

5.3.21 (1)

Mr. Dax Proctor,

My name is Daniel W. Rose and I'm serving a life w/o Parole sentence, plus 25 to life. This sentence has severely affected myself and my family. I understand that our being affected can not be compared to that of my victim and his family; at the same time, this sentence that offers no hope for redemption has put my family - mother, father, brothers, sister, etc. - through much emotional and mental turmoil. Also, I'm now seeing how those who were young (5 and under), and those who were it born are suffering also. Those who love me, especially my parents live every day with the fear of dying, and leaving me alone to die in prison.

My paradigm shift came in 2007. I left the gang, criminal lifestyle, and stopped using drugs. Since that time I've accomplished much, including but not limited to graduating a 4 1/2 year ministry school, this summer I will graduate with an A.A., and I became a certified Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor with the state of California through the O.M.C.P. program. With that being said, my sentence prevents me from going to the B.P.H. to show my change, and be considered for parole suitability like many others prisoners that were convicted of murder but were given years with the possibility of parole for myself, this is an unfair practice in that others that have the same, or similar crimes are afforded a chance at redemption while myself, and my peers serving LWOP are not. I believe in Justice, but it seems that when it comes to extreme sentencing it's more about vengeance which is unjust. The problem.

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with my experience is that not only was I a youth when I committed my crime, but I also came from an abusive, troubled home with generations of gang members and drug addicts. I became what my family, and community molded me to be. I take full responsibility for my actions; but at the same time, I understand my actions were rooted in the modeled behaviors, beliefs, and values I adopted from my family and the culture. And now that I've changed, and am educated, I am unable to experience life in society as a law abiding citizen.

I would like to see second chances, and more opportunities at redemption be given to those that have changed, that have addressed their treatment needs, and have shown a lifestyle pattern that reflects the changed person - especially for youths and juveniles. Sentencing should be equal, and the lengths of sentences should reflect the American idea that we are a merciful nation of second chances. I would like to recommend an approach that addresses the reasons why people commit crimes (why they join gangs, why they rob and steal, why they react violently) but supplementing the lock them up and throw away the key attitude with one of therapy, and treatment that provides people with a new outlook on life, and new healthy appropriate ways to cope and deal with life. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Daniel W. Rose