

Wisconsin Has the Highest Incarceration Rate Not Only in America, But the World

AMC 2012 (1)

The above title is not an opinion, but a fact, and even more devastating, is that Wisconsin has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Please read exhibits #A & #B, articles by Annysa Johnson of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel and Peter A. Hubbard of the Wisconsin State Journal. These facts were proven and documented by Mr. Ronald Fraser, who writes on public policy issues for the DKT Liberty Project based in Washington, D.C..

Wisconsin has the biggest disparity gap in the world! African-Americans are sent to prisons at an alarming and modern day slavery rate. African-Americans make up 6% of the state's population, but 51% of the total prison population. Wisconsin as a state has the same population as the state of Minnesota, roughly 5 million residents, whereas Minnesota's prison population is 10,000 inmates, — in contrast to Wisconsin's nearly 25,000 inmate population, nearly 2 1/2 times that of Minnesota's.

Wisconsin's Department of Corrections takes the largest slice of the state budget, 1.3 billion a year, more than any other department in the state, while education, state aid, and food for hungry families are slashed. The monster named "D.O.C" is continuously being fed with wasted taxpayer's dollars, that could be put to better use.

There have been literally 1,000's of schools closed down throughout this state. The money for education and programs that help children has been slashed terribly, but there is always money for the renovation of the state prisons, and the building of segregation buildings within various of prisons throughout the state.

One way the network could help is to petition Congress, all of the U.S. Senate & U.S. House of Representatives to stop giving federal aid to states (especially Wisconsin) for the upkeep of this lunacy. The federal government is basically aiding & abetting the states with federal funds to continue to lock people up. Terminate all federal aid, let the states finance their own foolishness.

Leave the states to their own devices monetary wise, soon they will have to alleviate the prison overcrowding, just like California was forced to! Also, abolish the ("1996 AEDPA") Anti-effective Death Penalty Act which took effect in April of 1996 — this act stripped many rights of prisoners, it made it easy for the courts to rule against you, state and federally, for all an adverse judge has to say, is that, The reviewing judge's decision was

\*Minimumly consistent with Supreme Court LAW" even when they are 98% wrong, - with that 2%, they could be "still" (minimumly consistent) in their interpretation of the law. AEDPA also cramped timelimits of sanctioning 1 year for a writ of Habeas corpus 2255/2254 to be filed in Federal court, after the finalization of your state conviction. In which 1,000's of inmates have been blocked and prevented from filing their appeal due to being time barred.

"Procedurally Barred" as they love to say. The network should push for the reinstatement of "collateral attack reviews" previous to the invention of "1996 AEDPA" and that AEDPA be rescinded. Also, the network should advocate for changing the law in which "life sentences" are given out in this state. In Wisconsin, the sentencing judge can set your parole eligibility date, to whatever date he or she sees fit! 30, 40, 80 or a 1,000 years for that matter. The former law for those who were sentenced to life, was automatically 13.9 years before you saw the parole board.

As it stands now, the judge can also say NO parole. "Truth-in-sentencing" in Wisconsin should be abolished as well. This law is packing the prisons, because it makes inmates do all their time in, it eliminates parole. Also, the "3 strikes" law in all states (Wisconsin also has it) should be abolished, there are people doing life sentences for stealing food or something as petty as stealing a bike or shoplifting. There is NO discretion, and many of these judges are lunatics! Eliminate the "3 strike" law, and allow a person to be sentenced in accordance to their crime, - not just a "blanket life sentence" for a small infraction.

Also, Wisconsin & other state inmates would benefit with "calling cards" and the access to send & receive "E-mails", the federal system provides this for federal inmates, and the U.N. has recently declared E-mail access for prisoners was necessary. The network can advance all these causes by media outlets such as the world news of A.B.C, N.B.C, C.B.C, BBC, Dateline, 60 minutes, Nightline and the Sunday morning talk shows. Keeping the issues on local news stations as well, Frontline, P.B.S, MSNBC and CNN.

As for the support that I need and not getting. If there is anyone out there with an understanding heart and a compassionate ear, and surely there must be one "I", out of the hundreds of people reading/listening to this. I would like somebody's help in finding my daughter. I haven't seen her since she was a baby, which was 16 years ago. Her mother couldn't handle the life sentence I'm currently serving, in which I've

Now been locked up 17 years of it. All I know is that my daughter and her mother are/were living somewhere in Iowa and for back & forth to Chicago. The mother's name is Ms. Loretta Mallett D.O.B 11-9-77, my daughter's name is Lateisha M. Williams.

If there is anyone with computer / search engine access that can help me, I thank you & God in advance for your help. Lastly, if there is anybody out there, no matter, what profession, title or station in life, willing to assist me and the Wisconsin Innocence Project of UW-Madison towards my vindication and freedom, please contact me and them. The Innocence Project currently has my case under review.

Respectfully written & submitted  
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Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012 C.E.

# Where are all the outraged social justice folks?

By PETER A. HUBBARD

With a headline like "Wisconsin prison rates higher than in police state," I expected some kind of response from the leaders of Madison's self-congratulatory liberal community by now.

So where's the moral outrage? What happened to the righteous indignation? Why the deafening silence from all the social justice folks who normally get outraged over such stuff?

Why haven't I read stories in the Madison papers the past two months about marches on the Capitol building led by Madison's political progressives demanding an end to Wisconsin's evil "police state" practices?

Did everyone else in Madison — except me — miss the newspaper article exposing what may prove to be the most embarrassing political scandal to rock Wisconsin since the Legislature's "pay-for-play" fiasco that grabbed headlines a few years ago?

True, the story was not on the front page, but it probably should have been.

Sadly, the biggest news story of the year was buried on Page 10 in the editorial section of the May 28 issue of the Wisconsin State Journal, under a small headline.

The guest column by Ronald Fraser, who writes on public policy issues for the DKT Liberty Project based in Washington, D.C., details the fact that the state of Wisconsin has the highest incarceration rate on the planet.

In Wisconsin, our incarceration rate in 2005 was 330 per 100,000, which is higher than the dictatorships in Libya, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia and China. It begs the question, if Wisconsin doesn't have the highest crime rate in the world, why does it have the highest incarceration rate?

If Madison liberals are genuinely concerned about prison conditions — after all, they never seem to tire of griping about how we treat men who have tried to kill Americans and are now locked up in places like Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay — you'd expect them to really get steamed over the fact that right here in Wisconsin we lock up more

people each year (most for non-violent offenses) than most of the world's worst police states.

Perhaps it hasn't occurred to them how hypocritical it is to be railing against prison policies administered on foreign soil where they cannot do anything about them, when perhaps they can do something to help change and improve laws and prison policies right here in Wisconsin.

Oddly, not one editorial or follow-up story has appeared in the State Journal in response. I've also watched newscasts daily since then, expecting to see local politicians wringing their hands over this "troubling situation." But it hasn't happened.

There have been no UW law professors demanding the resignation of Madison Police Chief Noble Wray, or petitioners on the Capitol Square demanding the recall of Mayor Dave, or bumper stickers plastered around town screaming "Impeach Doyle Now!" Why not?

Is it because the former "police state protestors" of the '60s and '70s have

morphed into the middle-aged Yuppie legislators who were responsible for enacting the very laws and sentencing mandates that have helped create the embarrassing growth in the Wisconsin prison population.

Or is it because jails have been turned into profit centers for well-connected vendors and county budgets?

The situation is especially dire for black residents, who in 2005 were jailed at a rate 11 times higher than whites in Wisconsin, according to a new study released by The Sentencing Project on July 18.

Sadly, Madison's social justice activists remain silent and continue to ignore Wisconsin's record-high incarceration rates.

No matter what reasons these so-called progressives give for not taking action, Wisconsin's "dirty little secret" is now public knowledge. Wisconsin owns the dubious distinction of being the "World's Worst Police State." Congratulations!

Hubbard lives in Madison.

EXHIBIT  
# A

Feb. 24, 2012

# Religious leaders back alternatives to prison

## Inmates cost state \$1.3 billion annually

By ANNYSJA JOHNSON  
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More than 300 religious leaders from around the state have signed on to a letter endorsing a new initiative aimed at cutting Wisconsin's prison population by 11,000 individuals by 2015.

A coalition of faith-based social justice groups, including MICAH in Milwaukee and SOPHIA in Waukesha, this week launched what they are calling the 11-by-15 campaign. The groups will seek to expand drug- and alcohol-treatment programs and other alternatives to prison for nonviolent offenders, saying they are less costly and more humane than the current system.

"This is not only an economic issue, but a moral issue," the Rev. Willie Brisco of the Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope told a group of about 150 religious leaders and volunteers gathered

Please see PRISON, 5B

Rev. Willie Brisco  
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## PRISON

# Inmate profile is 51% black

this week at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church downtown.

A spokesman for Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), whose Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs Committee would likely review any proposed legislation, expressed a willingness to hear what the religious community has to say.

"We'd have to see what the bill looks like," said Wanggaard's chief of staff, Scott Kelly. "If there are ways to reduce costs without weakening penalties, we would certainly look at that."

The state Department of Corrections spends about \$1.3 billion annually incarcerating about 23,000 people a year — more than double the number in Minnesota — with another 67,000 ex-offenders on probation and parole.

Reform advocates note that African-Americans are disproportionately represented (6% of the state population vs. 51% of the prisons) and that most inmates suffer from underlying addiction or mental health disorders for which treatment could cut recidivism rates.

Most counties, including Milwaukee, have some type of diversion and treatment program. Since 2006, Wisconsin has spent about \$1 million annually on seven pilot projects around the state. A 2011 report to the Legislature found that the programs generated \$1.93 in saving for every dollar spent, according to the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

## Ad hoc group

An ad hoc group of stakeholders — prosecutors, including Milwaukee County's John Chisholm; judges; corrections officials; and others — has been meeting for the last year to discuss ways such programs can be expanded at the county level at a net saving to the state.

"There is a huge amount of interest from a lot of different quarters on criminal justice systemic reform in the state," said Debra Kraft, deputy director and counsel at Community Advocates Public Policy Institute.

"The question is: How do we reform a system that cannot sustain its current costs while maintaining if not enhancing public safety?"

Such programs have historically been a tough sell in Wisconsin, where the Legislature passed the truth-in-sentencing law in 1999 and last year rescinded a program that released prisoners early for good behavior

or health reasons.

But some have expressed an openness to change if public safety can be maintained.

"That's the holy grail, trying to find a less costly alternative that doesn't threaten public safety," said George Lightbourn, president of the free-market think tank Wisconsin Policy Research Institute and former secretary of administration under Republican Govs. Tommy Thompson and Scott McCallum.

An October survey by the institute found that 56% of residents supported cutting prison costs by diverting some offenders to community-based programs.

The faith leaders organized a forum and news conference Monday outside the nearby Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility that drew a broad swath of the local religious community, including Bishop Jeffrey Barrow of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other representatives of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths.

The event was intentionally devoid of politicians and public officials — even those who support such efforts — as a way to emphasize the religious nature of the initiative and the group's interest in pursuing bipartisan support, said David Liners of the advocacy group WISDOM.

"I do not think this is a partisan issue. It is a pastoral issue," said Barrow, whose churches work extensively with men and women re-entering the community after prison.

"I've had a chance to see people who benefited from these alternatives. And that's a bigger breakthrough than incarceration. And when you experience that, you have to ask, isn't there a better way to do this?"

EXHIBIT  
# B