

Should Criminals Suffer More in Prison? Custom Essay

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The purpose of a prison is to keep criminals and rehabilitate them. The facility's design is to instill obedience in the prisoners and maintain order within the cells. Wardens will throw prisoners into solitary confinement when they become disobedient and refuses to follow prison rules. In contrast to this, if the prisoners follow the rules and avoid in-fighting, they can continue with peaceful prison life. They will wake up, eat, socialize, and go back to their cells at a designated time. Most prisoners are murderers, rapists, and thieves. Prisons keep them away from the rest of society, trapped between thick walls and an army of armed guards. Though they are secluded, they are not suffering in prison. Some of them even become leaders and members of gangs within the facilities. They can live an almost normal life inside the prison walls. They do not need to work for food or shelter. They only need to obey the prison rules and even if they commit an act of disobedience, all that the guards can do is to throw them in a dark secluded cell. Individuals should expect a harsh experience in prison to reduce recidivism and avoid potential criminal acts.

A child molester and killer may be found guilty in court and will receive life imprisonment. He will spend the rest of his life falling in line for food and sleeping behind bars. Inside the prison, he may feel regret for the things he has done. However, while the prisoner is eating his food peacefully in the facility's canteen, the mother of the dead child is back at work. She is having a hard time focusing on her task since she can still hear the terrified scream of her daughter. This is just an example of how comfortable prison life can be. The justice system stripped the criminal of their freedom but they are still able to live a complete life with food and shelter. The victims, however, have to live with the remains that the criminal left in their life. Some may say that the

prisoner might feel regret during his time in prison. That his conscience will keep him awake at night. This may be true for some but more hardened criminals are cold and sociopathic. Most victims will carry the scars that the criminal acts inflicted. Knowing that harsh punishments and suffering are awaiting the criminals can give the victims a feeling of relief and justice.

Another reason why prisons should offer a harsher experience is the growing trend of homeless people committing crimes to spend a night in prison. Due to the growing number of homeless people, charities are unable to cater to all of them. This leads to the homeless committing imprisonable offenses to avoid sleeping in the streets (Ramesh, 2010). There is also the case of James Verone, a man who robbed a bank for \$1 in hopes of getting healthcare while inside prison (Memmott, 2011). These individuals did not fear the experience of going and living inside a prison. They aimed to exploit the vulnerable system and use it to their advantage. If the homeless have no problem sleeping in the same condition as murderers, rapists, and thieves then it only means that life inside prison is better than it should be. People should be afraid of ending up behind bars and not going out of their way to commit a robbery in search of healthcare.

If criminals suffer more in prison, people will be more motivated to follow the law and do good for others. They would be afraid of ending up in a place of punishment. One way to do this is to force prisoners into hard labor. Some prison facilities already do this but the work is trivial and some facilities even pay the prisoners for their work. They should instead force hard labor on the prisoners without the promise of payment or other forms of reward. Let the murderers, rapists, and thieves work more than 16 hours

a day and give them only a few minutes of break time. Prisoners should not be kept inside prison facilities and be allowed to read books or work out. Prisons should strip off the privileges and human rights of criminals the same way they treated their victims. Of course, the extremity of the labor or punishment should fit the prisoner's crime.

One more reason why criminals should suffer more is the reports that suggest that a criminal's time in prison increases their rate of recidivism. This, however, only refers to the length of a prisoner's sentence and not the gravity of his punishment. A thief can spend 15 years in prison with a stable source of food and without the fear of losing the roof over his head. If he is set free after 15 years, he will not be afraid to commit another crime. He is already comfortable and accustomed to the culture inside the prison. However, if in those 15 years he experienced great hardships such as 16-hour forced labor with little food and uncomfortable sleeping conditions, he will think twice about committing another imprisonable crime. Perhaps the system that measures the gravity of punishment through the length of imprisonment is ineffective which causes an increased rate of recidivism. Instead, punish criminals through physical and mental exhaustion. Fit the gravity of work depending on their crimes and let them feel the suffering they inflicted towards others.

The conditions inside prison facilities vary from each other yet all have similar structures. A sound bed where prisoners can sleep comfortably and a place where they can eat complete meals three times a day. A condition that even homeless people envy from criminals. Making criminals suffer more in prison may sound bad at first but sympathizing with the victims of violent crimes will give one a definitive perspective. Murderers and rapists should not enjoy three meals a day nor sleep comfortably under

a roof. They should pay for their crimes not by spending years in prison, but by suffering from exhaustion and harsh treatment. Let them suffer the consequences of their actions not by reading books or working out, but by endless physical and mental labor. Perhaps letting people know that only harsh conditions await in prison can reduce the rates of recidivism and make would-be criminals think twice.

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