Punitive Lockdown Drags on at FCI Jesup, Amidst State Sponsored Infection of Covid-19

By Justin Kaliebe (written on July 16th, 2020)

source: bop.gov - PHOTO DESCRIPTION: Federal Correctional Institution Jesup, also known as FCI Jesup, in Jesup, GA with three flag poles in front of it. To the right and left of the main prison administration building shown here, there are large fences. Deer sometimes approach the fences, which Just says breaks up the monotony of prison life. In the foreground, there is a small semi-circular roadway in front of the prison and blue skies in the background.

Since the writing of this a man named Romie Roland, who was incarcerated at the camp, died of Covid-19 in a local hospital. He is a victim of the intentional negligence of staff at these facilities. His death is yet another example of state terror and his name ought to be remembered alongside Jamel Floyd, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and all those murdered by state agents in this year of rebellion.

By way of an update, yesterday, July 15, medical staff tested everyone on the block. The captain told me that morning that the quarantine lockdown won’t be lifted until
everyone on the compound is tested, that those who come up positive will still be locked in their cells without recourse to contact loved ones. Such people will not be moved to Fox Bravo, the official quarantine unit because it appears that the majority of the Camp is in there. Keep in mind that people incarcerated in a camp frequently go out into the community to work for the prison, and there isn’t even a fence around a camp. So why can’t they be released? That’s a rhetorical question, by the way, for we all know that a khaki uniform and an “inmate” number represents $$$ for the Prison Industrial Complex, not human lives. Meanwhile, those of us unfortunate souls in the medium security facility here, and the Echo unit in particular, the same unit that got gassed by gestapo dogs several weeks ago, are in a situation where healthy (Covid-negative) people are living in a quarantine with Covid-positive people. The latter are getting inadequate medical treatment while the former live with the potential of contagion. But in Amerikkka, it’s okay to do that, as long as it’s done to Black and Brown people, and/or those who have been deemed “criminal.”

The captain disagreed, he said that it’s okay because Covid cases are confined to their cages, separate from everyone else when we come out for showers. He again compared it to the flu. However, this is an airborne virus, we use the same showers, and breathe the same stale-ass air. It is not “like going to Wal-Mart” as a lieutenant told me two days ago, this is a situation where a prison that has the stated responsibility to keep us “safe” is willfully putting us in danger. But what’s new?

So I got that shit [Covid-test] stuck up my nose yesterday, I’m not experiencing any serious symptoms but I do have a total loss of smell. I’m hoping I don’t come up positive. I also witnessed a pig tossing a bag of ice that one of the orderlies tried to pass to someone over the top tier railing. My cage is adjacent to the shower stalls, and recently a comrade of mine from Miami got locked in there to take a shower, when he was finished and waiting for the overseer, he and I held an impromptu “open mic” without the mic. We agitated about how they’re punishing us for an outbreak that they introduced, how none of those cops wanted to wear masks until now, and since the virus is here, they don’t want to show up or work, while we suffer.

Last night, an elderly man, who’s very sick and in agonizing pain, called for medical. Actually, he couldn’t call himself because he was too weak to yell or kick the door, and at FCI Jesup, there are no panic buttons in the cages, which is an ADA violation. So instead,
the people in the cell next door to him started kicking their door. It took more than 15 minutes for medical to respond. I'm unsure what kind of emergency treatment they gave him, since I couldn't see from my vantage point, but they didn't take him out of the unit.

This morning, I woke up to the sounds of those same people kicking their door, on his behalf. Nobody responded, but it appears that they took the man, we call him Tiger, out late last night. I'm not sure to where and I'm not privy to that information, but I can only hope it was to the hospital.

I also listened to a man on the tier under me, who was arguing with someone from medical. He was supposed to be released today, but was told that he had to be placed under a three week quarantine, in his cell, before he goes home. He has not tested positive.

If this goes on, I think we are going to have to get legal support, for a court to issue an injunction of some kind. I'm encouraging people to write grievances, because this is a potential lawsuit.