

STATEMENT ON DEATH-BY-INCARCERATION
BY JEROME COFFEY|

My name is Jerome Coffey, I am an African-American middle age man 52-years old that been imprisoned for almost three decades in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania's Correctional System. I am currently housed at State Correctional Institution Pine Grove located in Indiana Pennsylvania. I am serving a sentence of life imprisonment also known as "DEATH BY INCARCERATION" for second degree murder in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's constitution statue reads second degree murder is automatically DEATH BY INCARCERATION. For three decades I maintained my innocence. First and foremost, I would like to thank and praise THE ABOLITIONIST LAW CENTER for the opportunity of giving me a voice. A voice of humanity, a voice that has been voice(less) for over three decades for an unsolved death of a human being that the Philadelphia Police Department accused me as being responsible.

Over the last three decades my DEATH BY INCARCERATION has been oppressive by Pennsylvania's Correctional System that placed me in solitary confinement for over 10-years without breaking any rules or regulations and never received any infraction. While in solitary confinement my aunt was brutally murdered and violently gunned down, my uncle died of AIDS, my brother died of drug overdose, my father died of pancreatic cancer, and just recently I lost my mother to kidney failure.

All these years experiencing DEATH BY INCARCERATION and voiceless, THE ABOLITIONIST LAW CENTER gave me hope again, THE ABOLITIONIST LAW CENTER built my self-esteem back up again, THE ABOLITIONIST LAW CENTER made my voice vibrant, energetic, and inspired by abolitionists such as Sojourner Truth — "AIN'T I A WOMAN? Maria Steward — "WHAT IF I AM A WOMAN" and Harriet Tubman — "THERE WAS ONE OF TWO THINGS I HAD A RIGHT TO, LIBERTY OR DEATH; IF I COULD NOT HAVE ONE, I WOULD HAVE THE OTHER; FOR NO MAN SHOULD TAKE ME ALIVE.

After three decades imprisoned under a multitude of United States Presidents and Pennsylvania Governors, I compare my DEATH BY INCARCERATION to the African Slave Trafficking of human beings. In fact, slavery was an economic institution, the United States Constitution designed repressive policies i.e. 1793 FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

In 1850, 57-years later, the FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT.

In 1865, 15-years later, the 13th Amendment was ratified to the United States Constitution, Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

In 1994, 129-years later, the 42nd President Bill Clinton signed VIOLENT OFFENDERS INCARCERATION and TRUTH-IN-SENTENCING INCENTIVE GRANTS ACT to expand the PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

Finally, I am not a prison reformer, I am a prison abolitionist and I want the abolishment of all prisons: local, state and federal. The Pennsylvania's Correctional System have oppressive policies and Correctional Officials are the oppressor, these prisons remind you of slavery.

My DEATH BY INCARCERATION been a headache for over three decades. The 27th President William Howard Taft and 10th United States Chief Justice wrote in 1928, "the chief purpose of the prosecution of crime is to punish the criminal and to deter others tempted to do the same thing from doing it because of the penal consequences....It is a mistake of huge proportion to lead criminals by pampering them, and by relaxing discipline of them and the harshness of prison life, to think that they are wards of the state for their comfort, entertainment, and support" [WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT: "TOWARD A REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL LAW" IN THE DRIFT OF CIVILIZATION. NEW YORK: SIMON & SCHUSTER, 1929].

In struggle,

Hoagie