includes the duty to refrain from using methods such as disciplinary punishment which may be classified as torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. According to information received, between February and June 2010, there were 241 cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, of which 115 were formally reported.

The Rapporteur also received information from various sources on the unwillingness of states to investigate and punish the acts complained of, the culture of impunity and a lack of an official register of such acts, not allowing reliable information on the actual size of the problem, and not developing policies for prevention. In that sense, it is noteworthy that the lack of punishment encourages the consolidation of practices contrary to respect for human dignity and integrity. In this regard, the Rapporteur urges the Argentine government to take necessary measures to prevent torture, and in particular, urged judicial authorities to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for acts of torture.

It is also concerned about the poor condition of the structures and physical facilities, particularly the sanitary, plumbing, electrical and internet. Housing conditions are incompatible with the principle of humane treatment that all people should be deprived of liberty. They should have sufficient space, daily exposure to natural light, proper ventilation and heating, depending on weather conditions at the place of detention. They must have access to hygienic sanitation facilities and sufficient for all detainees; to basic personal hygiene products and water for personal hygiene.

In this regard, the Rapporteur could see that some of the physical structures of the detention centers are very old and require substantial repair, adjustment and maintenance. Particularly in the case of stations it was observed that the sites used for the detention of precincts were not originally designed for this purpose, but of structures designed for other purposes later modified.

Furthermore, the Rapporteur of the IACHR noted with concern the existence of a policy of transfers of detainees as a way to control the internal order of the prison, or as a disciplinary sanction applied successively and indiscriminately, with the aggravating circumstance that during the transfer to subject to the inmates to inhuman and degrading treatment, which, considering the vast expanse of the province of Buenos Aires seriously affects the regular contact of prisoners with their families and denies them access to education and employment programs that promote the process of resocialization.

In this regard, the Rapporteur of the IACHR wishes to emphasize that the vast majority of interviewees said that they had been subjected to successive transfers between prison units. For example, one of the inmates interviewed said they had traveled in six years over 40 (of 54) Buenos Aires Prison Service units, passing through some more than twice. For its part, the authorities agreed to the use of this practice as a form

of control of internal order in the prisons. In this regard, the Rapporteur of the Commission urges the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires to take measures to limit judicial review prior shipments and prevent them from being used as a disciplinary sanction. It also recommends the State consider the proximity of the detainee to his family, his physical condition, and its membership of education or work programs as fundamental criteria available at the time of shipment. In accordance with the Principles and Good Practices for the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas of the IACHR, the transfers shall not be carried out in order to punish, punish or discriminate against persons deprived of their liberty, their families or representatives.

In relation to health care, the Rapporteur received at the hearing a complaint about the poor quality and difficult access to health services and to medicine. Also the Rapporteur became aware of the inadequacy of supplies of medicines and hospital supplies in health units, and the lack of a mechanism ensuring the uninterrupted supply of them.

In this regard, the Rapporteur of the IACHR received information indicating that the inmates transferred to the Health section is not always due to a medical decision, which prevents access to medical care to people who really need it. In the case of detainees in police stations, it could be established that they are not provided regular medical care, but only in an emergency. In turn, the Rapporteur of the IACHR has received information about the lack of adequate judicial control over detention conditions of health.

In this regard, the Rapporteur urges the State to take steps to provide clinics in the prison units with adequate health infrastructure; human resources are essential; medicines and medical supplies sufficient to meet the needs of the prison population; and security to guarantee the physical integrity of staff. The Rapporteur wishes to stress that detainees are entitled to health, in particular, to medical care, psychiatric and dental care; to the continued availability of suitable and impartial medical personnel and free access to appropriate treatment and medication. It also recommends that the State provide regular care to persons in police custody.

The Rapporteur wishes to emphasize that the detainees are entitled to receive a diet that meets in quantity, quality and hygiene, proper and sufficient nutrition. The Rapporteurship observed with concern that inmates in isolation had no running water and had to eat with their hands. In this regard, the IACHR urges the State to exercise quality control of food consumed by people deprived of freedom, and ensure that they meet the minimum requirements for quantity, quality and hygiene. Furthermore, it is essential that the state provide basic utensils to detainees so that they ingest their food in minimum conditions of dignity.

On the other hand, with concern the Special Rapporteur received information according to which the prison system in the province of Buenos Aires has no rehabilitation programs and education. But while Article 5 (6) of the American Convention on Human Rights provides that custodial sentences are essentially seek the reformation and social rehabilitation of convicts, the SRP was found that access to existing programs is insufficient in relation to the prison population in the province of Buenos Aires. The Special Rapporteur urges the provincial government to allocate the necessary resources for the expansion and adequate provision of workshops, schools and other social rehabilitation programs by the Provincial Prison Service. It also stresses the importance of establishing criteria that ensure a quota allocation process that is transparent and equitable.

The Special Rapporteur urges the Government to give priority attention and political will to improve the situation of persons deprived of liberty in the province of Buenos Aires, for which it considers of crucial importance to strengthen the protection mechanisms. In this sense, it is necessary to grant the necessary independence and autonomy to the Provincial Civil Defence, and to establish the mechanism established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. Also, ensure the independence of the members of the judiciary, to effectively fulfill its role of reviewing the legality of preventive detention and execution of the sentence, free of any interference or pressure.

Finally, the Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty urges the Argentine government, in particular the province of Buenos Aires, to design and implement a policy for prisons in line with international principles governing the matter, and to formulate a general plan aimed at overcoming the serious situation experienced by people deprived of their liberty and to ensure the effective enjoyment of their human rights.



photo by Alan Pogue

My Sisters Made of Light

by Sr. Nasreen Daniel SL

A new book worth reading.

This novel is being published next month! It will be available through www.Press53.com and Amazon.com after October 15th. But to be ahead of the curve, go to the publisher's website: www.Press53.com for the Pre-Order event so you can be sure to be among the very first to have your own signed copy of the book--to read to your heart's content. And to support a good cause at the same time.

Then go to the website: www.mysistersmadeoflight.com to learn more about this project.

From the back cover: "Jacqueline St. Joan writes with the passion of a life-long feminist and the insight of wide experience. She brings to her story what she brought to the law, a conviction that life is full of both struggle and purpose and that grace comes to us when we have no reason to expect it."
—**Dorothy Allison**, author of *Bastard Out of Carolina*

"I started reading *My Sisters Made of Light* and could not put it down. It is a powerful story, well-presented, well-researched, and written with passion. The labor of duty became a labor of love. I read voraciously but have not come across a work which deals so effectively and skillfully with the cultural fault lines of Pakistani society." —**S. Akhtar Ehtisham**, author of *A Medical Doctor Examines Life on Three Continents: A Pakistani View*

"My Sisters Made of Light is an exquisitely told story. By weaving her far reaching knowledge, experience, and imagination, Jacqueline St. Joan's characters and settings bloom. Its narrative movement is simultaneously dynamic and delicate, deftly floating the reader through scenes, internal points of view, and an overall intriguing story that resonates in both the physical and ethereal senses." —**Tom Popp**, managing editor of *F Magazine*

The author will donate half of her proceeds to a grassroots Pakistani organization for construction of a safe shelter for women and children escaping abuse.

DRAFT of the CURE Conference Output Document

Still under construction, the current draft of the Output Document for CURE's 5th International Conference is now available at

www.internationalcure.org/IC_Ways_Fwd_pp.ppt

Click the link above, and there you'll find:

- Ø Who are the prisoners? A description of the social disabilities borne by many of the persons imprisoned.
- Ø Integrating Past Experience and Current Perspectives. Drawing on the collective experience of many countries in a series of international conferences over several decades, collecting their conclusions and recommendations.
- Ø Correctional Development Goals. Setting major targets for justice and prison reforms in the coming five years.
- Ø Using that collective experience in meeting the goals by more than 40 specific Ways Forward in 5 key areas:

1. **Judicial Operations**

Legal aid, information systems, speedy trial act, pre-trial planning, false confessions.

2. **Alternatives to Incarceration**

Restorative Justice, family group conferencing, mediation, victim/offender mediation, community-service, training

3. **Abuse Prevention**

Solitary confinement, grievance procedures, death penalty, life without parole, board of visitors, OPCAT, control units, violence against women.

4. **Health and Addictions**

Drug treatment, mental illness, AIDS, other infectious disease, food, water, sanitation, transparency.

5. **Rehabilitation and Reentry**

Education, job training, family contact, work in prison, merit time, work release, voting

- Ø Spreading Justice and Dignity. A closing statement recommending a dramatic shift in the economic paradigm for growth from the bottom up.

The 5-Year Goals and Ways-Forward sections of this document will hopefully help to define many of CURE's future efforts.

The Conference in Abuja will be asked to review and upgrade this draft, particularly including the 5 year goals and the specific ways forward.

IACHR Visits Ecuador

(continued from page 2)

The IACHR recognizes the importance of prevention as a method to eliminate violations of the right to humane treatment of detainees, and urged the Ecuadorian state to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, and to implement their prevention mechanisms.

In response to those observations by the delegation during the visit, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights urges Ecuador to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect and guarantee the rights of detainees.

In this regard, it recommends: take concrete steps to improve the quality of the feeding of detainees; repair or rebuild facilities and infrastructure of those prisons which are in poor condition; ensure an adequate supply of medicines and medical supplies for prisons; increase the number of health professionals assigned to work in prisons, especially mental health specialists and gynecology; continue to take measures to reduce prison overcrowding; and implement and operate security correctional courts.

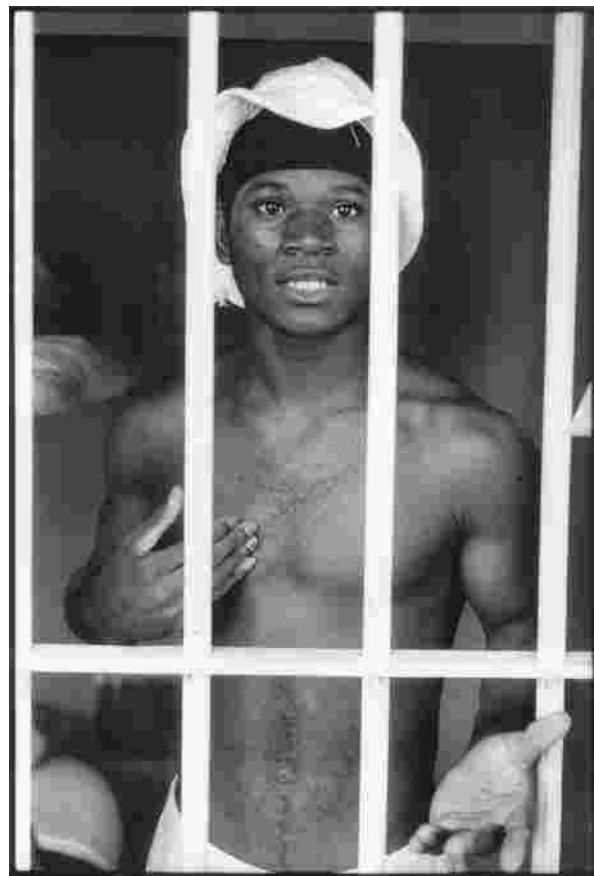


photo by Alan Pogue

Excerpts from the news bulletin of the 51st National Prison Ministry – CNBB, in Brazil. More information can also be found at the site www.carceraria.org.br.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

An agenda for the next government

Since 2005 there has been a 35% increase in incarceration rates in Brazil, and the prison population has reached nearly half a million prisoners. High rates of incarceration and harsher penalties certainly did not help Brazil to move towards a more humane justice.

This growth will, perhaps, satisfy the craving punitive parts of the population and generate more wickedness in the system, already marked by criminalizing the poor directly. Combating the criminalization of poverty should be a goal of rulers who seek an intelligent and efficient solution for public safety, seeking the causes of crime and refusing to fall into the trap of idolatry of custodial sentences.

Allegations of torture and violence, high rates of recidivism, prison overcrowding, the power exercised by criminal gangs and their impunity are recurring elements of the system. And why? How can we reverse this model of doom? If what we want is the reduction of crime and violence, what we are really doing in the area of criminal justice that those goals are achieved?

VOTE OF PRISONERS

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, inmates move to obtain voting rights. Dozens of prisoners and persons awaiting trial in various prisons of São Paulo, are resorting to the courts in order to ensure their right to vote in 2010 elections.

The injunction orders on behalf of the prisoners were sent through the Center of the State Prison Ombudsman for the State of São Paulo. In legal requests, the prisoners claim the provisional constitutional right to participate in elections and contest the argument of "insecurity" claimed by the State of São Paulo.



In the Next Five Years CAN WE:

1. Reduce the annual admissions to prisons by 30% - 50%?
 - 1a. Increase use of alternatives to prison.
 - 1b. Improve defendant's legal counsel.
2. Reduce prison/judicial imbalances. ?
 - 2a. Reduce pre-trial waits; and set a maximum allowable wait time of one month.
 - 2b. Reduce overcrowding in all prisons; and enforce a limit on percentage of design capacity of 120%.
3. Reduce recidivism rates by 30% - 50%.?
 - 3a. Reduce prisoner abuse; build citizenship by humane and constructive treatment.
 - 3b. Make rehabilitation a prime purpose of all correctional facilities.
4. ACHIEVE
 - Ž Better social health,
 - Ž More national productivity,
 - Ž Less unrest and crime, and
 - Ž Lower total costs for: - police, judiciary, jails, prisons, welfare, medical, & other after-effects ?

YES WE CAN

Countries around the world are convinced that criminal justice systems of today are ineffective, wasteful, and too expensive for the poor results produced. The basic objective has to dramatically shift from an emphasis on punishment to one of recovery. As in the theme of the 5th CURE International Conference, "From Retribution to Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration."

The over 40 Ways-Forward, for reforms in five criminal justice areas, as cited in the CURE Draft Output Document (found at www.internationalcure.org/IC_Ways_fwd_pp.ppt) are the result of past experience drawn from many countries over several decades. These Ways-Forward provide a solid basis for major reforms in worldwide criminal justice systems.

