

Censorship in Amerika?

The myth of free speech and the reality of censorship in Amerikan prisons

"I've recently received a contraband slip ... telling me that I can no longer receive the literature that is sent to me by you. The pigs even had the audacity to tell me in bold letters to 'remedy this situation to avoid further problems.'"

--Massachusetts prisoner in Walpole

"The mail or publication is a threat to legitimate penological objectives."--Airway Heights Prison (Washington state)

"Yesterday I received a notice of publication restriction from the Prison mailroom for MIM Notes. This is due to the passing of [a] Senate Bill ... which gives the authorities the right to stop any material that is deemed a threat to the safety and security of the institution. This means any material that speaks about the oppression of Black people and other oppressed nationalities, or the state..."--A California Prisoner

"You are hereby advised that a publication entitled MIM Notes... has been found unacceptable... for delivery to inmates of this institution for the following reason: it is determined detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution." --FCI, Texas

"The facility media review committee has censored and denied me the receipt of [MIM Notes]. Presently I am appealing the decision to central office and I am also contemplating a federal court challenge to the practice, since I have been consistently experiencing the same with other publications." --New York prisoner

I just received my first edition of MIM Notes which I truly find excellent, educational, resourceful and most of all very inspiring. But ... I must sadly report that additional forward of MIM Notes will be confiscated. The New Jersey Youth Correctional Facility claims, "It's not authorized and it poses a threat to security." -NJ prisoner

"I had a talk with the warden and he has informed me that I may still receive my issues of MIM Notes as long as I remove the "X" from my name." --A Tennessee prisoner (After removing the X from his name, the prison made up another reason to censor his subscription.)

"The item established probable cause to believe that information contained within constitutes a threat to institutional discipline or security." --Kentucky prison staff

Censorship of letters, newspapers, books and other mail is something we expect to hear about happening in "repressive" and "backward" societies in other countries. But this is a daily reality for Amerika's prisoners. This and other repressive measures in Amerikan prisons paint a picture of the oppressive nature of Amerikan imperialism, particularly targeted against oppressed nationalities.

Join the fight against censorship. Contact MIM for more info.

[HTTP://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM)