



Dear Reader,

This is the first issue of the IIPPI newsletter and we hope it will reach as many people as possible both in prison and in the free world, specialists and non-specialists. Some of you may know us either personally, through letters or relatives and friends who got in touch with us. Each of us has come a long way and we have different stories to tell, but we have one thing in common: We want to make a difference in this world.

"Stop indifference and injustice before the next victim is YOU!" is the official slogan of the **Innocent In Prison Project International** and we hope to unite many individuals and organizations in this project. Anybody can make a difference – no matter whether in prison or out here. No matter whether young or old, rich or poor, blue or green: YOU are unique and you possess quite special qualities that make you priceless in this \$\$ dominated society.

It will depend on you and your input how many issues of the IIPPI newsletter are edited a year. Please, feel encouraged to write (shorter) articles or to draw some cartoons and caricatures. Perhaps you just want to recommend a good book, song or movie. Anything is welcomed. Please, keep in mind that the work, you contribute, is for the purpose of education and research. Use appropriate language so that nobody feels insulted.

Remember, the aim of the IIPPI newsletter and the new IIPP forum on the IIPPI website is a platform of communication that brings together both sides of the system. Make sure, you can back up your statements with facts (and if possible also with the source). If an article is too long, we also can split it and publish it step by step. Please, mail your contribution to the IIPPI – International Head Office in Germany. Write in block letters and provide us with your name and address so that readers may give you feedback. Unfortunately we cannot return your material, thus you may want to make copies.

IIPP newsletters are sent out to prisoners and they are also available on the IIPPI website, so that anybody who is interested may print it out. Inmates, who have nobody in the free world, are encouraged to request the IIPPI newsletters from the IIPPI head office directly. As soon as there is a volunteer for you, you will get it on a regular basis. IIPPI wants to achieve a lot, but as you see, we depend on your all support. TOGETHER we can make a difference.

Commercial advertisements are placed here, when a businessman/-woman has donated at least US\$ 50.00 to one or more of the IIPPI prisoners' personal defence fund(s). The reader will know how much was donated to whom.



FAIRY TALES

The Christmas season, especially, is a fairy tale season, although we can learn from these very old stories throughout the whole year, of course. We are never too old for them. In fact, the wiser we are, the better we understand their meaning. The oldest fairy tale probably is "Amor and Psyche". It was already mentioned in works of the ancients and you may recognize other known fairy tales in it. "Amor and Psyche" are symbols for the human soul and the almighty love of heaven, of which a "secret" relationship is eventually fulfilled in the most wonderful wedding after much tragic wandering and confusion. The fight between good and bad – light and darkness – is age-old and still of current interest. It is all about spiritual development of self and unconditional love with its qualities – so called virtues.

Strength without love is hardness,
Order without love is pedantry,
Discipline without love is obligation,
Kindness without love is deceit,
Responsibility without love is inconsiderateness,
Education without love is contradiction,
Knowledge without love is bigotry,
Justice without love is hardship,
Honor without love is arrogance,
Possession without love is stinginess,
Truth without love is criticism,
Power without love is violence,
Faith without love is fanaticism.

.....In the end everything is good, because the good prevails in one way or another.....

IIPPI Coordinators

IIPPI's "mother" was the Innocent In Prison egroup. It was set up in June of 2003 and it is still a growing forum. In April of this year the Innocent In Prison Project was founded. IIPPI was represented in over 20 states soon. In summer we recognized that people were willing to help, but that IIPPI was growing too fast and most of our volunteers felt overwhelmed with their "duties". Being a coordinator is no easy job and it is very time consuming, however a hard core of truly dedicated state coordinators is left and we are introducing them to you below:

Innocent In Prison Project - California	Innocent In Prison Project - Tennessee
Innocent In Prison Project - Florida Britta Slopianka Heidekoppel 4 24558 Henstedt-Ulzburg Germany	Innocent In Prison Project - Texas The Eagle Speaks Committee c/o Mrs. Linda G. Gonzalez 3005 South Lamar Blvd. Ste. D109-224 Austin, TX 78704-4785
Innocent In Prison Project - New England Michael L. Burts, Sr. PO Box 6905 Rutland, VT 05702	Innocent In Prison Project - New York

Innocent In Prison Project - International
(head office)

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Our Referral Partners

These are partners we work with

Project	Contact
Reaching Beyond The Walls The Best Free Prison Inmate Pen Pal Website on the Net! New members added every week. Website completely updated!!!	Michael L. Burts, Sr. PO Box 6905 Rutland, VT 05702 www.rbtw.org www.reachingbeyondthewalls.com Phone: 802-773-4029
Broken Chains Texas Prisoners Network Support includes: Jail Bird Sings Network Support Group, TX Penpals, The Eagles Speaks Committee, Jail Bird Sings Little Angels, and more....	The Eagle Speaks Committee c/o Mrs. Linda G. Gonzalez 3005 South Lamar Blvd. Ste. D109-224 Austin, TX 78704-4785 www.brokenchains.us Phone: 512-507-4231 (after 8pm central time)
German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty The members of the GCADP come from different walks of life and age groups and live in various parts of Germany and the USA. We are united in our feeling of righteous indignation at the cruelty and inhumanity of the death penalty and in our	Britta Slopianka Heidekoppel 4 24558 Henstedt-Ulzburg Germany www.initiative-gegen-die-todesstrafe.de

<p>decision to work in the international battle against the death penalty.</p>	
<p>P.A.T.R.I.C.K. CRUSADE The PATRICK CRUSADE consists of a group of people committed to making a peaceful change in the policies and procedures that direct the actions of those responsible for operating our courts and our State and Federal prison systems. Our efforts are directed at educating those who are unaware of the injustices and human rights abuses that occur in these systems everyday all across the country. The PATRICK CRUSADE is aware, from firsthand experience, of the extent and viciousness of these abuses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sherry Swiney www.patrickcrusade.org</p>
<p>Soulful Chemistry – Shackled Voices I have established these pages called "Shackled Voices" Professors of life to give those of you with a powerful message a chance to speak. Poetry, Issues, Reflections and Songs are requested . Although some voices have been shackled by the complexion of their skin their minds are free. I speak of Afro American men and women whose knowledge,wisdom and understanding of life is the remedy for evil and misconception.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jane Howell www.soulfulchemistry.com</p>
<p>Death Row U.S.A. Who is Who on Death Row? Committed to the Fight for Human Rights. Their story, their thoughts and poems written on death row. And often, they are in need of friends.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Who is Who on DR c/o Petra Hädrich-Kabacali</p> <p>Kedenburgstr. 29 P.O. Box 8604 22041 Hamburg Clearwater, FL 33758-8604 Germany U.S.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.deathrow-usa.com</p>
<p>Legal In U.S.A. We publish a monthly legal based newsletter for prisoners across the United States of America for research and educational purposes only.</p> <p>[IIPP is not going to publish a legal newsletter because of our partnership with Legal In U.S.A. Please, contact Carol in order to receive the info, she, Lynn and Wendy gather each month. Volunteers are needed for the distribution.]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Legal In Usa c/o Carol Warburton 112, Lightbonds Road Bolton Lancs BL1 5UP England</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.hometown.aol.com/writelink1960/page6.html</p>
<p>Axis of Logic is comprised of an all-volunteer group of writers and editors who are committed to publishing news and commentary that is often not presented in the major news outlets. We research news and opinion from around the world on a daily basis. We also announce action alerts, conferences and seminars.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.axisoflogic.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finding Clarity in the 21st Century Mediaplex</p>
<p>You are its eyes ... The Ebon Run Racism, Corruption, Prison Industrial Complex, Environmental Destruction..... whatever your gripe, The Ebon Run is your voice to the masses. [Volunteers are needed for the distribution.]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keith Anderson, Publisher <i>The Ebon Run</i> c/o Ad Spread Collective P.O. Box 4051 Bluefield, WV 24701 Fax: 304-325-7290 www.adspread.com/ebonrun.htm</p>



IN MEDIA RES

By Timothy R. Greenlee, Indiana

To be nobody but yourself in a world that does its utmost to make you something else means fighting the hardest of life's battles!

As a poor white child from a troubled home, I attended public school with many poor Black children. The first thing we would all do in the morning after attendance was taken by the homeroom teacher was to recite The Pledge of Allegiance while holding our right hand over our hearts. The Pledge ends with the words, “. . . one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

What a lofty idea--what a grand conception! Unfortunately, those words in practice mean about the same thing today for indigent prisoners as they did for the Black slaves who suffered on American plantations a few generations ago--and what were those slaves if not indigent prisoners? Has the American government really learned a lesson from the nation's past? Can critically thinking adults accept with any validity the notion that 21st century America is One Nation whose peoples receive equal liberty and equal justice? Or, on the contrary, does the statement, “with liberty and justice only for those who can afford it” more closely reflect the lawyer-politician-created law of the land?

I often wonder how long middle and upper class America will choose to remain complacent toward the moral wrongs committed against certain segments of the poor by the legislative executive and judicial branches of the government. Certainly, it's no secret that large segments of indigent citizens are wrongfully convicted each year and reassigned to prison cages. How can reasonable people still labor under the illusion that police and prosecutors don't seek the wrongful conviction and incarceration of society's “undesirables?”

In fact, the official party line doctrine has openly shifted from seeking truth and guaranteeing that substantial justice is done to seeking quick, cheap convictions as a method for disenfranchising undesirables, while contemporaneously propping up a failing industrial based economy. The prison business is booming in America!

Post-conviction scrutiny by the courts in 2004 is concerned, not with uncovering wrongful convictions, but in solidifying the finality of negative judgments, *ie.* denying further review in order to save tax revenues. In plain terms, liberty and justice are sacrificed on the altar of political expediency.

There has occurred a veritable sea change in the government's attitude toward indigent prisoners, most of whom are Black--policies which are given force of effect through enactment and application of the 1996 Crime Bill that codified The Prison Litigation Reform Act [PLRA] and The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act [AEDPA]. Those government provisions have revolutionized the way the courts deal with the post-conviction relief claims of indigent prisoners.

Briefly, the PLRA restricts the types of human rights claims in terms of prisoner living conditions and mistreatment which are permitted to be brought before a court for consideration, while the AEDPA, among other things, has drastically limited the bare bones availability of *habeas corpus* proceedings to indigent prisoners. In the majority of cases over one year old, review is denied completely no matter what the circumstances. This fail-safe mechanism of *habeas corpus* review--a pressure valve that has ensured the righting of governmental wrongs throughout the English speaking world for nearly 1,000 years--was abruptly nullified in The United States of America with the stroke of a lawyer-politician's pen, and some of the effects of the legislation are only now beginning to be felt. Our “Cradle of Liberty” now immorally disenfranchises and locks away its indigent undesirables by the hundreds of thousands each year, at any one time imprisoning some ten times the numbers of any other nation on the good earth.

Not surprisingly, it is very difficult to locate any financially well-off prisoners in the state-run systems--it's like looking for a needle in a haystack. This is so because citizens who are capable of paying large sums of money to lawyers in the beginnings stages of the process purchase the liberty to remain in society, while the indigent are forced to “pay” with their lifetimes just like the Black plantation slaves of a few generations ago.



Population- Prisoner-Statistic

State	Population 2003 [2]	Caucasians [3]	African A. [3]	Native A. [3]	Asians [3]	Prisoners [1]	= % of population
AL	4.500.000	71,1%	26,0%	0,5%	0,7%	29.253	0,65%
AK	649.000	69,3%	3,5%	16,1%	4,0%	4.527	0,7%
AZ	5.600.000	75,5%	3,1%	5,1%	1,8%	31.170	0,56%
AR	2.726.000	80,0%	15,7%	0,85%	0,85	13.084	0,5%
CA	35.484.000	59,5%	6,7%	1,3%	10,9%	164.487	0,46%
CO	4.551.000	82,8%	3,8%	1,1%	2,2%	19.671	0,43%
CT	3.483.000	81,6%	9,1%	0,3%	2,4%	19.846	0,6%
DE	817.500	74,6%	19,2%	0,3%	2,1%	6.794	0,83%
DC	563.384	30,8%	60,0%	0,4%	2,7%	3.531	0,63%
FL	17.019.000	78,0%	14,6%	0,4%	1,7%	79.594	0,47%
GA	8.685.000	65,1%	28,7%	0,4%	2,1%	47.208	0,54%

HI	1.257.600	24,3%	1,8%	9,7%	41,6%	5.828	0,46%
ID	1.366.000	91,0%	0,4%	1,5%	0,9%	5.887	0,43%
IL	12.653.500	73,5%	15,1%	0,2%	3,4%	43.418	0,34%
IN	6.195.600	87,5%	8,4%	0,3%	1,0%	23.069	0,37%
IA	2.944.000	93,9%	2,1%	0,3%	1,3%	8.546	0,29%
KS	2.723.500	86,1%	5,7%	0,9%	1,7%	8.546	0,31%
KY	4.118.000	90,1%	7,1%	0,2%	0,7%	16.622	0,4%
LA	4.496.000	63,9%	32,5%	0,6%	1,2%	36.047	0,8%
ME	1.306.000	96,9%	0,5%	0,6%	0,7%	2.013	0,15%
MD	5.509.000	64,0%	27,9%	0,3%	4,0%	23.791	0,43%
MA	6.433.000	84,5%	5,4%	0,2%	3,8%	10.232	0,16%
MI	10.080.000	80,2%	14,2%	0,6%	1,8%	49.358	0,49%
MN	5.059.000	89,4%	3,5%	1,1%	2,9%	7.865	0,16%
MS	2.881.000	61,4%	36,3%	0,4%	0,7%	23.182	0,8%
MO	5.704.500	84,9%	11,2%	0,5%	1,1%	30.303	0,53
MT	918.000	90,6%	0,3%	6,3%	0,5%	3.620	0,39%
NE	1.739.000	89,6%	4,0%	0,9%	1,3%	4.040	0,23%
NV	2.241.000	75,2%	6,8%	1,7%	4,5%	10.543	0,47%
NH	1.288.000	96,0%	0,7%	0,2%	1,3%	2.434	0,19%
NJ	8.638.000	72,6%	13,6%	0,2%	5,7%	27.246	0,32%
NM	1.875.000	66,8%	1,9%	9,6%	1,1%	6.223	0,33%
NY	19.190.000	67,9%	15,9%	0,4%	5,5%	65.198	0,34%
NC	8.407.000	72,1%	21,6%	1,2%	1,4%	33.560	0,4%
ND	634.000	92,4%	0,6%	4,9%	0,6%	1.239	0,2%
OH	11.436.000	85,0%	11,5%	0,2%	1,2%	44.778	0,39%
OK	3.511.500	76,2%	7,6%	8,0%	1,4%	22.821	0,65%
OR	3.560.000	86,6%	1,6%	1,5%	3,0%	12.715	0,36%
PA	12.365.500	85,4%	10,0%	0,1%	1,8%	40.890	0,33%
RI	1.076.000	85,0%	4,5%	0,6%	2,3%	3.527	0,33%
SC	4.147.000	67,2%	29,5%	0,3%	0,9%	23.719	0,57%
TN	5.842.000	80,2%	16,4%	0,3%	1,0%	25.403	0,43%
TX	22.118.500	71,0%	11,5%	0,7%	2,7%	166.911	0,75%
UT	2.351.000	89,2%	0,8%	2,0%	1,7%	5.763	0,25%
VT	619.100	96,8%	0,5%	0,4%	0,9%	1.944	0,31%
VA	7.386.000	72,3%	19,6%	0,4%	3,7%	35.067	0,47%
WA	6.131.400	81,8%	3,2%	2,0%	5,5%	16.148	0,26%
WV	1.810.000	95,0%	3,2%	0,2%	0,5%	4.758	0,26%
WI	5.472.000	88,9%	5,7%	0,9%	1,7%	22.614	0,41%
WY	501.000	92,1%	0,8%	2,4%	0,6%	1.872	0,37%
U.S.A	290,809,777	75,1%	12,3%	1,0%	3,6%	1,470,045	0,51%

Note: All U.S. prison population rates are over world average (0,14%). "Native Americans" include: American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. Persons, who reported other or more races are not listed here.

[1] The number of state and federal prison inmates hit a record high in 2003. The number of adults in the correctional population has been increasing from 1980 through 2003. In 2003, 6.9 million people were under some form of correctional supervision including: probation, prison, jail and parole.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Correctional Surveys

(The Annual Probation Survey, National Prisoner Statistics, Survey of Jails, and The Annual Parole Survey)

[2] rounded numbers, Source: People Quick Facts/ U.S. Census Bureau

[3] 2000, Source: People Quick Facts/ U.S. Census Bureau

Year + Population (rounded)	Probation	Jail	Prison	Parole	Total (rounded) + % of population
1978 (226,214,000) [5]	899,305	158,394	294,396	177,847	1,529,900 0,676%
2003 (290,810,000) [6]	4,073,987	691,301	1,387,269	774,588	6,889,800 2,369%

[5] Source: RIVM, Global Environment Assessment Statistics

[6] Source : U.S. Census Bureau

Prison Statistics by Race :

At yearend 2003 there were 3,405 (3,4%) black male prisoners per 100,000 black males in the United States in prison, compared to 1,231 (1,2%) Hispanic male inmates per 100,000 Hispanic males and 465 (0,5%) white male inmates per 100,000 white males.

Crime and Victims Statistic:

According to the BJS [4] National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), in 2003:

Violent crime rates have declined since 1994, reaching the lowest level ever recorded in 2003.

Property crime decline through 2002 and begin to stabilize in 2003.

[4] BJS = Bureau of Justice Statistics

Uniform Crime Reports:

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports:

The **violent crime** rate decreased 3.9% from 2002 to 2003. From 1994 to 2003 the rate fell 33.4%.

The **property crime** rate decreased 1.2% from 2002 to 2003. From 1994 to 2003, the rate fell 23%. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports Program (UCR) collects information from local law enforcement agencies about crimes reported to police. The UCR crime index includes seven offenses; homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

(Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Justice expenditure and employment extracts:

In 1992, direct expenditures for the justice system were about \$ 94 billion:

- Police protection 44%
- Judicial and legal services 22%
- Corrections 34%

In 2001, direct expenditures for the justice system were almost \$ 98 billion:

Employment and monthly payroll of the justice system, March 2001

	Total Employees	2001 March Payroll
Total Justice System	2,295,423	\$ 8,150,000,000 \$ 8,150,000,000 x 12 months = \$ 97,800,000,000 (2001)
Police Protection	1,060,219	\$ 4,003,000,000
Judicial and Legal	488,143	\$ 1,798,000,000
Corrections	747,061	\$ 2,349,000,000

Total direct and intergovernmental expenditure and percent change by fiscal years 1982-2001

Year	Total
1982	\$ 35,842,000,000
1992	\$ 93,777,000,000
2001	\$ 167,113,000,000
Percent Change total from 1982-92	161.6% (average annual: 9.1%)
Percent Change total from 1982-2001	366.2% (average annual: 8.0%)

Total justice employment

Total employees and percent change, 1982-92

Year	Total
1982	1,270,342
1992	1,797,704
Percent Change 1982-92	41.5%
Average Annual	3.2%

Year	Population	Total Employment per 10.000	Police Protection	Judicial and Legal	Corrections
1982	232,297,000	54.7 (0.547%)	31.2	10.7	12.9
1992	255,852,000	70.3 (0.703%)	33.5	14.6	22.1
Total Percent Change 1982-1992	10.1%	28.5%	7.6%	36.9%	72.2%
Average annual	0.9%	2.3%	0.5%	2.9%	4.9%
2001	284,744,000	69.7 (0.697%)	31.0	14.0	24.6

Justice Payroll

October payroll and percent change, 1982-92

Year	Total
1982	\$ 2,064,784,000
1992	\$ 4,788,918,000
Percent Change 1982-92	131.9%
Average annual	7.9%

Total justice expenditure

Total direct and intergovernmental expenditure, fiscal years 1982-2001

Total	Police Protection	Judicial and Legal	Corrections
1982: \$ 35,841,916,000	\$ 19,022,184,000	\$ 7,770,785,000	\$ 9,048,947,000
1992: \$ 93,776,852,000	\$ 41,326,531,000	\$ 20,988,888,000	\$ 31,461,433,000
2001: \$167,113,000,000	\$ 72,406,000,000	\$ 37,751,000,000	\$ 56,956,000,000
Total Change: 161.6%	117.3% [7]	170.1% [7]	247.7% [7]
[7]Average annual: 9.1%	8.0%	9.5%	12.4%

[7] 1982-1992

Total government corrections expenditure

State government direct corrections expenditures for institutions and other corrections, fiscal years 1982-92

Year	Total
1982	\$ 5,559,792,000
1992	\$ 18,750,826,000
Percent Change 1982-92	237,3%
Average annual 1982-92	12,1%

Per capita justice expenditure

Per capita total justice expenditure and percent per capita, fiscal years 1982-2001

Year	Population	Total per Capita	Police Protection	Judicial and Legal	Corrections
1982	231,664,000	\$ 154,72	\$ 82,11	\$ 33,54	\$ 39,06
1992	255,028,000	\$ 367,71	\$ 162,05	\$ 82,30	\$ 123,36
2001	285,094,000	\$ 586,00	\$ 254,00	\$ 132,00	\$ 200,00
Total Percent Change 1982-1992	10,1%	137,7%	97,4%	145,4%	215,8%
Average annual	0,9%	8,2%	7,1%	8,5%	11,4%

Note: Using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to adjust the 2001 per capita figure of \$ 586,00 for inflation would yield approximately \$ 320,00 in 1982 dollars.

Privately operated prisons:

Year	Inmates
Yearend 2003	95,522
Midyear 2003	94,361
Yearend 2002	93,771
Yearend 2001	91,828
Yearend 2000	87,369



SOCIETY CHOOSES THE RATE OF IMPRISONMENT

By Katja Pumm, Germany

Prison growth is the result of declining release rates, increasing time served and the "tough on crime" policy that sends more and more people for minor non-violent "crimes" to prison. Current inmates have served longer. Never before have so many "parole violators" been returned to prison.

Five percent of the world population (USA) have incarcerated 25% of all prisoners worldwide in their country. Florida, for example, has invested more taxes in the construction of prisons than in universities. This is understandable since you need more facilities when you "lock 'em all up".

The so called first world successfully cuts down social service systems and is systematically developing a "new" gigantic industry – the prison industrial complex. Delaware is according to the numbers above presently in the leading position, where 830 per 100.000 people are imprisoned. Delaware is followed by Louisiana, Mississippi (both 800) and Texas (750). The USA is the pioneer as usual and there is no other country yet that can seriously compete where this new industry is concerned. However, one also can realize prison growth in Europe and elsewhere in the world. (See table below.) Certain high expenses for prisons, that you have seen above, are justified for the "tough on crime" policy. The more criminals are locked away, the lower eventually is the rate of crimes. Let's take a look at a so called "third world" country: Indonesia. In 1996, there were only 21 people per 100.000 behind bars in Indonesia. The incarceration rate in Nigeria is continuously dropping and is 31 today. The world average is now 140 inmates per 100.000 people. The rate in China is 119, the rate in the U.S.A is 715.

When we go back to the "first world" countries, we notice that the majority of the prisoners belong to minorities. Minorities often also are part of the lower class, which means they cannot afford what the majority might do. If I were racist, I now could claim that colored people tend to have a bad character and that they belong in prison. If this was the case, I wonder, why there are not more prisoners in so called "third world" countries?! Are "criminals" "fabricated" to exploit them politically? The effects of global capitalism on millions of people of the lower and middle class seems to have placed them on the verge of ruin. People who fear poverty and crime tend to prefer an authoritarian government that defends a "tough on crime and terrorism" policy. I think, the increase in prison cells does not reduce crime - only secure income, positive perspectives, social equality and unity does. We only can live safely, when human rights are not violated in the name of security. I am of the opinion that an immense increase in prisoners mirrors institutional, social injustice. So, what needs to be done? People need money to survive. The more you learn in school, the better your chances are to find a good job. Good education – also at universities - needs to be available and affordable for anyone. If the state invested more in education instead of in prisons and gave more attention to the youth, fewer people would be involved in "criminal" activities.

Privately operated prisons are said to save the state and its tax payers costs. Private prisons are run by professional businessmen and women, who have the know how to keep expenses low. At least two private prison companies are listed on

the stock exchange in the United States. They manage correction systems in the USA, Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia, South Africa and United Kingdom. Become one of their stockholders and chances to make good money may be great, if you invest long term. Yet, these prisons also receive a certain amount of your taxes per inmate a day. New supermax prisons are "high tech" facilities and inmates have never been watched and controlled better before. Machines - computers, intercom and cameras replace guards. A minimal number of employees is able to watch a maximal number of inmates. The General Accounting Office (GAO) examined five studies which compared cost savings at public and private prisons in the United States. The GAO report, "could not draw any conclusions about cost savings or quality of service, since the four studies that assessed operations costs indicated little difference or mixed results, and the two studies that addressed quality of life reported either equivocal findings or no differences between private and public facilities."

Labor and employee unions oppose privately operated prisons, because businesses that use cheap prison labor can destabilize the global trade markets. Transnational corporations that either directly run or cooperate with prison corporations naturally are run for-profit basis and they have found a gap in the market. "Infrastructure": a corporation needs a certain infrastructure to succeed, otherwise they go bankrupt before they have started. They need a "product" (which is "sold"), cheap labor, cheap land, cheap maintenance costs, transportation, energy/ water/ raw material, subsidies and last but not least the market. In general life is cheaper in rural areas. People in the country are glad when they do not need to waste precious free time and money for long rides to work. Prisoners in remote facilities are not visited as often as they could be, because not everyone has a car and other transportations very often do not exist. Inmates and their loved ones are not just separated physically, but when they do not get over the obstacles in order to keep in touch, they lose contact. Unfortunately, this happens too often. When prisoners lose this connection to the free world, anything can happen to them behind bars and nobody knows. This isolation makes it difficult to monitor the conditions behind prison doors and to report abuse. Prison corporations and their contractors depend on an increasing and longer serving prison population, that works almost for free, subsidies and low expenses. Not only the private prison sector is aligned with the increasing use of prison sentences in the criminal justice policy, but those employed by the public prison sector are as well. The penal system feeds their families.

The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is more than prisons and businesses which profit by employing inmates, building, running and supplying prisons. It includes repressive laws, state executions, police coercion, misconduct in the judicial system, censoring media and applying double standards.

Poor people are more likely to be imprisoned than the wealthy. They cannot "buy justice". The more people are incarcerated, the more citizens are disenfranchised. They lose the right to vote. Above we see that in 2003 almost 2,4% of the U.S. population was "dead" politically (except those in Main and Vermont). The tendency is that more people, probably the poor, will lose this constitutional right and therefore they will not be full citizens anymore. - Who will fight for the rights of the lower class, if not the indigent themselves?! How can the poor fight for their rights? They need their representatives in The Senate and The House of Representatives. How can they elect their representatives when they do not or can not vote?

A few days ago, on November 8, there was an article in the New York Times titled "Supreme Court Declines to Hear 2 Cases Weighing the Right of Felons to Vote" by Linda Greenhouse. She stated, "...the issue remains very much alive in the lower courts, and the justices' action did not foreclose accepting a future case."

"If you steal US \$ 5.00, you're a thief, but if you steal US \$ 5 million, you're a financier."

Jalil A. Muntaqim (NY3)

Prison Population Rate Worldwide

Country	Recent Prison Population Trend by Year [8]			Latest Prison Population Rate [9]
Nigeria (West Africa) (-)	1996	55,000	(54)	2004: 126.0 million 39,153 (31)
	1999	44,797	(41)	
	2002	39,368	(33)	
Indonesia (Asia) (-)	1993	41,121	(21)	2003: 219.9 million 84,357 (38)
	1996	41,353	(21)	
	1999	55,026	(26)	
	2001	62,886	(29)	
Uganda (East Africa) (-)	1993	19,079	(94)	2002: 24.7 million 21,900 (89)
	1998	21,971	(107)	
France (Europe) (-)	1992	48,113	(84)	2004: 59,97 million 56,957 (95)
	1995	51,623	(89)	
	1998	50,744	(86)	
	2001	46,376	(78)	
Germany (Europe) (-)	1992	57,448	(71)	2003: 82,53 million 79,153 (96)
	1995	66,146	(81)	
	1998	78,584	(96)	
	2000	78,707	(96)	
Italy (Europe) (-)	1992	46,152	(81)	2003: 57,4 million 57,238 (100)
	1995	49,642	(87)	
	1998	49,050	(85)	
	2001	55,136	(95)	
Australia (Oceania) (-)	1992	15,559	(89)	2004: 20,04 million 22,781 (114)
	1995	17,428	(96)	
	1998	19,906	(107)	
	2001	22,458	(116)	
Canada (North America) (-)	1991	33,527	(119)	2001: 31,08 million 36,024 (116)
	1994	37,740	(129)	
	1997	39,250	(131)	

	2000	36,143	(117)	
China (Asia) (-)	1995	1,236,534	(101)	2003: 1,304.2 million
	1998	1,440,000	(115)	1,549,000
	2001	1,428,126	(111)	(119)
England + Wales (Europe) (+)	1992	45,817	(90)	2004: 52.94 million
	1995	51,047	(99)	74,770
	1998	65,298	(125)	(141)
	2001	66,301	(127)	
Spain (Europe) (+)	1992	35,246	(90)	2004: 41.18 million
	1995	40,157	(102)	59,604
	1998	44,763	(114)	(145)
	2001	46,962	(117)	
Samoa (Oceania) (+)	1992	167	(100)	2003: 178,000
	1995	255	(150)	281
	1998	176	(101)	(158)
Brazil (South America) (+)	1993	126,152	(81)	2003: 182.3 million
	1995	148,760	(92)	308,304
	1997	170,602	(102)	(169)
	2001	233,859	(133)	
Mexico (Central America) (+)	1992	87,723	(102)	2003: 103.5 million
	1995	92,623	(102)	175,253
	1998	123,032	(128)	(169)
Iran (Middle East) (+)	1993	101,801	(157)	2004: 69.0 million
	2001	158,000	(233)	133,658
				(194)
Poland (Europe) (+)	1992	58,619	(153)	2003: 38.20 million
	1995	62,719	(163)	80,093
	1998	57,382	(148)	(210)
	2001	70,544	(183)	
South Africa (+)	1993	111,798	(282)	2003: 45.0 million
	1996	118,731	(280)	180,952
	1999	154,576	(387)	(402)
Cuba (Caribbean) (+)				2003: 11.3 million
				55,000
				(487)
Rusia (Europe) (+)	1992	722,636	(487)	2004: 143.8 million
	1995	920,685	(622)	787,900
	1998	1,009,863	(688)	(548)
	2001	923,765	(638)	
U.S.A. (North America) (+)	1992	1,295,150	(505)	2003: 290.7 million
	1995	1,585,586	(600)	2,078,570
	1998	1,816,931	(669)	(715)
	2001	1,961,247	(685)	

[8] Year, prison population total, prison population rate (per 100.000 of national population)

[9] Year, national population, prison population total, prison population rate (per 100.000 of national population)

-/ + Average, The world average is now 140 inmates per 100.000 people.

Source: International Center for Prison Studies (ICPS)

“Heads of prison administrations of the 44 countries which are members of the Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg (France) in November 2002, noted that levels of imprisonment in each country are usually influenced much more by political decisions than by levels of crime or rates of detection of crime. In a word, societies can choose for a variety of reasons to have high rates or low rates of imprisonment.” Director of ICPS – International Center for Prison Studies

If you are an innocent prisoner (morally free from guilt regarding your conviction, unless it was self-defence and can be proven), ask someone to mail the IIPPI questionnaire to you, please. It is available on the IIPPI site.

“The laws which govern this universe work for good as soon as we obey them, and anything contrary to these laws doesn't last long. It contains within itself the seeds of its own destruction. The good in every human life always makes it possible for us to obey these laws. We do have free will about all this, and therefore how soon we obey and thereby find harmony, both within ourselves and within our world, is up to us.”

Steps toward Inner Peace by Peace Pilgrim

May each of you and your families have a healthy, happy and wonderful Christmas
and a very focused, positive and succesful New Year.

Thank you Lord.

Vincent Simmons, Louisiana

A Christmas Prayer

A CHILD'S VIEW

Snowflakes softly falling
Upon your window play,
Your blankets snug around you,
into sleep you drift away.

I bend to gently kiss you,
when I see that on the floor
There's a letter, neatly written,
I wonder who it's for.

I quietly unfold it
making sure you're still asleep,
It's a Christmas list for Santa--
one my heart will always keep.

It started just as always
with the toys seen on TV,
A new watch for your father
and a winter coat for me.

But as my eyes read on
I could see that deep inside
There were many things you
wished for that your loving heart
would hide.

You asked if your friend Molly
could have another dad;
It seems her father hits her
and it makes you very sad.
Then you asked dear Santa
if the neighbors down the street
Could find a job, that he might have
some food, and clothes, and heat.

You saw a family on the news
whose house had blown away;
"Dear Santa, send them just one
thing a place where they can stay."

"And Santa, those four cookies
that I left you for a treat,
Could you take them to the children
who have nothing else to eat?"

"Do you know that little bear I have-
the one I love so dear?
I'm leaving it for you to take
to Africa this year."

"And as you fly your reindeer
on this night of Jesus' birth,

Could your magic bring to everyone
goodwill and peace on earth?"
"There's one last thing before you
go-- so grateful I would be--
If you'd smile at Baby Jesus
in the manger by our tree."

I pulled the letter close to me;
I felt it melt my heart.
Those tiny hands had written
what no other could impart.

**"And a little child shall lead
them,"**

was whispered in my ear
As I watched you sleep on
Christmas Eve
while Santa Claus was here.

Author Unknown



All of us who have been introduced to you in this newsletter want to wish you a
„Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!“

Please, join us!
The IIPPI Team & Partners