

An American flag is visible behind vertical metal prison bars. The stars and stripes of the flag are partially obscured by the bars.

PRISONER

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When you think of a totalitarian police state like Nazi Germany or Communist Russia, what image comes to mind? Enormous prisons filled with millions of citizens. Humans suffering in small cages like animals. But a prison society could never happen here in the United States, right?

THINK AGAIN.

The United States imprisons more people per capita than any other nation – more than Iraq, more than China, even more than Russia.

Over the last 30 years America's prison population has grown 9.6 times, and is now over 2 million. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders, most of whom are there simply for recreational substances. And the violent criminals? A vast percentage perform violent crimes as a direct result of America's failed "War On Drugs".

AMERICA IS NOT FREE.

The most tragic result of recreational substance prohibition is that it has created a society where crime flourishes. Murders are an order of magnitude higher than they were before the prohibitions of the 20th century. Other increases in crime, like robberies, burglaries, and even graffiti from gangs tagging their territories, can be traced back to our current prohibition laws. The increases in crime have made us all prisoners in our own homes.

Study after study has shown that it is these drug laws, not the drugs themselves, that have resulted in the majority of society's problems today. As a result, here in the country that once stood for freedom, it is our *freedom* that is imprisoned.

DEPRESSING?

Yes, of course it is. But we *can* end the drug crisis and the crime it has created. We *can* have our freedom back. But *only* if we take action.

We must let our political leaders know that we have to end recreational substance prohibition and replace it with regulation - just like we did when we ended alcohol prohibition. This is the only way to remove the profits from the illegal drug black market, and it is the only way we will lower crime, get drugs out of schools, and make America free once again.

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