

Name: Anonymous 852 Anonymous 852
Title: Community Outreach Fellow
Organization or Agency: The Coalition
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

Standing in solidarity with the family of J'Alen Jones. Sadly, I was witness to the homicide of Mr. Jones. I was retaliated against for my willingness to speak to investigators about how his demise came about. I had worked in the In-Patient Medical Unit when Mr. Jones was beaten to death. On the heels of Mr. Jones death I was placed in segregation for contraband in my work area. What exactly was the contraband is up in the air. The next four years that followed I received a DR (disciplinary report) every two years almost to the date of J'Alen Jones death. I didn't have a DR well over twenty years prior to the incident of Mr. Jones death. I was denied certain jobs within the facility. While in Cheshire C.I. I was denied opportunities to work in either of the shops. Marker Shop or Sign Shop. Denied to work in the Laundry and or Gym. I was told I've been red flag for a job. When I asked what does that mean no one appeared to have an answer for me. Due to my questioning of being denied a job I was eventually given a trash job of which I didn't ask.

When prisoners speak up as to issues taking place against other prisoners retaliatory measures are taken against us. The Administration doesn't do anything to curve such actions. Their response is ALWAYS, "The officers are doing their jobs." This avails them the opportunity to avoid doing their job. For me, I can't say I'm no longer impacted by their ill actions but I will say I don't allow it to affect me to the point of reacting. Retaliation should be addressed for it is a measured utilized to prevent prisoners from speaking out about the ills we witness.

Respectfully Submitted By:

GARY L. COOKE, JR.