

Tekst 11

LETTERS

To the Editor:**Re “End Mass Incarceration Now” (editorial, May 25):**

- 1 For nearly five decades, I have worked with formerly incarcerated men and women. It guided me to reach the conclusion that our prison system is an exercise in institutional futility.
The system almost never allows the inmate to consider the factors that led him or her to addiction and/or crime. 1
The bottom line, reflected in the country’s high recidivist rate, is that the prison system is contributing to antisocial behavior. We have to be more creative in how and why we incarcerate, and whom.
DAVID ROTHENBERG
New York
- 2 One salient fact was not mentioned in your editorial: the percentage of those incarcerated who suffer significant mental illness. This fact was revealed in your coverage of Rikers Island (front page, May 22), which reported that nearly 40 percent of those prisoners were mentally disabled.
Have we emptied our mental health facilities only to have former patients end up in jails and prisons? Is that where they belong? Is it better to have the mentally ill controlled by prison guards rather than by psychotherapists, and by fire hoses rather than by therapy and drugs?
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MARTIN TOLCHIN
Washington
- 3 As a professor of criminal justice and a researcher who has spent 40 years examining the long-term effects of mass incarceration on prisoners and society, I believe that the concept of redemption must play a much larger role.
Countless inmates (arrested for both nonviolent and violent crimes) pose no discipline problems within the prison system. Their behaviors have changed, and yet they are not released. 3
If given the opportunity, incarcerated people can change and show transformation and growth through such means as earning a high school equivalency diploma, staying off drugs, getting back with their families, connecting with their children, and connecting with the families of victims.
STAN STOJKOVIC
Milwaukee



New York Times, 2014

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Drie van de onderstaande vijf zinnen (a, b, c, d en e) zijn uit de brieven weggelaten:

- a And the victims will never get the revenge they seek.
- b At some point, keeping them locked up becomes simply cruel.
- c In fact, to survive in that dehumanized subculture, you have to continue the behavior and thinking that lead to imprisonment.
- d The goal of the private companies running our prisons is to keep the wheels of commerce generating profits.
- e Their incarceration is a national disgrace.

2p **39** Noteer het nummer van elke brief, gevolgd door de letter van de zin die er uit is weggelaten.

Let op: je houdt twee van de vijf zinnen over.