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Federal Bureau of Prisons

Judiciary Members Of Congress

Oversight Committee Of Congress

Warden Abuse Continues At Florence Prison Camp

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To BOP Executives and Members of the United States Senate and Congressional Leaders:

The complex warden Mr. Matevousian At Florence Prison Camp in Colorado continue to abuse and harass inmates and families through the clearest actions of abuse to date. Mr. Matevousian issued a memo with absurd changes to phone and telephone usage that A Just Cause is compelled to contact Washington DC Legislators and Oversight and Judiciary Committees that oversee the conduct of BOP about and a lawsuit that will be filed soon. These actions will cause tension and unnecessary challenges facing the inmates and their families. Below is listed the actions of abuse being taken by this Warden. It also takes away communication from said inmates from their Clergy and Spiritual Advisor Pastor Rose Banks. It states as follows:

1) After a call is completed by an inmate there will be a 1 hour waiting period. (Why would he arbitrarily change the 15 min. rule implemented by the phone system when there are no issues, bottlenecks or friction concerning phone usage? Doesn't make any sense.) Mr. Matevousian's change is not for the safety and security of the institution but is an arbitrary one, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

2) Only one telephone and one computer will be available during normal work hours (7am-10:30am) & (12:30pm - 4pm). (Inmate work hours vary tremendously, with some inmates working only an hour or two per day. From 6am-7am, people are getting dressed, going to breakfast and heading to work. From 6am-7am the phones are almost never used because inmates are getting dressed, going to breakfast and heading somewhere on the plantation to work. Furthermore, it is too early to contact most anyone. Between 10:30am and 12:30am, inmates are at lunch or commissary. Warehouse workers/slaves work from 6:30am to 1:30pm. When they return from work, there is likely to be a huge bottleneck at a single phone and computer because virtually all of the 230 people in a single housing unit are not working at this time. By 4pm, when the phones are supposed to be available, they can't be used because inmates are required to be in their cells for count which usually isn't completed until 5pm, at which time people are being called to dinner chow. Chow will end by 6pm. Between 6pm and 11:30pm over 200 people will be seeking to use 8 to 10 computers and five phones which will create unnecessary tension. Overnight, between 11:30pm and 6:30am all of the computers and phones are shut down and not available for use by anyone. If there had been a problem over the years with the current phone and email usage at the camp, the previous wardens would have certainly made changes for the safety and security of the institution. These arbitrary changes are being made solely to inflict unnecessary pain, suffering and difficulty on the inmate population and their families.

The BOP already limits each inmate to 300 minutes per month. For some strange, unknown reason, the Warden is attempting to prevent inmates from being able to use all of their 300 minutes and create more tension at the prison.

3) An inmate approved contact list may not contain the immediate family member, friend, or other contact that is also on any other inmate's approved contact list, which applied to phone numbers, email addresses and physical addresses.

This is more absurd than the phone and certainly serves not penological interest. What this change does is make it impossible for us to contact all of the friends and family we share simply because they can only be on one of our respective contacts list in the computer. For example, David Zirpolo, Demetrius and Clint can't contact Pastor Banks (their pastor) or any member of the family, who have been close friends of theirs for decades. They can't even write a letter to them because to mail a letter a label must be printed out from their contact list on the computer.

The complex warden is threatening disciplinary action if any of these new rules are not followed, which means that if Dave Zirpolo, Demetrius Harper or Clint Stewart were to put Pastor Rose Banks, again their Pastor, physical address or email or any other family and friends they collectively know in the computer to send a birthday card or electronic birthday wish, they would be disciplined.

These actions are beyond abuse and violation of rights of all inmates and family members will suffer greatly, which is not the purpose of BOP or those that represent the organization. A Just Cause is asking for an immediate investigation on these actions, which violate the Religious rights of the inmates mentioned, and takes away Spiritual Counseling and advisement that no institution has the right to take. This creates and undo burden to families and inmates that escalates an already difficult situation. We ask for immediate action on this clear ongoing pattern of abuse taking place at Florence Prison Camp and is staff, namely Warden Matevousian.

Sincerely,

Lamont Banks

Executive Director

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