

TO: The Michigan Humanities Collaboratory
ATTN: CARCERAL STATE PROJECT
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913 S. UNIVERSITY
ANN ARBOR, MI 48109

DATE: August 28, 2020

FROM: MR. AHJAMU KHULIFAH BARUTI
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Hostage NUMBER: # 178539

Saginaw Correctional Facility
9625 Pierce Road
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" WRITTEN TESTIMONIAL OF MY "
THIRTY-SIX (36.) YEARS OF
INCARCERATION

(1.) QUESTION: How have the physical AND Social
Conditions of Michigan prisons changed
over time?

ANSWER: I ENTERED THE MDUC IN FEBRUARY, 1985
behind the Largest Wall prison at that time at
Southern Jackson State prison. Prison was prison back
then from the physical conditions of being
incarcerated (no color T.V., micro-waves, etc...). The social
conditions at that period of time EVERY convict, which
is a term the old heads refer to be call was
AWARE they was in prison. All a convict had at
that period of time (incarceration) was his WORD
AND DIGNITY AND he kept both of those intact.

Under Governor Blancher Administration Around 1990 the prison system in Michigan began to expand and begin building a lot of regional prisons (Saginaw Corr. facility, Adrian Corr. facility, etc...) This was the beginning of "Mass Incarceration". These regional prisons is set up to pacify prisoners, or inmates. This is the term they are call today or refer to their self as — no longer referring to them selfs as a convict.

There are a majority of youth, especially young Black youth now incarcerated in Michigan prisons. MDUC is now fested with gangs among these youths. MDUC pacify these youths at these regional prisons with X-Box Games, Color T.V. in the Day Rooms, etc... to occupy their young minds and a form of control. These youths refer to their selfs as inmates or prisoners because this goes along with the change of the social condition of prison — becoming complacence. These youth compromise their WORD AND MANKHOOD! A Convict will never do either;

The social condition of prison have change from convict's reading of books Daily, legal work as they work on their conviction seeking their freedom — to — these inmates do not read a book as much as they should, and their conversation is not about the most recent Law Case that they can apply to their own criminal case to seek their complete freedom. They rather play X-box Games, Basketball All Day Long.

(2.) QUESTION How do the historical conditions of Michigan prisons compare to the conditions of Michigan prison today?

ANSWER: The historical conditions of Michigan prisons when I first got incarceration in February 1985 was a violent and dangerous place to be at that time, especially behind the walls at Jackson State prison. For a few years there was a couple of convicts death a year from stabbing, and in 1986 a couple of Michigan correctional officers was killed by a convict (Jack Budd & Josephine McClellan). Compared to today Michigan prisons are still violent at times, but not as dangerous as before. That's because of the technology (cameras everywhere housing units, chow hall, etc... and officers are now equipped with tasers to control a violent situation). The historical conditions of Michigan prisons in the early 70's and 80's did not have these items technology (cameras) and tasers.

(3.) QUESTION: What role do the conditions of confinement play in the technologies of punishment of the American criminal justice system?

ANSWER: The conditions of confinement play in the technologies of punishment in the American criminal justice system is the building of all these new super-max prisons (Pelican Bay, etc...) to keep a prisoner locked down 23-hours a day in solitary, which is a form of psychological torture.

(4.) Question: How ARE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES impacted by the CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT that they EXPERIENCE?

ANSWER: INDIVIDUALS (PRISONERS) ARE impacted by the CONDITION OF their CONFINEMENT by first EXPERIENCING the Lost of their Complete FREEDOM AND being UNDER the Rule of the MDOC. The CONDITION OF CONFINEMENT ON INDIVIDUALS (PRISONERS) ALSO have A impact on them psychological. The COMMUNITIES (Family & FRIENDS) ARE impacted by the CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT being confined in their own ^{-in their mind-} PRISON during the time ALONG WITH the INDIVIDUAL (PRISONER). Society AS A WHOLE is impacted by the CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT WITH the ~~burden~~ BURDEN OF their tax dollars to KEEP these PRISONS UP AND RUNNING.

(5.) Question: How do the CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT impact PERSONS OF DIFFERENT AND INTERSECTING identity CATEGORIES ALONG the AXES OF Race, gender, CLASS, Sexuality, Age, Ability Status, Immigration Status, AND OTHERS?

ANSWER: young Afrikan-American (BLACK) Males is affected ~~the~~ MORE because their APPROPRIATE high rate OF INCARCERATION, AND their LOWER class status in white AMERICAN

(6.) Question: How have Efforts to Decarcerate the United States changed OVER time?

ANSWER: It have changed OVER the years because Society have become AWARE of the high cost to keep A individual INCARCERATED FOR DECADES WITH VERY Little RESULTS in Lowering the CRIME Rate in Society. You NOW have MORE ORGANIZATIONS pushing to Decarcerate the United States, AND to SEEK A better Solution than prison.

(7.) Question: How have ~~efforts~~ political and social changes in the United States impacted the conditions of confinement and efforts for decarceration?

Answer: Society and people in general are becoming more political aware that keeping an individual incarcerated for decades in the inhumane conditions of confinement in prison is not humanity, and they are seeking a social change to this situation.

(8.) Question: Where and when were you born? Who raised you?

Answer: I was born in Mound Bayou Mississippi on July 18, 1955. I was raised in Detroit, Michigan by both parents.

(9.) Question: What was the world outside your family unit like when you were growing up?

Answer: I grew up in a era of the 60's and 70's when African Americans (Black) was becoming aware of their Blackness living in a racist and capitalism society. African-Americans (Blacks) at that time was fighting for their civil rights (the passing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 for Blacks to vote, etc....)

(10.) Question: Where did you grow up and live before your incarceration? What were those places like?

Answer: I grew up in the city of Detroit, Michigan and lived on the East side of Detroit along with my beloved wife (Peace Blessing Upon Her) and two sons. I lived and had a stable household. I was 29-years old when I got incarcerated.

(11.) QUESTION: What were your ideas or perceptions about the criminal system as a young person?

ANSWER: As a young person I really did not have any ideas or perception about the criminal system until the age of 29-years old when I first encountered the criminal system first hand, and got incarcerated. I've now become very aware of how the criminal system work, especially concerning African-American (Black) males and the "systemic racism" that goes on in the criminal justice system.

(12.) QUESTION: What was your first contact with the criminal legal system? What was that experience like?

ANSWER: I was 29-yrs. old charged with the crimes of Armed Robbery, Assault with intent to murder upon a police officer, and Felony Fire Arms. My pre-sentence guidelines called for a sentence of 15 years to 40 years. I plead guilty on all charges because I was guilty. This being my first contact with the criminal legal system I believe the judge would follow the recommendation of the pre-sentence guidelines of 15-years to 40-years. The judge did not follow the recommendation of the pre-sentence guidelines, and sentence me to 23-years to 30-years on both the Armed Robbery and the Assault with the intent to murder a police officer, and a mandatory 2-years for the Felony Fire Arms.

(13.) QUESTION: IF you have not already provided this information, what correctional facilities have you been incarcerated in and when? What security levels were you in at those facilities?

ANSWER: Southern Prison of Jackson State Prison
-FEBRUARY- 1985 - THRU - JUNE, 1988 - SECURITY CUSTODY Level IV
Marquette Branch Prison June, 1988 - THRU AROUND
JULY OF 1990 SECURITY CUSTODY Level II
Ionia Super Max. Facility AROUND JULY OF 1990 - THRU
AROUND SEPTEMBER OF 1992 SECURITY CUSTODY Level II
Alger Max. Facility AROUND SEPTEMBER OF 1992 - THRU
AROUND MAY OF 1994 SECURITY CUSTODY Level II
Southern Prison of Jackson State Prison AROUND MAY
OF 1994 - THRU JUNE OF 1995 SECURITY CUSTODY Level IV
Kinross Correctional Facility ~~AROUND~~ JUNE, 1995 - THRU - MAY 1996
Security - Custody - Level II
Riverside Correctional Facility May 1996 - THRU June
1998 Security - Custody - Level IV
Carson City Correctional Facility June 1998 - THRU
July 1999 Security Custody Level II
Ryan Road Correctional Facility July 1999 - THRU
July 2000 Security Custody Level II
Saginaw Correctional Facility July 2000 - THRU
July 2007 Security Custody Level II
Adrian Correctional Facility July 2007 - THRU
April 2009 Security Custody Level II
Lakeland Correctional Facility April 2009 - THRU
June 2013 Security Custody Level II
Kinross Correctional Facility June 2013 - THRU
September 2016 Security Custody Level II

Oaks Correctional Facility September 2016 - thru May 2017
Security custody Level IV
St. Louis Correctional Facility May 2017 - thru ~~April~~
January 2018 Security Custody Level III
Saginaw Correctional Facility January 2018 - thru
Present Security custody Level II

(14.) Question: What is incarceration Like for you?
What does it feel Like to live in prison?
What does it feel Like to live in a cell?

Being incarcerated is different for every individual. I am now is going on my thirty-six (36) year of incarceration. It have been a long journey with its highs and lows, ups and downs, etc... I've learned to do the time — and do not let the time do me by using my time wisely reading, studying, legal work, running & exercise, reflecting on my past mistakes in life because mistakes in life become our best teachers — we learn from them and continue to move on in life. I've also learn to take it one day at a time.

Living in prison I feel like a caged lion seeking my complete freedom. Prison consist of Routines count at the same time every day, run chow at the same time every day, yard time every day at the same time, etc... A individual must establish his own Routines of how he plans to do his time by setting aside specific time ~~for~~ schedule when they plan to engage in their daily activities, and follow their routine, which will give a individual in prison some type of structure to their life in prison.

During my thirty-six (36) years of incarceration five (5) straight years was spent confined in the "Bowels of the Beast" (Administrative Segregation) from December 1987 - thru - November 1992.

I was confined to a Ad. Seg. Cell 23-hours a Day
Only Allowed out of my Ad. Seg. Cell One hour five
Days per Week for Daily Exercise outside in a
small/kennel dog cage, and a shower three
times per Week for 10-minutes.

This is the period of ^{time} my personal transformation
and Redemption took place for me.

In the beginning of my incarceration I always
attempted to stay out of my cell (call-out to
law library, etc...) to escape from here to be
locked in the cell like a caged up lion. After
decades of incarceration and my years of being
confined in administrative segregation to a cell
I've learned to view my cell from another
perception. During my daily reading I read where
the late ^(peace blessing upon him) Malcolm-X said while he was in prison
he turned his cell into a classroom to do intense
reading and studying. I've follow suit and have
change my perception of my cell to view it as
my own little classroom to read, study, etc...
When one change their perception about anything
they begin to change their reality. I now view
being in prison as being in school (University).
Malcolm-X said his Alma was books, and he read
plenty of books during his incarceration becoming a
avid reader of books. I've also become a avid
reader of books that I've become a Bibliophile
(lover of books), especially books on my glorious
African history. My cell is now a place for me to
evolve mentally as spiritually through my daily
reading, writing, and studying.

(15.) Question: What were the living conditions like at each correctional facility where you have been incarcerated? What are the living conditions like where you are currently incarcerated?

Answer: Each security custody level is different. I've been confined at every security custody level except security custody level I from security custody level II thru security custody level III during my incarceration. ^{to medium security level II} you have a lot more freedom of movement and the cells are rooms with a door that opens with a key that you're furnished with, and two prisoners occupy these rooms. Security custody level III is close custody. your movement is restricted and you're locked in a cell with a steel door that the officers at the panel controls by opening and closing your steel door. you can only come out of your cell when the officers let you out. there is two prisoners confined to the cell with a sink and ~~toilet~~ toilet inside the cell. Level II you have a community bath room to use toilets, and sinks. you are only allowed three showers per week in level IV for ~~to~~ ten minutes. Level II you are free to come and go as you please and take a shower when ever.

Security custody level IV is maximum security. your freedom of movement is very restricted. the only good thing about being confined in level IV max. security is that you're in the cell along you have no cell-mate. same as level III you're allowed a 10-minute shower three times per week and limited yard time like level III. Security custody level IV is super max. in Ionia and its administrative segregation where you're locked in your cell 23-hours a day, fed in your cell, a 5-minute shower, 3-times per week, one hour outside your cell in a kennel dog cage for exercise.

I am currently incarcerated here in the Veteran Housing Unit for United States Veterans here at Saginaw Correctional Facility Security Custody medium Level II. I am a United States Veteran of the United States Navy, and the Veteran Housing Unit here assist Veterans in receiving benefits, etc... from the Veteran Affairs. The conditions here at Level-II med. Security you've got a lot more freedom of movement, and the housing unit (Veteran Unit) here consist of ~~elderly~~ elderly Veterans.

(16.) Question: What is your community like in prison? How do you maintain ties to your other communities?

Answer: The community here in prison have drastically change since I first came to prison in February of 1985. It's filled with several gangs and gang activity all through the MDU system. After speaking to a few of these young brothers involved in gangs it seem that they have no purpose or direction in life. A lot of these young brothers have told me that they are involved in the gang life style because they grew up into it — their father, uncles, brothers, etc... was gang members. The community is not political conscious like when I first enter prison.

I maintain ties with my other community (family, friends, etc...) through letters, phone calls, and was visits until this Covid-19 pandemic. All visits through out the MDU have been suspended since March of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic to further notice. I've got a strong support system with my

Beloved family (father, mother, siblings, and sons).

(17.) QUESTION: How do you survive in prison? Where and how do you find joy in prison?

ANSWER: As I've mentioned I've been incarcerated for over three decades now. I am conscious of the fact that prison or being incarcerated in prison that you're engaged in a form of psychological warfare. Being confined here in the belly of the beast (prison) this beastly system (MDOC) attempts to devour a individual on all level of his total existence physical, mental, and spiritual to leave one drain like a empty shell. prison it's all about complete control of a individual — one's movement, the books that one is allowed to receive, etc... IF you control a man's mind, then you do not have to worry about the results of his actions.

I've survived in prison over this past three decades by first learning the KNOWLEDGE OF SELF! This was done through decades of intense reading and studying of my glorious Afrikan history from the perception of my own Afrikan (Black) scholars. I've learned that a man is strong as he push (challenge) him self, and weak as he allow him self to be. I found my self continuing to challenge my self on all levels of my total existence, which brings about growth. I'm a avid distance runner and use it as my outlet to burn stress, relax, think, reflect, remain healthy, etc... It keeps me focus (balance). I've been engaged in distance running before my incarceration. A individual must have a outlet to direct and release the negative ~~energy~~ energy within them or it will turn inward and begin to destroy them.

this is how I've maintain to SURVIVE on a physical Level here, which have me Aging Very Gracefully with no medical problems. I'm a Avid Reader of Books, Especially on African History, which Stimulates the working of my mind to keep it active and sharp as I age (strong mind & strong body). This is how I've survived on the mental level here. I've fasted for 30-days since 1998 during the muslim fast for Ramadan each year, and read the complete muslim Holy Book the QURAN during the Ramadan fast. I also read other Spiritual Books the Holy Bible, Buddha, etc... to keep my faith, and strengthen my spirit. This is how I've survived on the Spiritually Level here. Remaining strong on all three (3.) Levels of your total Existence (physical, mental, spiritual) is a holistic Approach to Life bringing about a state of complete balance within. I SURVIVE ONE Day at a time!

Joy (Happiness) is a state of mind! I find Joy (happiness) in the Solitude of a Long Run to gather Strength to meet the Daily difficulties and temptation of this Abnormal world of prison life, and the knowledge to Overstand and conquer them — and wisdom to transcend them.

I am maintained perpetually in strength and peace by the virtue of my lonely hours of Daily runs dwelling in intense thoughts — where no others eyes behold. It is in my solitude of a Long Run that a chemical is released from my brain into my blood stream called Endorphins that give

A RUNNER A SENSE OF WELL-BEING (HAPPINESS, PEACE OF MIND, ETC...) AFTER THE RUN. RUNNERS REFER TO THIS STATE AS A RUNNER HIGH. USING LONG DISTANCE RUNNING AS MY OUTLET HERE IN PRISON IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE REALITY OF MY INCARCERATION, BUT A AVENUE TO ELEVATE MY CONSCIOUS LEVEL.

(18.) QUESTION: WHAT DOES INCARCERATION MEAN TO YOU?

ANSWER: BEING A CONSCIOUS-MINDED MAN I KNOW WHAT INCARCERATION MEAN TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL THAT IS CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND PLACED HERE IN THESE UNITED STATES PRISONS: THE 13TH. AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION READ AS FOLLOWS: "NEITHER SLAVERY NOR INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, EXCEPT AS A PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME WHEREOF THE PARTY SHALL BEEN DULY CONVICTED, SHALL EXISTED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, OR ANY PLACE SUBJECT TO THEIR JURISDICTION. THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT STATES: IN ITS LONGSTANDING PRECEDENT CASE, RUFFIN V. COMMONWEALTH 62 VA. (21 GRATT) 790, 796 (1871): SAYS, "A CONVICTED FELON, WHOM THE LAW IN ITS HUMANITY PUNISHES BY CONFINEMENT IN A PENITENTIARY INSTEAD OF DEATH, IS SUBJECT WHILE UNDERGOING THAT PUNISHMENT, TO ALL THE LAWS WHICH THE LEGISLATURE IN ITS WISDOM MAY ENACT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT INSTITUTION AND CONTROL OF ITS INMATES, FOR THE TIME BEING, DURING HIS TERM OF SERVICE IN THE PENITENTIARY, HE IS IN A STATE OF PENAL SERVITUDE TO THE STATE. THE CONVICTED PRISONER HAS, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS CRIME, NOT ONLY FORFEITED HIS LIBERTY, BUT ALL HIS PERSONAL RIGHTS EXCEPT THOSE WHICH THE LAW IN ITS HUMANITY ACCORDS HIM.

He is for the time being a Slave Undergoing punishment for his heinous crimes committed against the Laws of the Land. In other words prisoners themselves are Commodity! One can not overemphasize the connection between Slavery and the Prison Industrial Enslavement Complex. Prisons are modern day plantations and we as prisoners are slaves of the State!

(Q.9.) Question: How does your incarceration affect you?

Answer: incarceration affects every one differently. It affects me the most because of the shame and hurt I've brought upon my beloved parents because they didn't raise me to be a criminal. I've learned how to use the time wisely and do not let the time use me by getting involved in negative activity here in prison (drugs, homosexual activity, etc...). My incarceration affected me totally different in the early part of my incarceration than now. Life is about evolving; I've now involved to a different conscious level, so it affects me now in my thirty-six years of incarceration different than when I first enter prison. I do my time in the rooms of my conscious (mind) where time and space do not exist. It's about elevating my self into my greatness here in this University (prison). As I keep struggling for my complete freedom.

(20.) Question: What ARE your perspective on the world's changes AFTER being incarcerated?

ANSWER: Nothing in the Universe Remains the Same EVERYTHING in the UNIVERSE is in a constant state change AND motion. THERE WAS NO Cell-phones, FACE BOOK, INTER-NET, etc... BEFORE my incarceration (FEBRUARY OF 1985). THE TECHNOLOGY HAVE TAKEN OVER THE WORLD NOW. WE LIVE IN A INFORMATION AGE NOW it's EASY AVAILABLE NOW by googling it. I FEEL LIKE A DINOSAUR BEING EXINCT AFTER 36-YEARS OF INCARCERATION THAT THE WORLD HAVE PASS ME BY WITH ALL ITS TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO A INDIVIDUAL NOW. THROUGH MY DAILY READING AND WATCHING THE WORLD NEWS KEEP ME ABREAST OF THE CURRENT CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE WORLD.

(21.) Question: What ARE your ideas OR PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE CARCERAL SYSTEM NOW?

ANSWER: PRISON IS A BIG BUSINESS! SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES WAS AND IS STILL DIRECTLY TIED TO CAPITALISM. THE CARCERAL (PRISON) SYSTEM IS THE MODERN DAY SLAVERY THAT PROFIT OFF PRISONERS CHEAP LABOR, etc... THIS IS IN THE 13th. AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION THAT SLAVERY IS ALLOWED FOR THE PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME (FELON).

(22.) QUESTION: What do you want people to know about incarceration in the United States?
What do you want scholars to know?
What do you want policy makers to know?
What do you want members of your community to know? What do you want activists to know?

ANSWER: ~~here~~ this is what I like people to know about incarceration in the United States: there are over 2.3 million prisoners in the American criminal justice system according to a report from prisonpolicy.org. there are 1,719 state prisons, and 102 federal prisons in the United States. "prison is a place where society hides its own mistakes". the United States spend more money on the maintaining of prisons, and keeping individuals incarcerated than on the education of our children who are our future. United States prison system have become a big business like Wall Street. there are now private run prisons being run in the U.S. by companies seeking to earn capital off the backs of individuals.

the correctional officers who work in these United state prisons ~~that~~ whose duty is to provide security to keep an individual incarcerated on this modern day plantations (prisons) are nothing but social parasites. they are feeding on this social garbage dump of society [prison is a place where society hides its own mistakes] thinking they are better than

PRISONERS. THESE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS HAVE SOLD THEIR SOULS AND HUMANITY FOR A PAYCHECK, WHICH IS NOTHING BUT A SLAVE WAGE! WHEN THEY LET A PAYCHECK DICTATE THEIR MORALS, VALUES, AND HUMANITY WITH THEIR UN-FAIR TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, THEN THEY HAVE BECOME A WHORE FOR THE STATE — A WILLING MURDERER FOR THE STATE. THESE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS HAVE BECOME A PAWN IN A LARGER GAME OF OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION FOR THE GAIN OF CAPITALISM BY THE STATE. YOU HAVE SOME OF THESE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS REFUSING TO SEE PRISONERS AS HUMAN BEINGS THEY HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH THEIR OWN SENSE OF HUMANITY. WE THE INCARCERATED ARE HUMAN BEINGS AND ASK THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES NOT TO LOSE THEIR OWN SENSE OF HUMANITY TOWARDS THOSE WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN THE UNITED STATES.

I LIKE THE SCHOLARS TO KNOW: MIDOC ONCE OFFER COLLEGE COURSES FOR PRISONERS TO EARN A DEGREE WHILE THEY WAS IN INCARCERATED. AROUND 1995 THE STATE TOOK ALL COLLEGES OUT OF MIDOC (MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS). I BELIEVE OFFERING A PRISONER A OPPORTUNITY TO GET A EDUCATION (COLLEGE DEGREE) IS VITAL TO THEIR OWN REDEMPTION, AND EQUIPP THEM WITH A EDUCATION (COLLEGE DEGREE) TO HELP THEM TRANSCEND BACK IN TO SOCIETY UPON THEIR RELEASE FROM PRISON. A EDUCATION EQUIPP ONE WITH KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS IN LIFE THAT THEY MAY NOT RECIDIVISM BACK INTO THEIR PAST (CRIMINAL) BEHAVIOR AND RETURN BACK TO PRISON.

I like the policy makers to know: Michigan prisons keeps a prisoner incarcerated longer in their sentence than any other state. Michigan needs policies and laws to begin reducing its prison population, especially the elderly who have been incarcerated for decades, and is no longer a threat to society.

I like the members of my community to know! Most prisoners who are incarcerated once was a part of the problem in their own community by selling drugs, robbery, etc... I can speak for my self and other prisoners I've personally have Redemption and transform my self through decades of self-reflection, reading, studying, praying, etc... I now want to return back to my own community and be part of the solution for my community. My oldest son

Yusef Bunchy Shakur came to prison for a crime of un-armed robbery that he did not do. The streets became his surrogate father upon my incarceration when he was a young boy. He got involved in gang activity (zone-8) and because his associate with this gang (zone-8) and their reputation in the community was convicted of a crime he did not do.

Upon entering prison all he knew was gang (zone-8) philosophy. I was bless for us to be on the same plantation (prison) in 1992 after us corresponding with each other when he enter prison lost and confused as a young black man.

I Accepted my Responsibilities AS A FATHER to be the FATHER to my son that I could not do because of my incarceration. Thru^{gh}l. my own Redemption AND transformation HERE in prison I had something of Value to GIVE to my son for his own Redemption AND transformation.

my son YUSEF Bunchy Shakur did 9-years on a 5-to-15 years sentence for un-armed robbery, AND WAS RELEASED in 2000. YUSEF IS A PRIME example^{oxes} being a part of the problem of his own community with his ZONE-8 Gung activity, but now is a COLLEGE GRADUATE (MASTER ~~DEGREE~~ ^{DEGREE} FROM U OF M in Dearborn) AUTHOR, AND A ~~AN~~ Activist being a solution for his community (Ferry Park) by Giving Back with his now over TEN (10) YEARS ANNUAL Back to School Back pack AND school supplies to the youth, marching Against UN-Justice in his community, etc...

THEIR ARE plenty of mens (prisoners) who ARE still incarcerated Educating them SELFS to RETURN Back to their own communities to BECOME A solution for their communities LIKE I trained

my BELOVED son YUSEF Bunchy Shakur to do. YUSEF have BEEN Back in society for 20-years now, AND have not Recidivism back into his past Criminal behavior of being ASSOCIATED with A Gung OR RETURN back to prison.

(23.) Question: What do you want Activists to know?

ANSWER: I've got a Beloved Son "Yusef Bunchy Shakur" who is a Activist in the City of Detroit. Google him to see all of his work that he have done as a Activist and is still doing today (2023) in the City of Detroit. He is not only a Activist, but after serving 9-years on a 5-to-15-year sentence for a crime that he did not do (un-armed robbery) was released in 2000, and have become a Author of three books: (1) The Window to my Soul / my transformation from a Zone-8 thug to a Father & Freedom Fighter (2) My Soul Looks Back / Life After Incarceration (3) Scribes of Redemption / "Letters from an incarcerated Father to his incarcerated son". He is a recent college graduate from U of M of Dearborn earning his Master Degree in Sociology. He is a well know Activist in the City of Detroit. You've got a lot of conscious-minded men here in the Belly of the Beast (prison) who desire to become a Activist to fight against the many Un-Justice that is happening in America — due to systemic Racism!

BEFORE I BRING MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO A CLOSE I
LIKE TO BRIEFLY TOUCH BASE ON A FEW TOPICS, AND THEIR
CONDITIONS: HOUSING: I'VE BEEN HOUSED AT ALMOST EVERY
PRISON IN THE MDOC (MICHIGAN DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS) FROM
A MED. SECURITY CUSTODY LEVEL II - TO - A SUPER MAX.
SECURITY CUSTODY LEVEL III IN MY THREE DECADES OF
INCARCERATION. PRISON HAVE BECOME A BIG WAREHOUSE
KEEPING PRISONERS INCARCERATED LOCKED UP FOR A LONG
TERM. FOOD: THE QUALITY OF FOOD WAS A LOT BETTER WHEN
I FIRST BECAME INCARCERATED IN FEBRUARY OF 1985, AND
YOU WAS SERVED A DECENT PORTION OF FOOD COMPARED TO
NOW (2020). YOU'RE NOW SERVED JUST ENOUGH FOOD TO KEEP
YOU ALIVE, AND THE QUALITY OF THE FOOD SERVED
DISSIPATED. HEALTH CARE: YOU NOW MUST PAY A
CO-PAYMENT OF \$5.00 TO PLACE A KITE TO GO TO
HEALTHCARE TO SEE A NURSE OR DOCTOR FIRST, AND IS
CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL \$5.00 EVERY TIME YOU PLACE
ANOTHER MEDICAL KITE INTO HEALTH CARE FOR ANY
MEDICAL TREATMENT. THERE WHERE NO CO-PAYMENT
FOR ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT BY MDOC (MICHIGAN DEPT OF CORR)
HEALTHCARE WHEN I FIRST ENTER PRISON IN FEBRUARY
OF 1985. MOST PRISONERS ONLY MAKE ABOUT \$12.00 - TO -
~~\$25.00~~ / PER MONTH FROM THEIR WORK ASSIGNMENT, WHICH
LEAVE THEM LITTLE TO BUY HYGIENE PRODUCTS (SOAP, ^{TOOTH PASTE} ~~TOOTH PASTE~~,
ETC...) IF THEY SELECT TO PLACE A KITE TO HEALTHCARE
AND PAY THE \$5.00 CO-PAYMENT CHARGE TO RECEIVE ANY
MEDICAL TREATMENT. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS IN YOUR
INMATE ACCOUNT AT THE TIME THAT YOU PLACE A KITE INTO
HEALTH CARE FOR ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT, THEN MDOC WILL
FLAG YOUR INMATE ACCOUNT AND GET THE FUNDS (\$5.00) ONCE THEY

Work and Employment: the work assignments here in the MDJC (Michigan Dept. of Corrections) is few and far. The main work assignments here in the MDJC is kitchen jobs, yard crew jobs, and porters. The semi-skill jobs consist of maintenance jobs and a tutor position in the school. MDJC have now begin to allow a dog program through out the MDJC having inmates train dogs to be adopted by a member of society, which is consider a work assignment. The dogs live here inside the facility in the cell with the inmates for about 12-weeks before they are put up for adoption. you have two-dog handlers per dog. At a few facilities here in the MDJC you still have factories making state blues pants & shirts, etc... and the license plate factory making Michigan license plates. the pay is slave wages!!! there is no jobs here in the MDJC that prepare one for this world of technology (computers).

EDUCATION: MDJC removed all colleges from the MDJC facilities around 1995. Education is vital to a inmate rehabilitation process and having the opportunity to attend college classes while in incarceration gave a inmate that chance. there are no real programs here at the facility even incarcerated at (Saginaw Corr. Fac.) to prepare a inmate for his return back to society.

I'VE EARNED AROUND 50-COLLEGE CREDITS FROM JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BEFORE IT WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE MIDDLE. ACQUIRING AN EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL TO ANY MOVEMENT TOWARDS FREEDOM!

BEING INCARCERATED FOR THESE PAST 36-YEARS INSIDE THIS BEASTLY/SYSTEM HAVE BEEN A LONG JOURNEY FOR ME. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF INMATES I'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS DIE HERE IN PRISON FROM ILLNESS (CANCER, ETC...). ITS NOT ~~EVER~~ GUARANTEED THAT ONE WILL MAKE IT OUT OF THEIR CONFINEMENT OF PRISON TO GAIN THEIR FREEDOM AGAIN. ONE MUST TAKE CONTROL OF ONES LIFE WHILE THEY ARE INCARCERATED, AND REHABILITATE THEIR SELFS — THROUGH SELF-REFLECTION OF SELF, READING EDUCATIONAL BOOKS, STUDYING, ETC... TO DO THIS ONE MUST APPLY SELF-DISCIPLINE TO THEIR SELFS. BEING INCARCERATED A ~~single~~ INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT REALLY ^{LIVE} ~~EXIST~~ UNTIL THEY BEGIN TO DISCIPLINE THEIR SELF — THEY MERELY EXIST LIKE AN BEAST (ANIMAL) IN A BEASTLY WORLD THEY CALL PRISON, WHICH IS A VERY VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT!

WE MUST EVOLVE WHILE WE ARE INCARCERATED INTO OUR GREATNESS, WHICH IS LAYING OUR MANT WITHIN US. ONE WILL NEVER GET THIS CHANCE AGAIN ONCE THEY ARE ~~RELEASED~~ RELEASE BACK INTO SOCIETY TO THINK, REFLECT, READ INTENSELY, STUDY, PRAY, ETC... WHILE THEY ARE INCARCERATED AGAIN. USE YOUR TIME WISELY AND DO NOT LET THE TIME USE YOU IN A NEGATIVE WAY.

NO STRUGGLE, NO PROGRESS.

- Abjannu K. Baruti