

**SANKORE'**



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

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On Dec. 12, 1997, the Sankore' Institute, representing the larger Muslim community, presented the Islamic viewpoint concerning the CDC's new inmate grooming standards. The views which we represented were consistent with the legal sources of our religion. We attempted to come to a middle ground where the new changes as planned by the CDC could be implemented without violating Islamic grooming standards. In addition to this we made every effort to demonstrate that *there were alternatives which could be considered which would be more effective in carrying out the purpose of this action and would be as effective and less burdensome to affected persons.*

Our institute clarified that all responses (positive or negative) would be reported directly to the United Nations offices concerning human rights issues, namely: the Urgency Section of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; the Islamic Human Rights Commission; and the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities. These international conduits have long been examining the correctional systems in the U.S. and have determined that the systems of incarceration in this country lagged behind internationally accepted standards on the treatment of prisoners. The fact that the U.S. utilizes United Nations' channels to sanction Muslim nations testifies to the moral hypocrisy which this country has been entrenched in for decades.

The response which the CDC gave to the Muslim community in particular has been the gradual oppression of Muslim inmates by compelling them by means of reclassification to comply with rules which have no security purpose, but which violate the Muslim inmates Islamic religion. It is a well known fact that the Muslim inmate population has contributed to the security and harmony which exist in the CDC system. The Muslim inmate population does not and has never had a history of escapes, drug or gang activity.

However, Muslims inmates who have maintained a consistent record of good behavior, excellent work habits, well-grounded educational commitment are being penalized by the CDC for simply not complying with grooming standards which, as we have demonstrated in our memo, serve no real security purpose except to create a gestapo style climate in the CDC system. Our institution has received hundreds of letters from Muslim inmates who were reclassified as "Work Group C" where they are unable to receive time credits resulting in the lost of all the privileges of higher work groups. In addition to this Muslim inmates have been determined to be "program failures" who fail to accept or perform assignments. The outcome of this is that Muslim inmates have been served CDC Form 115, Rules Violation Reports, where they have been accused of misconduct which violates the law and charged with infractions which are considered major in nature.

As we explained in our memo, these violations by the CDC of Muslim's religious rights have been reported to the above mentioned United Nations organizations. In addition to this, we have and will continue to encourage those Muslim inmates who are not intimidated by gestapo tactics and who are only afraid of the eternal punishment of Allah to continue to sue the CDC by utilizing the only legal redress allowed the Muslim inmates - the 602. This should be done in an continuous and persistent manner until the situation reaches critical mass sufficient to gain the attention of the State of California as well as the international community.

Lawyers throughout the state and international jurists have assured us that they will give us their full corporation in seeing that the rights of the Muslim inmates are fought for in the most effective means possible. The United States is on the verge of leading an unpopular military attack upon Muslim people in the Middle East, under the guise of "international support", while at the same time she fails to implement the same international standards with regard to her own Muslim inmate population.

Conscientious Muslims around the state consider this unjust and it discloses the real nature of the "new inmate grooming standards". Our institution will encourage Muslims around the state to protest this injustice and to make it be felt where it will hurt the most.

Institute of Islamic-African Studies International

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