

# International CURE

## Newsletter Winter 2010

To Reduce Crime and Uplift World-Wide Justice

Published by International CURE, *Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants*, [www.internationalcure.org](http://www.internationalcure.org)  
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### CURE's 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference

At this forthcoming conference, to be held February 21-24 2011, in Abuja, Nigeria, more than 36 speakers, from 15 countries and 5 continents, will form nine panels to discuss all aspects of reform for the judicial and prison systems of the world.

#### Presentations

The global assessments and the demands for global reform will bring forth issues within seven panel categories:

- Pre-trial detention,
- The death penalty and life without parole,
- Prison Conditions,
- Effects of Religion in prisons,
- Human rights of prisoners,
- Corrections policy and practice,
- Reintegration and reentry.

Further identification of the speakers and their discussion topics are in following five pages of this newsletter.

Setting the tone of the Conference will be the opening speaker, Mr. Bryan Stevenson, the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, USA. Appropriately, his theme will be "Mass Incarceration, Harsh Punishment, and Confronting Injustice: The Demand for Global Reform."

#### Pre-Conference Dialogs

In further development of these topics, each of the nine panels can foster pre-conference dialogs among the panelists, and comments by others in the CURE community, via participation in the CURE Blog at <http://justiceworldwide.wordpress.com/> Informal communication via the Blog during the next two months can enable you and the entire worldwide CURE community to participate in the work of the Conference.

#### Draft 2011 CURE Platform

Prior work on judicial and prison reform is presented to the Conference, as a "Page" on that Blog, called a *Draft CURE 2011 Platform*, organized in five areas:

- Judicial Operations,
- Prisons and Alternatives,
- Prisoner Abuse,
- Health of Prisoners, and
- Rehabilitation and Reentry.

The Draft 2011 CURE Platform cites 48 Ways Forward in these five areas, as practical ways to begin to achieve global reform. These recommended Ways Forward are the results of several decades of work gleaned from multiple international conferences on judicial and prison reform.

Each area of that Platform is also a separate Post in that same CURE Blog, complete with supporting quotations from relevant human rights documents and international standards. Your comments on each Post are encouraged, which can be viewed and considered by the attendees at the Conference.

#### CURE's 5-Year Goals

The Conference also can consider the formulation of key goals of global reform for the next five years. A *Draft of such 5 year CURE Goals* is likewise available as a "Page" in the CURE Blog. Four goals, each with sub-goals, suggest targets of specific key programs to be achieved by 2015.

Again, the entire worldwide CURE community is encouraged to participate, by comments in the CURE Blog, in the further definition of these goals.

#### Combating AIDS

A particular concern of the Conference is the excessive prevalence of AIDS in prisons and the consequent spread of that disease both inside the prison and in the outside community.

CURE is very aware of poor sanitation, overcrowding, poor nutrition, and inadequate medical treatment, all of which contribute to the spread of disease in prisons. As noted in the 2011 Platform, many steps are needed to stop AIDS and other diseases in prison. One key type of legislation, offered for endorsement by the Conference, is an outline of *Legislation to Stop AIDS in All Prisons*, for education, testing, and counseling. That outline is also available as a "Page" in the CURE Blog, at <http://justiceworldwide.wordpress.com/>.

Wide adoption of such legislation is strongly encouraged to significantly reduce the incidence and spread of AIDS in prisons and the larger community.



"He Ain't Heavy"

by Gilbert Young

# The International CURE Annual Appeal

As we always have done, this time of the year, we ask for your help. We know that these are tough times financially for many, so any help you can give will be welcomed.

Of course, there are many regular needs, including office expenses, - rent, telephone, computer services and supplies; postage for daily mail (we receive about 20 letters from prisoners daily); travel to various chapters and board meetings; and representation in lobbying and meetings with other organizations.

Now, moreover, we have extraordinary, large expenses in sponsoring the 5<sup>th</sup> CURE International Conference, reported in this issue of the Newsletter. We very much need your help.

And, the continuation of this demand for global reform and the further promotion of many known Ways Forward, will be major challenges in 2011 and beyond.

In all this work, we shout thanks:

- To all our dedicated chapter leaders, and their members who so generously volunteer. You are a “voice” in your state and country, and help to bring about significant change and hope to many.
- To the many prisoners who write to us, give advice, and – in spite of dire circumstances – often reach out to others, and may even scrape together some minor financial assistance.
- To local, state, and national government officials and other leaders who introduce and pass legislation that address the myriad problems in our justice systems.
- To you, our donors, who support CURE so generously (some for almost 40 years!)

It has been a busy year, and an encouraging one. There is movement for justice reforms in many places.

Let’s hope that 2011 will bring continued momentum for change and a real transformation of justice systems.

Pauline and Charles Sullivan, CURE Co-Directors

**I DO WANT TO HELP INTERNATIONAL CURE CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2011.**

Here is my contribution.

\$5\_\_\_ \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ \$500\_\_\_ \$1000\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment.** You could either go to the International CURE website ([www.internationalcure.org](http://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 the Annual Appeal.

# 5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Human Rights & Prison Reform

**February 21-24, 2011 Abuja, Nigeria**

Sponsored by International CURE and Cosponsored by Jane Addams College of Social Work  
and Open Society Justice Initiative

## **From Retribution to Restoration, Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

"The contribution which our prisons can make in the reduction of crime lies in the way we treat our prisoners. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of professionalism and respect for human rights." Nelson Mandela



Pictured is the "universal prisoner" whose plight this global conference will address.

This prisoner, like many around the world, lives in conditions that are inhumane and primitive. He is visited by a pigeon, not an eagle nor a dove, but a lowly pigeon.

Struck by this image, our photographer Alan Pogue has entitled this picture, "The Wings of Hope." Certainly, this Conference is one of the "wings."

Alan took this picture when he was in Argentina photographing prisons in South America for CURE.

He will be taking pictures in African prisons after the conference. African friends, please email Alan now at [alanpogue@mac.com](mailto:alanpogue@mac.com) if you can provide him access to prisons.

## **Monday, February 21**

### **2 PM - 7 PM**

For details on how to get to the site of the Conference and hotels in Abuja, please email [curenigeria@yahoo.com](mailto:curenigeria@yahoo.com)

After arriving, come to the CURE table in the Conference Room to register. Registration is \$40 in December, \$50 in January, \$60 in February and \$65 at the Conference. Please email [cure@curenational.org](mailto:cure@curenational.org) for information on how to pay now.

Speakers can reduce the registration fee cost by 50%. For speakers and other participants who request it, a bed for three nights will be paid for by CURE and at least breakfast each morning. We are seeking funding for a \$10 lunch and an afternoon tea break.

However, all participants will have to pay for their travel to and from Abuja.

### **7 PM - 10 PM** Self-Introductions followed by a Social.

## **Tuesday, February 22**

**9 AM-10:15** Welcome by Sylvester Uhas, Executive Director of CURE Nigeria, and Coordinator of the Conference  
Ecumenical Invocation  
Introduction of Opening Speaker by Charlie Sullivan, Director, International CURE, Washington, DC



### **OPENING SPEAKER-Bryan A. Stevenson**

#### **Mass Incarceration, Harsh Punishment and Confronting Injustice: The Demand for Global Reform**

Mr. Stevenson is founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Bryan is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned.

During the next three days, there will be nine panels about prison reform. Human rights documents will be the basis for reform. Named are the panelists who have confirmed so far. They are shown left to right according to the list below their pictures. The first listed will chair the panel. After a ten minute presentation by each, all will be available for questions.

## From Retribution

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

### Pre-Trial Detention Panel



There are ten million people incarcerated in the world. About three million are behind bars awaiting trial, many for years.

This problem affects the poor who are more likely to be arbitrarily arrested and unable to afford legal assistance.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."  
Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Martin Schoenteich, Senior Legal Officer, National Criminal Justice Reform, Open Society Justice Initiative, New York.

Martin is from South Africa and panelists from the other continents have been invited.



2 PM - 3:30 PM

### No Death Penalty/No Life Without Parole Panel



- ❖ Sylvester Uhaa, Director, CURE-Nigeria, *Strategies to Abolish the Death Penalty in Nigeria and Throughout Africa*
- ❖ Charlie Sullivan, Director, International CURE, *Reluctantly Witnessing an Execution: Why the Death Penalty is Wrong*
- ❖ Anita Colon, MHS, Advocate for Prison Reform & Family of Person Incarcerated, National Campaign for Fair Sentencing of Youth, USA *Sentencing Juveniles to Life without Parole and its Connection to the Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- ❖ Jean Basinger, President, Iowa-CURE, USA *Responding to the Supreme Court Decision that Juveniles under 18 cannot be given Life without Parole for Non-homicide Offenses*
- ❖ Chief A.P.A. Ogefere, Nigeria *Response to No Death Penalty & No Life Without Parole Sentences* (Picture not yet available)



On the far left is a person being executed in the electric chair. They are usually very poor, a member of the racial minority and at times innocent.

Also, a 14 year old is shown in the near picture in an adult prison. Children should never be incarcerated with adults.

Each country "shall take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty" Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. "Life imprisonment without possibility of release shall not be imposed for offenses committed by persons below eighteen years of age." Convention on the Rights of the Child

Shown are prisoners doing field work. Most are from urban areas where such work is not an employable skill.

Also, when a heat stroke happens, most probably there is not any medical care.

Pictured is such a prisoner with ice placed on him as "emergency treatment." He could die before being taken to the prison hospital.



"The medical services of the institution shall seek to treat any physical or mental illnesses."  
Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Rule 62)

**4 PM - 5:30 PM**

### Prison Conditions Panel



- ❖ Jose de Jesus Filho O.M.I., Attorney, Catholic Bishops Conference Prison Pastoral Care of Brazil, *Monitoring Places of Detention to Prevent Torture According to the Opcat*
- ❖ Demelash Kassaye, PhD Student, Social Work and Social Development *The Ethiopian Justice System, Current Reform Efforts, Assessment of each Justice Institution, Observation and Shortcomings, Recommendations*
- ❖ Kassi Augustin Djeinzou, Director, Ghana-CURE *The Necessity to Implement Adequate & Genuine Prison Reforms*
- ❖ Emmanuel Gnahore, Executive Director, Sierra Leone-CURE *Prison Conditions in Different Countries*
- ❖ Dave Johnson, Colorado CURE, USA *Tortuous Conditions of Control Units and Solitary Confinement* (no picture yet)

**6 PM**



### Group Picture

by Alan Pogue, International Documentary Photographer

**Wednesday, February 23**

**7 AM - 8:30 AM** How to Start a CURE Chapter. Co-chaired by Charlie Sullivan & Sylvester Uhaa.

## TO RESTORATION

Shown right are people incarcerated receiving Holy Communion during a Catholic Mass while on the far right are Muslims at prayer. (pictures by Alan Pogue)



**9 AM - 10:30 AM**

### Religion Panel

"Freedom of conscience, the profession and free practice of religion shall be guaranteed."  
African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights Article 8



- ❖ Fred Mosely, Chair, Texas-CURE *Role of Faith Based Organizations in Prison Reform*
- ❖ Dr. Don John Omale, International speaker, Nigeria *The Role of Restorative Justice in Prison/Criminal Justice Reform*
- ❖ Pastor Vincent Omegeba, Directs US transitional programs *Role of Faith-Based Organizations in Rehabilitation of Exconvicts*
- ❖ Nestor Ouffoue, Executive Director, Niger CURE *The Role of Churches and Mosques in Criminal Justice Reform*
- ❖ Enyeribe Oguh, S.J. *The Role of the Catholic Church in Correctional Services in Nigeria* (picture not yet available)



## TO REHABILITATION

Pictured is Texas prisoner David Ruiz on the way to court. David filed the most comprehensive and long-lasting prison reform lawsuit in United States history. CURE played a role in this litigation that brought about many human rights.

Article 8 "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law." The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

11 AM - 12:30 PM

### Human Rights Panel



- ❖ Vid Beldavs, futurist, CURE Indiana/Vice President-NewLeaf-NewLife, *Prisons, Justice and Human Rights: Looking at Current Trends from the World of 2025*
- ❖ Franz Kurz, Member of Registered Society of the Support of Offenders with Association for Probation and Offenders Assistance in Germany *Legitimacy of Punishment by Government*
- ❖ Msgr. Prof. Dr. Obiora Ike, Director, Catholic Institute for Development of Justice, Peace and Caritas, Nigeria, *Protecting and Managing the Human Rights of Persons in the Prison Environment*
- ❖ Stephen Egaharevba, University of Turku, Finland, *Prisoner's Right Protection: An Emerging Pattern*
- ❖ Dr. Charles Hounmenou, Visiting Research Specialist from Benin, Jane Addams College of Social Work, Univ. of Ill. *Standards for Monitoring Human Rights of People in Police Lockups* (picture not available)

Most people in prison are constantly asking for education. Shown is a make shift classroom in a prison in South America.



"The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation." International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 10.

2 PM - 3:30 PM

### Corrections Panel



- ❖ John Clark, former warden of a federal prison in the U.S. *Reform from the View of a Prison Administrator*
- ❖ Paula Dubill, World-wide Teacher of Art Therapy in Prisons *Restoring Hope and Healing: Creativity and the Role of Art, Art therapy and Art Education in Prisons and Places of Detention with Children, Teens and Adults*
- ❖ Ajay Kumar, Professor of human rights in New Delhi, *Reform of Visiting in Prisons in India*
- ❖ Awuapila Nathaniel Msen, over 15 years of community development service, Nigeria and
- ❖ ASP Shagba Emmanuel, 12 years in prison administration, Nigeria, *Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration Addressing Core Sources of Criminal Proclivity* (picture not yet available)

# & REINTEGRATION

4 PM - 5:30 PM

## Reentry Panel (A)

Planning for a successful return to the community should begin the first day of incarceration and those with visits have a six time better chance of success.

Shown is a husband in disciplinary status visiting his wife. Also, a mother is continuing to bond with her children through phone calls while she is still in prison.



"The treatment of prisoners should emphasize not their exclusion from the community, but their continuing part in it. There should be social workers at every prison with the duty of maintaining and improving all desirable relations of the prisoner with his family and with social agencies." Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, Rule 61.



- ❖ Dr. Amel Anderson, Maryland-CURE, USA *Major Components of Successful Prisoner Reintegration, Reentry and Reintegration are Livable Transitional/Long Term Housing Employment and Connection Family Members* (introductory remarks)
- ❖ Sister ElmaMary Ekewuba, DC., Director of Justice, Development & Peace Commission/Caritas, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria *Homelessness and Joblessness-Major Factors to Reentry of Ex-prison Inmates*
- ❖ Dr. Richard S. Jones, Univ. of Marquette, Co-author *Doing Time: Prison Experience and Identity in a Maximum Security Prison* and Dr. Ikponwosa O. Ekunwe, University of Tampere, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Finland *Looking at the Effects of Human Dignity in Prison Reform: a Comparative Study of Finland & United States of America*
- ❖ Simplex Chithyola, Ex-Prisoner & Director of Chiansi Foundation, Malawi *Life after Prison: The Pride of a Reformed Prisoner*

9 AM - 10:30

## Thursday, Feb. 24 Reentry Panel (B)



- ❖ Samuel Kawillia, Zambia-CURE *Funding for Community-Based Sentences: Prison Renovation, Adequate Food and Medicines*
- ❖ Creasie Finney Hairston, Dean, Jane Addams College of Social Work, Univ. of Ill. Chicago *Family Matters in the Justice System*
- ❖ Indra Rana Magar, Prisoners Assistance, Nepal *Family Reintegration: Rebuilding Families & Communities after Imprisonment*
- ❖ Jorge Antonio Renaud, Prison Reform Activist, Writer and Poet and Gabriel Daneil Solis, former Associate Director of the Texas After Violence Project *From Barbed Wire to Ivory Towers: Why Universities must Reach out to Ex-Convicts*

11 AM - 12:30 AM

## Reentry Panel (C)



- ❖ Jane Browning, Executive Director, International Community Corrections Association *Halfway Houses as a Safe and Effective Means of Transitional from Jails and Prisons and their History in the United States*
- ❖ Dr. Joseph Alan Strickland, community based research at Univ. of Illinois at Chicago in Jane Addams School of Social Work Policy Center *Building Social Capital for Stable Employment: The Post Prison Experiences of Black Male Ex-Prisoners in America:*
- ❖ Rev. Simon Udengba, model program in U.S. *Fighting Crime through Investment in Education, Employment & Youth/Women*
- ❖ Solomon Asemota, defense attorney and former police officer, *Insights on Reducing Crime from Both Sides of Criminal Justice*

*Excerpts from the Report of the USA*

## National Prison Rape Elimination Commission

*A step towards combating the destruction of persons caught in prison rape and the possible spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in prisons.*

The full text of the Commission report is available at [http://www.cybercemetery.unt.edu/archive/nprec/20090820155502/http://nprec.us/files/pdfs/NPREC\\_FinalReport.PDF](http://www.cybercemetery.unt.edu/archive/nprec/20090820155502/http://nprec.us/files/pdfs/NPREC_FinalReport.PDF)

**FINDING 1.** Protecting prisoners from sexual abuse remains a challenge in correctional facilities across the country. Too often, in what should be secure environments, men, women, and children are raped or abused by other incarcerated individuals and corrections staff.

**FINDING 2 .** Sexual abuse is not an inevitable feature of incarceration. Leadership matters because corrections administrators can create a culture within facilities that promotes safety instead of one that tolerates abuse.

**FINDING 3.** Certain individuals are more at risk of sexual abuse than others. Corrections administrators must routinely do more to identify those who are vulnerable and protect them in ways that do not leave them isolated and without access to rehabilitative programming.

**FINDING 4.** Few correctional facilities are subject to the kind of rigorous internal monitoring and external oversight that would reveal why abuse occurs and how to prevent it. Dramatic reductions in sexual abuse depend on both.

**FINDING 5.** Many victims cannot safely and easily report sexual abuse, and those who speak out often do so to no avail. Reporting procedures must be improved to instill confidence and protect individuals from retaliation without relying on isolation. Investigations must be thorough and competent. Perpetrators must be held accountable through administrative sanctions and criminal prosecution.

**FINDING 6.** Victims are unlikely to receive the treatment and support known to minimize the trauma of abuse. Correctional facilities need to ensure immediate and ongoing access to medical and mental health care and supportive services.

**FINDING 7.** Juveniles in confinement are much more likely than incarcerated adults to be sexually abused, and they are particularly at risk when confined with adults. To be effective, sexual abuse prevention, investigation, and treatment must be tailored to the developmental capacities and needs of youth.

**FINDING 8.** Individuals under correctional supervision in the community, who outnumber prisoners by more than two to one, are at risk of sexual abuse. The nature and consequences of the abuse are no less severe, and it jeopardizes the likelihood of their successful reentry.

**FINDING 9.** A large and growing number of detained immigrants are at risk of sexual abuse. Their heightened vulnerability and unusual circumstances require special interventions.

## STOP AIDS IN USA PRISONS

The [proposed] Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009, HR 1429, directs the Bureau of Prisons (USA) to develop, and draft regulations to implement, a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates in federal prisons and upon reentry into the community.

The full text of this Bill can be found at [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h1429rfs.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1429rfs.txt.pdf)

*Steps like these are a basic help towards reducing the prevalence of AIDS in worldwide prisons, and the consequent danger of subsequent spread of such diseases into the community.*

*See the corresponding article on the first page of this newsletter, and the reference to a derivative outline of legislation suggested on the CURE Blog.*

## The Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2010

([Proposed] USA S.3798, H.R.6153)

*A step towards worldwide cooperation in transforming criminal justice systems, and meeting minimum standards for acceptable prison conditions worldwide.*

In many countries around the world, detainees are held in inhumane prison conditions, including overcrowding and inadequate food, water and medical care, and are often subjected to other forms of ill-treatment and torture. Family members and legal counsel are often barred from visiting, and juveniles can be detained with adults. Every day, prisoners around the world die in prison due to ill-treatment, in contravention of international human rights standards.

When states hold people in detention, they have a heightened level of responsibility for ensuring detainees' right to life and health, including by providing adequate food and health care, and by ensuring that the conditions of detention do not put detainees' lives and health at risk.

Because prison conditions that are overcrowded and lacking in sanitation, clean water and adequate food place prisoners' lives and health at risk, Amnesty International believes that such conditions amount to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners outlines the responsibility of states in adhering to good principles and practices for conditions of detention. These include adequate sanitary conditions, nutritional food, drinking water, hygienic facilities and medical services. The UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment also outlines the responsibility of states to provide humane conditions and respect dignity of persons under all forms detention. Principle 6 states, "No person under any form of detention or imprisonment shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

A footnote to this principle clarifies that the "principle shall be interpreted with the widest possible protection against abuses, whether physical or mental".

The Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2010 (S.3798, H.R.6153), introduced on September 16, 2010, by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Sam Brownback (R-KS) in the Senate and by Congressmen Bill Delahunt (D-MA) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA) in the House of Representatives, would help ensure that countries receiving US assistance do not operate prisons and other detention facilities under inhumane conditions and would provide assistance to countries making significant efforts to improve conditions in their prisons.

The bill mandates that the Secretary of State submit a report to Congress detailing prison conditions in countries currently receiving US assistance, highlighting which countries currently do not meet minimum standards and those who are making significant efforts to improve prison conditions.

Minimum standards for acceptable prison conditions include ensuring that prison capacity is not exceeded, that human waste facilities are sanitary and accessible, that the health and safety of prisoners be ensured, that prisoners are provided with adequate food and potable drinking water, that prisoners have access to essential and emergency medical care, and that prisoners are able to contact their family and friends.

If enacted, the bill would mandate the US government to enter into negotiations with countries not meeting these minimum standards and not making significant efforts towards improvement. The bill would allow for a restructuring, reprogramming and/or decreasing US assistance for that government. And for governments currently not meeting these minimum standards but nevertheless demonstrating efforts towards improvement, the bill would allow the US government to provide assistance towards improving conditions.

## \$57-\$65 Billion in Lost Output per Year

*Excerpts from “Ex-offenders and the Labor Market,” by John Schmitt and Kris Warner, Center for Economic and Policy Research, November 2010, [A clue to the real worldwide costs of incarceration.](#)*

Federal, state, and local governments in the United States currently hold about 2.3 million people in prisons and jails and supervise another 5.1 million people on parole or probation. As recent research from the Pew Center on the States has emphasized, these figures translate to about one in 100 American adults behind bars and about one in 33 American adults under some form of correctional control.

In this report, we examine an even larger population connected to the criminal justice system – the growing number of ex-offenders (ex-prisoners and ex-felons) – most of whom are not currently in prison or jail nor on probation or parole.

An extensive body of research has established that a felony conviction or time in prison makes individuals significantly less employable. This effect is not simply that individuals who commit crimes were less likely to work in the first place. Rather, the best available evidence suggests that felony convictions or time in prison has an independent impact that further lowers the employment prospects of ex-offenders.

Given the number of ex-offenders and the best estimate of the associated reduction in employment suffered by this population, our calculations suggest that in 2008 the US economy lost the equivalent of 1.5 to 1.7 million workers, or roughly a 0.8 to 0.9 percentage-point reduction in the overall employment rate. Since over 90 percent of ex-offenders are men, the effect on male employment rates was much higher, with ex-offenders lowering employment rates for men by 1.5 to 1.7 percentage points. Even at the relatively low productivity rates of ex-offenders (they typically have much less education than the average worker), the resulting loss of output that year was likely somewhere between \$57 and \$65 billion.

The rise in the ex-offender population – and the resulting employment and output losses – overwhelmingly reflect changes in the U.S. criminal justice system, not changes in underlying criminal activity. In 2008, for example, both violent and property crimes were below their 1980 rates, about when the current incarceration boom got underway. Instead, dramatic increases in sentencing probabilities and sentence lengths, especially for drug-related offenses, account for both the increase in the incarcerated population and the mushrooming of the ex-offender population that we document here.

## Wrongfully Convicted

*Excerpts from a report by the Innocence Project in the USA. A “tip of the iceberg” indication of the need for major improvements in worldwide prosecution practices.*

### 250 innocent persons were exonerated by modern DNA testing. Why were they convicted?

- 76% were convicted based at least in part on eyewitness misidentification.
- 53% of those misidentifications were cross-racial (most commonly a white person incorrectly identifying a black person).
- In 38% of the misidentification cases, multiple eyewitnesses identified the same innocent person.
- 58% were convicted based at least in part on improper or unvalidated forensic science.
- 21% were convicted based at least in part on faulty microscopic hair analysis. Five involved improper use of DNA.
- 27% were convicted based at least in part on false confessions, admissions or guilty pleas.
- 58% of those who falsely confessed were 17 years old or younger, or they had a developmental disability and/or a mental illness.
- Nineteen pled guilty to crimes they did not commit.
- 19% were convicted based at least in part on testimony from snitches or informants.
- If the true perpetrator had been originally convicted, instead of an innocent person, at least 72 violent crimes could have been prevented.

## UN Continues Drive to Combat Violence Against Women

*Excerpts from the November 2010 article by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/2010/november/feature.shtml#fea1>



*Violence against women is widespread in every corner of the globe: from the bedroom to the battlefield. Women and girls suffer many forms of violence, including genital mutilation, rape, beatings by their partners, families or killings in the name of honor. It is shocking that in women's lifetime, up to 76 per cent are subject to physical and/or sexual violence within intimate relationships.*

Discrimination in law, social practice and attitude, impunity and apathy are the underlying causes of violence against women and girls. In many countries, laws, policies and practices discriminate against women and girls, denying them equality with men, politically, economically and socially. Social roles reinforce the power of men over women's lives and bodies, while traditions and customs can subjugate women and leave them vulnerable to violence.

### **Leadership of Corporate Sector**

This year's commemoration of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November will take place under the umbrella of the Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women and will focus on: "The Leadership of the Corporate Sector in Empowering Women and Ending Violence against Women and Girls."

In many cases, the private sector has shown to be effective in preventing violence against women through raising awareness, generally at the workplace and in the community. These private sector initiatives aim to eliminate violence against women by adopting measures such as employment-based codes of conduct and zero tolerance policies, distributing awareness-raising materials to employees, clients, and customers, and providing technical assistance to other organizations.

The private sector has also played a key role by contributing financially to foundations and organizations focusing on initiatives to end violence against women and girls. Examples of this commitment include Avon Products Inc., which in 2008, announced a public-private partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), part of UN Women, and committed \$1 million USD to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. In 2009, Avon committed an additional \$250,000 USD to the Trust Fund.

### **UN trust fund**

In October this year, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) announced US\$10 million in grants to 13 initiatives in 18 countries. The UN Trust Fund is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting local and national efforts to end violence against women and girls. Established in 1996, the Fund is managed by UNIFEM.

"Violence against women destroys families, fractures communities and hampers progress on development goals," said Inés Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM. "But it is a problem with a solution. Only by intensifying support and increasing investment to national and local efforts can we ensure women and girls are safe from violence and can lead healthy, productive lives," she added.

The Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women includes a specific target of raising US\$100 million annually for the UN Trust Fund by 2015.