

J [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], P.O. Box 3476-4A-4R-46L Corcoran, California. 93212

" PRISON BLUES..."

Greetings Readers

My name is J [REDACTED] [REDACTED], I am a Transsexual inmate who is housed in the California Prison at Corcoran. I am currently housed in the PHU-UNIT. Protective Housing Unit because I was assaulted by another inmate towhereas my throat was cut and my jugular vein and wind pipe was severed. The Department of Corrections put me here and I agreed to also come into this unit not knowing what was ahead of me. Living with HIV/AIDS in this unit is pure hell but the unit in itself is a wonderful place to do time. I am among 4-other African Americans who live here and being here I have never in my entire life been subjected to such racial discrimination for being Blk. as well as being a Transsexual.

I am made fun of and told that I am sick and shouldn't be the way that I am both by other inmates and Staff as well, I was recently told by a staff member that my presence alone was inappropriate in this unit and I am constantly face with Administration by staff as well as other inmates, who are Homophobic and Gay bashers. I am one of the few Transsexuals who have breast and I was told by a staff member that I was not allowed to wear a sling shot T- shirt because the nipples of my breast stick out. I was written a chrono by the HIV-Medical Dr. Meis to have 2-bra's sent in from home which is by the way a rule of the department. "But, there is one Correctional officer who says I am totally out of line and if the bra's come in he will not let me wear them in the unit when he is on duty. It should be known that ALL HIV-AIDS..inmates are suppose to receive Ice when the temperature exceeds over 90° However we are denied the ice and are being told that it is not the Correctional Officer's responsibility to give us the ice, but, the Medical Dept's. Job? It is always passed on to the next person to take care of it and when the time comes for us to get the ice? Guess what **We never get it.** The medication that we take are many pills to keep us alive but ask them if they care? They tell us that they are sensitive to our needs but the fact of the matter is that they are not and we have to suffer and as a result of this we undergo side effects due to the medications that we take. Myself I take protease inhibitors (**AIDS COTAILS**) and several other Medications that cause many other side effects due to the access of proper medical care. The State of California Prison System gets Grants to provide the HIV-AIDS inmates with proper care but, we have to go through Hell to even get 1-Asprin if we were to have a simple headache. That's not the only problem that we face, It's also the ventilation System that is faulty and doesn't work properly within this unit that I myself and one other HIV-AIDS infected inmate is housed. I am allegoric to wool and it is a matter of record in my medical File and

I've yet to revive them as of yet? So I feel in all actuality I am not only denied the things I should have that the money is given the state to provide for All **CID-INMATES**. FOR PROPER CARE. But, where is the money going because we are surly not receiving it in any shape form or fashion I also suffer from Neurophety and a bone weakness that makes my bones brittle and nothing is being done about that as well. I was sentenced to the Department on November 8th 1979 and I've been in Prison ever since. I started out in The California Medical at Vacaville and there I was given Female Hormones for the maintenance of my breast I was given them but now they recently cut me off again. These matters should be looked into, Because things are just getting worse throughout the prison, The HIV-AIDS, inmates who are classified as CID inmates are treated so wrong, you wouldn't believe it. Then there's the MTA's who just don't give a hoot about anything, Please don't get me wrong I'm not talking about all of them that work here. Some of them are excellent and do a wonderful job but not all of them are the same. There's one MTA by the name of Ms. C. Thomas who goes out of her way to see to it that we are treated right because she takes her work serious and doesn't just look at it as a pay check. But the more that she does the more B.S. she gets, both from staff as well as other inmates. I personally think that she is doing one hell of a job and should be commended for it. There's also a RN by the name of Matillda who is also a very good and professional nurse, She makes sure that our Lotion, Creams and Eyes are checked on a regular basis. She is in-charge of the speciality Clinic and what a good job she is doing. Then to make matters worse I recall one day when I checked with a officer and I asked if I was allowed to have some glasses sent to me or either pay for them through the institution which was \$79 It was O.K. at the time so I pursued the matter only to be issued a CDC-115 because a Catholic Charity sent me the money in the form of a Check to pay for the glasses. But, a Sgt. by the name of Sgt Gomez who works in the mail-room here at the prison is on a ego trip. when I questioned him as to why this was happening he bluntly told me that I had no business whatsoever to ask anyone on the outside for help? I explained to him that I first asked permission and was told that I had the right to ask anyone at any time for assistance as long as I didn't threaten or con or make false promises to them. He told me , and I quote "this, is **My mail room and I and I alone run it. So what I say goes without question.** I APPEALED THE ACTION. and I took it all the way up to the Director's Level of appeal. I was seen by the third level investigator and he said that I did nothing wrong. He also stated that he would argue my case with his boss, but he couldn't make any promises. He explained to me that the CDC-115 that I was issued pertains to staff and staff alone, In other words I'm not allowed to ask staff for favors or give or receive gifts of any kind from them.

This is just another form of harassment and unprofessionalism that goes on within this place that they call prison.

Now the fact of the matter is simply this, There is not enough outside organizations on the outside that are getting involved in the struggle. You will never know what your fate might bring and it's time for all other CID-HIV-AIDS infected inmates and Free world Human Beings to get involved because if the shoe was on the other foot you would also have to go through the same thing that I and others are now facing.

If we all took a stand and a strong stand then a change would be made for the better of us all. But I tell you that nothing will be done if nobody gets involved. The world is full of I will and I won't but there's no Togetherness at all. What ever happen to **WE WILL & WE CAN?** This is something that really needs to be looked into because the Virus is now out of control and it is not only affecting the Adults but the Teens and the Teens children as well. We as people of the United States of America should stand together as we do for other countries. The virus is a deadly disease that is taking over the world, we need help in this matter and being promiscuous is not one of them to solve the CID-HIV-AIDS problem that is going on in today's society. If **ALL HUMAN BEINGS** are going to be sexually active then they should not only use protection but they should seek advice and help from centers and organizations that are willing to help and the should help keep those places open to those who want the help, but to do so they need to contribute to the cause by donating whenever they can or if they can afford to do so. As a prisoner with **Aids** myself I wanted to share this with you because who knows, just one mistake in a sexual encounter and a dirty needle or whatever your taste may be you could very easily be the next victim and I am here to tell you that Living with **AIDS** is not pretty and it will at times drive you insane.

When you have seen the close up version of a close friend just whither away and die then you'll know that virus is not a joke or a one night stand. Prison is far worse than out on the street because I see young boys come into the prison system and fornicate with the Transsexuals, Homosexuals, and bisexuals, and then go back to the street and pass the virus on to innocent human beings. The sad part about the whole situation is that the youngsters that use the prison as a revolving door know that the people the sleep with have **AIDS**, Yet they sleep with them anyway and continue to do so.

I have been in prison for as many years as I can remember and I have seen a lot of people die, and fall victim to the virus, I have also been near death myself on three occasions but I am still here to pass this story onto you hoping that you will use it to your benefit and pass it on to someone else. I hope that this story has did more for you than it has for me writing it and I as a PWA hope that one day we can band together as a unit and see the issue as it really is instead of making fun of those who are infected.

IN THE STRUGGLE, I REMAIN

J [REDACTED] [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]