# MASS INCARCERATION SINCE 1492



"Indian reservations are the only places in the United States where the criminality of an act relies exclusively on the race of the offender and victim." -Luana Ross One young girl from the Pine Ridge Reservation had been held in a secure unit within the facility for almost two years, during which she was placed in four-point restraints and made to 'spread eagle' on a cement slab for hours at a time. She was also kept in isolation for days and even weeks and pepper-sprayed numerous times. In addition the facility also instituted a rule that penalized native youth for speaking in their Native Language- several were placed on lockdown status for speaking Lakota to each other.

#### Incarceration Rates of Indigenous Peoples

- Native Americans are incarcerated at a rate 38% higher than the national average, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Native American youths are 30% more likely than whites to be referred to juvenile court than have charges dropped, according to National Council on Crime and Delinquency.
- Native Americans are more likely **to be killed by police** than any other racial group, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.
- Native American **men** are incarcerated at **four times the rate** of white men
- Native American women are incarcerated at six times the rate of white women, according to a report compiled by the Lakota People's Law Project.
- Native Americans fall victim to violent crime at more than double the rate of all other US citizens, according to BJS reports.
- **Eighty-eight percent** of violent crime committed against Native American women is carried out by non-Native perpetrators.

With these increased attacks on Indian sovereignty and culture, imprisonment became the government's principal means of intimidation and punishment. With the enforcement of these "foreign" laws Native people began to be "locked up" in many different kinds of institutions such as; Military forts, Missions, Reservations, Boarding schools, and today, increasingly, in state and federal prisons. It is seen that historically, the most brutal methods of social control are directed at a society's most oppressed groups. The people most likely to be sent to jail and prisons are poor people and women of color. In North America, a very high proportion of this group are American Indians and for them the use of incarceration functions as an extension of the history and violent mechanisms of colonization.

--Stormy Ogden

member of the Tule River Yokuts tribe, also Kashaya and Lake County Pomo



### Honorings



Allen Locke-killed by police one day after participating in "Native Lives Matter" Rally in SD.



Rexdale Henry- Choctaw activist died in police custody under suspicious circumstances.



Sarah Lee Circle Bear- 24-year-old woman of Clairmont, South Dakota died in police custody under suspicious circumstances.



Loreal Tsigne - 27 year old Navajo woman shot and killed by Winslow PD.

### Honorings



**Renee Davis** - Pregnant single mom killed by police called to her home on tribal land in Washington for "welfare check"



Mah-hi-vist Goodblanket,-shot and killed by Custer County PD. He was 18 yrs old



Paul Castaway – Lakota man with lived experience of a mental health disorder shot and killed by Denver PD .



Jeannetta Riley- 36 year old Native woman with a mental health history shot and killed by Idaho State Police.

### Honorings



Jason Pero-14 yr old Chippewa teenager shot and killed by Ashland County Sheriff's Deputy after making phone call himself.



John T. Williams - a 50-year-old seventh generation Nitinaht carver of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, was shot four times by a Seattle police officer.



Jacquelyn Salyers- Puyallup tribal member fatally shot by Tacoma PD.







## Freedom tor omericand Prisoners

#### Eagle Song

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To pray, you open your whole self To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon To one whole voice that is you. And know that there is more That you can't see, can't hear Can't know, except in moments

Steadily growing and in languages that aren't always sound But other circles of motion Like eagle that Sunday morning Over Salt River Circled in blue sky, in wind Swept our hearts clean with sacred wings

We see you see ourselves And know that we must take The utmost care and kindness In all things

Breathe in knowing we are made of all of this And breathe, knowing we are truly blessed because we were born and die soon within a true circle of motion.

Like eagle, rounding out the morning inside us We pray that it will be done In beauty, in beauty

Sources and Informational Links

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