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## Untitled

Jerrell Brooks

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Hello Readers,

My name is Jerrell Brooks #1120649. I am a 35-year-old Black man who has been illegally incarcerated since the tender age of 17 for a crime I did not commit. I have been convicted of two counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and sentenced to die in a level five maximum security prison here in Missouri, home of one of the deadliest gangs in American history: the Ku Klux Klan.

Since I have been in prison, I've found myself and my purpose. During the 19 years I have been here, I have demonstrated a commitment to rehabilitation by not having over 55 points in the Disciplinary Conduct Violation Point System. I have literally completed every program the Missouri Department of Corrections has to offer or require an offender to complete. I've also made a transition from an active gang member to becoming a God-fearing man.

I come from poverty. I grew up in one of the most dangerous cities in the country ill this day, St. Louis. It is a city where most people barely survive to see 17.

My story is a typical one: A poor young Black child growing up in a poor-urban community in America while suffering from some form of abuse (mentally or physically, if not both). I had one big question in my heart, "God, why me?" I never knew my biological father because, he too, has spent his entire life in a Missouri State Prison. I was raised by a single parent, my beautiful mother. I only saw or had a father figure for 3/5 of my entire life, let alone in my household. The majority of those times my stepfather was either struggling with substance abuse or he was abusive towards my mother and myself. I am pretty sure now you can understand how my story goes: Another SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BLACK CHILD turning to the streets looking for love in all the wrong places, you know! I am another statistic to the white man's mass incarceration plot dating back to the year of...forever????

I am from a state home to the most prisons in America, even with state like Texas and California whose populations double if not 3 or 4 times more than ours. If this injustice system in the state of Missouri isn't about the dollar, then how does this happen to a small state like Missouri? People, you would think that with over 20 something correctional facilities here in Missouri that there should or would be more rehabilitation, but it is the total opposite. How do you expect a person that enters the prison system as a teenager at 17 and is released when he is 35-40 years old, to live a productive life when he was given no productive tools of educating himself or even given productive job training skills to prepare to enter back into society? He has been absent from society for so long, he will have to re-learn and adopt, all while hoping that he never re-offends and is sent back to prison.

Do I find this Injustice System and the Missouri Department of Correction a joke? Yes, I do and this why! There is no rehabilitation or safety anywhere in the system. The word Rehabilitation means: Prepare someone who has been injured, ill, or addicted to drugs to resume a normal life through training and therapy. It means the total opposite here at South Central Correctional Center in Missouri. It is the U.S. government's responsibility to create an environment that will allow prisoners and citizens to live a safe and productive life. The Department of Corrections is more than a set of institutions; it is a state of mind. It is this state of mind which needs to be reformed.

In the U.S. criminal justice system, there is a saying, "once a criminal, always a criminal." I personally beg to differ. A criminal is again, a mind state. A mind state that can be reformed by the simplest thing as being loved by someone or even a visit by someone you love. It's the lack of attention! We also know that every part of the criminal justice system falls most

heavily on the poor and people of color, including the fact that slavery is mandated by the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment of the U.S. constitution as LEGAL SLAVERY!

I am a prisoner who has not seen his mother since June 21, 2009. It's 2021. 12 years!

Readers, I would like to tell this brief story of a Black teen whose life was taken by the hands of the Injustice System. On October 6, 2002, at 10:17pm, a 17-year-old Black boy was taken away from the arms of his mother by the hands of two white men (homicide detectives) who entered into his home with a "No Knock Warrant." He was last seen wearing dark color jeans and a Black Hoodie. He was 5'8" 140lbs. He had \$262 and a pack of skittles in his pocket. He was taken to a dark place where he was held and beaten for two days, screaming and hollering, "Momma, I can't breathe!" But his cries fell on deaf ears, and he received no help.

October 4 2004, this Black teen stands trial in front of 12 of his supposed peers with his hands up chanting, "Hands up please don't shoot me" and "I'm innocent." Yet, he was still shot and killed by the hands of the Klan: Juries. His body was sent to a morgue also known as a "prison" The Black teen's soul was given to a higher power called God because he was so young and innocent. God said onto the boy, "Remain strong, keep faith because one day soon you will RISE and be let out of prison with a new life. These foolish acts brought upon you Breonna Taylor, Mike Brown, Trayvon Martin, George Floyd, will be under forgiven. Continue to pray because everything will be okay." Amen!

Jerrell Brooks.

Genre

Social Justice Autobiography

Tags:

Trayvon Martin, Mike Brown, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd; I can't breathe!; Ku Klux Klan;  
Criminal Justice system; All-white jury; religion