



## **Advocacy Group Says Federal Warden in Colorado Continues Discriminatory, Cruel Practices Against Non-Violent Inmates**

### ***Failure by Mainstream Media to Report on Justice System Abuses Emboldens Rogue Behavior by Federal Justice Officials***

As part of its continuing campaign to expose the pervasive and senseless cruelty in America's prisons, advocacy organization A Just Cause recently reported in a press release how the warden (Mr. Christiansen) at the federal prison camp in Florence, Colorado allegedly cruelly abused and discriminated against a camp inmate seeking a one week furlough (unsupervised release) to grieve and bury his sister while approving other non-violent camp inmates 40 hours per week to work unsupervised as slaves in the local community and others days of unsupervised travel to other prisons. Warden Christiansen has committed another act of cruelty, this time denying a bereavement furlough to a camp inmate whose 19-year-old daughter died.

In the first week of December 2018, another inmate (Warren Rivera) with only 4 months remaining on his sentence, asked Warden Christiansen to return home for a couple of days to bury his 19-year-old daughter and grieve with his wife and other small children. On December 10, 2018, Christiansen denied Rivera a furlough to bury his daughter while continuing approving weekly furloughs for inmates to work as slaves in the community for pennies per hour. Under the Constitution, specifically the 13th Amendment, slavery was abolished "except as a punishment for a crime..."

"It's clear that the federal prison camp in Florence, Colorado is a plantation where the warden is a cold, callous slave-master committed to granting furloughs for the cruel practice of slavery while cracking the whip and discriminating against inmates requesting bereavement furloughs which the BOP authorizes wardens to grant for up to 30 days to grieve and bury a loved one," says Lamont Banks, Executive Director of A Just Cause. "It should surprise no one that a warden who is comfortable enslaving other human beings lacks the compassion and humanity to allow a non-violent inmate at an 'out-custody' prison camp without walls, bars or fences adequate time to grieve and bury a loved one. Institutionalized slavery in the BOP with its wardens serving as cruel slave-masters is not only reprehensible but a national disgrace. Colorado abolished the practice of slavery in prisons in the November election and the U.S. Congress should follow their example," adds Banks.

A Just Cause says the vast majority of Americans are in the dark about what actually goes on behind the walls of America's prisons and are also unaware of the widespread misconduct, violations of law and cruelty that occurs daily, not only by prison officials but also by prosecutors and judges. "AJC doesn't believe that all prison officials, judges and prosecutors are actually engaging in misconduct, however, many of them are culpable because they turn a blind eye to cruelty and abuses perpetrated by their peers, which is apparently what happened in 2015 where the likely cause of death of a non-violent inmate at the Florence camp was homicide by prison staff," asserts Cliff Stewart of A Just Cause.

A Just Cause has provided information to Congress about the suspicious 2015 death of Florence camp inmate Michael Anderson after being thrown into solitary confinement ("the hole"). Florence officials quickly cremated Anderson's body and claimed Anderson committed suicide, but Anderson's mother,

speaking on AJC's Blog talk Radio program, says the coroner told her she should get an attorney because Michael did not take his own life.

"In federal trials accusations of prosecutorial and judicial misconduct by average people are disregarded nearly 100% of the time by the self-policing mechanisms set-up by the DOJ and U.S. Courts where conflicted prosecutors and judges ignore irrefutable evidence of misconduct to protect their colleagues who are friends of theirs," says Banks. "AJC has personally witnessed a mainstream media that appears to be sycophantic towards big government and disregard irrefutable evidence of prosecutorial and judicial misconduct that resulted in the wrongful conviction and imprisonment six technology executives known as the IRP6," adds Banks. "It's really sad when the media, who has been described in Supreme Court opinions as being the fourth institution that serves as a check on all three branches of our government, is unwilling to report abuses by federal prosecutors and judges against average people. What it really amounts to is a form of class-discrimination by the media," concludes Banks.

In November 2017, after receiving a dossier describing egregious acts of prosecutorial and judicial misconduct in the IRP6 case (view online at <http://bit.ly/2wBaCyJ>), four congressional House Democrats sent a letter to the DOJ seeking answers (view online at <http://bit.ly/2HuvGtC>). A Just Cause encourages all Americans to read the dossier to see how a rogue prosecutor and judge wrongly imprisoned the innocent, attacked a church, destroyed a small business and made families suffer.

The IRP6 case concerns the 2011 wrongful conviction and imprisonment (7 to 11 years) of software executives from the minority-owned IRP Solutions Corporation, who developed Case Investigative Life Cycle (CILC, pronounced "silk") case management software. Former federal appeals judge H. Lee Sarokin says the government turned a civil case criminal, violated the IRP6's constitutional rights in an unfair trial and imprisoned them for failing to pay corporate debts. Judicial complaints were filed against the judge but were casually dismissed by the self-policing 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. Four of the five IRP execs (David A. Banks, Demetrius Harper, David Zirpolo & Clinton Stewart) are still imprisoned at the Florence federal prison camp. Another executive, Ken Barnes, was released from the camp in October 2018 after completing his sentence. All have personally experienced and/or witnessed abuses by Florence prison officials, prosecutors and judges in their case and are available for interviews.

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