

NYC BOARD OF COLLECTIONS
1 CENTRE STREET, ROOM 2213
NEW YORK, NY. 10007

January 25,

RE: SOLITARY CONFINEMENT,

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE OVERSIGHT BOARD:

I WAS RECENTLY CONTACTED BY NADJA GUYOT OF NO NEW JAILS/NYC, AND INFORMED THAT THE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT BOARD THAT IS IN CHARGE OF ENFORCING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE IN NEW YORK CITY JAILS - IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

I DON'T KNOW IF I QUALIFY AS PART OF THE "PUBLIC", BUT IN MY STATUS AS AN INCARCERATED PERSON I FEEL THAT I AM WELL QUALIFIED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE AFFECTS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. TO PUT IT SIMPLY - PLACING A HUMAN BEING IN A 10x6 CELL WHERE THEY ARE DENIED ALL SOCIAL INTERACTION, THE ABILITY TO WORK, REHABILITATION, RECREATION AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES - IS NOT CONDUCTIVE; NOR WILL IT EVER BE PURPOSEFUL IN PREPARING AN INMATE FOR HIS OR HER EVENTUAL RETURN TO SOCIETY. WHEN YOU PUT A PERSON IN A CAGE YOU MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE SPACE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND EVERYTHING ELSE. I AM A FAR WORSE PERSON FOR THE YEARS I HAVE SPENT WITH ONLY THESE FOUR WALLS AS COMPANY.

IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE USE OF SOLITARY CON-

FINEMENT HAS FINALLY MADE ITS WAY TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PRACTICE WAS ONCE HAILED THE FOREMOST PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATIVE TECHNIQUE WHEN IT WAS FIRST IMPLEMENTED AT THE EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY IN PHILADELPHIA, IN 1826? HAS IT REALLY TAKEN THIS LONG FOR OUR STANDARDS OF DECENCY TO EVOLVE IN ORDER TO QUESTION THAT MAYBE CONFINING AN INDIVIDUAL 23 HOURS A DAY IN AN AREA THE SIZE OF AN ELEVATOR, TYPICALLY WITHOUT ANY VISITS, PHONE, OR PRIVILEGES, MIGHT NOT SERVE TO MAKE THEM A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY? MAYBE THAT IS WHAT DOSTEOUSLY MEANT WHEN HE WROTE: "THE DEGREE OF CIVILIZATION WITHIN A SOCIETY MAY BE MEASURED BY ENTERING ITS' PRISONS." MAYBE THEN, IT'S OUR OWN SOCIETY THAT STANDS IN NEED OF REHABILITATION.

d.

LEE DOANE, #09B3551
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P.O. BOX 500
ELMIRA, NY. 14902-0500

POSTSCRIPT- PLEASE ATTACH MY FULL NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO MY SUBMISSION IF IT IS USED FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE.
THANK YOU.