

7-15-11

Honorable John Boozman
US Senator
213 W. Monroe Avenue
Suite K
Lowell, AR 72745

Dear Senator Boozman:

I wrote you a letter on or about 5-12-2011, concerning amongst other things threats to my life and health while on hunger strike against the Low Security prison in Forrest City, Arkansas. You didn't respond. I got my friend Carole Lonsway to inquire, on or about 6-22-2011 or 6-23-2011, about the status of any response to the letter. You still haven't responded.

I've been trying to get some fairly basic accommodations at this prison. Amongst other things I want:

- 1) Soap in the bathrooms, the better to teach proper hygiene to the inmates, and;
- 2) The cessation of hostilities against hunger strikers, particularly with respect to unlawful, life threatening tactics meant to break the hunger strike, and;
- 3) Educational opportunities, with resources and incentives that give us a reasonable chance of success.

In summary, I want an honest and competent prison administration. For all this I ask NO TAX MONEY WHATSOEVER, preferring instead to set forth opportunities for saving millions of tax dollars, while SIMULTANEOUSLY improving correctional outcomes.

Every single thing I request is required by the official standards of the American Correctional Association (ACA). This prison is in the process of seeking ACA accreditation. This implies that they don't (at least shouldn't) have any fundamental objections to the standards of the ACA. Therefore, to simplify matters, one might accurately say that the fight is over whether or not this prison will follow the salutary standards of the ACA.

I'm going back on hunger strike, as YOUR hunger striker. Here's why.

The last time, I was deprived of electrolytes (salt and potassium) and adequate water. The idea was to dehydrate me and break the hunger strike. The dehydration part worked fine. I had a stroke. I was left in the cell begging for medical assistance, which was denied. Fortunately the stroke cleared up on its own, and I survived. I'm told that two other hunger strikers weren't so fortunate, and wound up in a coma. They've lost everything including consciousness, and now are a long term financial drain on the taxpayers.

Hunger striking is not attempted suicide. When I hunger strike, I'm not signing up for dehydration. Dehydration is orders of magnitude more dangerous than simply not eating. I hunger strike because I have no adequate remedy against flagrant violations of the rights of

prisoners, and willful disregard of the reasonable expectations of the taxpayers that pay the bills. They expect some success in the government's alleged effort to correct bad behavior, and ought to get it.

I'm hoping that you will be sufficiently appreciative of having your very own volunteer hunger striker, to be somewhat protective of my life. After all, what politician would want to be known for allowing an easily preventable calamity befalling his hunger striker? That wouldn't be good for the reputation, especially when it is so easy to prevent a bad outcome.

Fortunately, your job isn't particularly difficult. Have your personnel contact Ms. Graham, the Director of Medical at this prison, and request the following. 1) Don't allow Operations (the general administration of the prison) to do anything that threatens a hunger striker (whomever that may be, not just me) with death or permanent physical harm, 2) Don't let any non-medical personnel override the medical decisions of medical personnel, and 3) Make sure that hunger strikers receive everything to which they are entitled under the Program Statements, case law, and the standards of the American Correctional Association. Ask her to inform you promptly if she is prevented from accomplishing any of the three goals stated. I think she'll be willing to do that for you.

I prepared a document setting forth the legal rights applicable to hunger strikers, with citation to binding authorities. I submitted it to Lieutenant Ricolcol, and asked him to agree in writing, or state his reasons in opposition. He said he couldn't do that, because Warden Outlaw would have to sign off on any such written agreement.

I spoke to Warden Outlaw about this issue at lunchtime on Tuesday, 6-21-2011. He refused to sign, but said that I would receive everything to which I was entitled, if I went on hunger strike again. He will not, however, allow me to cause a list of established rights to be posted on my cell door. I take that to mean that either 1) there will be a fight over what rights are established, or 2) hunger strikers who aren't aware of their rights will continue to be denied same, or, more likely, a combination of 1 and 2. A copy of my list of the rights of hunger strikers is on my blog.

I'm YOUR hunger striker on the assumption that you want to provide the taxpayers with honest, efficient, cost effective governance. If you don't find my services as a volunteer hunger striker particularly desirable, here are your options.

1) Tell your constituents that you really don't care that vast swaths of educational records at this prison are fraudulent. You don't care that inmates would gladly provide quality educational services at no cost to the taxpayers, in exchange for use of UNICOR facilities during otherwise idle time, saving millions of dollars annually for taxpayers. You don't care that millions of dollars are squandered on unnecessary medical expenses due to the lack of soap, unhealthy food, perverse health incentives, etc. If you plainly state that you have no interest in open, honest, and efficient government, I'll take your word for it, and move on to a politician who will at least give lip service to the concept. OR;

2) Explain how this country can incarcerate people at a rate 5 TIMES the world average, while maintaining recidivism rates among the highest (if not THE highest) in the world, achieving

scant educational achievement in prisons, procuring expensive yet ineffective health care, and denying meaningful work experiences, BUT STILL maintain economic competitiveness with the rest of the world. In an article in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette 6-16-2011, on page 4A, it was stated that prisoners often come out of prison more violent and hardened than they were when they came in. Explain just how you hope to balance the federal budget and restore the republic all the while you turn a blind eye to such massive and abject failures, both human and economic. The constituents who elevated you to your high office would like to know.

For the time being, you have your very own hunger striker. I'll provide you with periodic updates on the experience. They'll all go on my blog, along with this letter.

Kindest personal regards,

/s/ Oscar Stilley

Oscar Stilley
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