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Eye for an Eye: American Prisons V.s Norway Prisons

It's a fact that 76.6% of American prisoners get re-arrested within five years of being released (Business Insider). Being in jail is about punishment for the heinous act that was committed by the offender. If we were to rehabilitate the convicted, what are we really doing? Giving them a second chance is what we would be doing. Criminals that have committed murder, don't deserve the chance at rehabilitation. Having an unforgivable crime on your record should be the one offense to stand out when we consider rehabilitating some these remorseless beings. The American prison system should not mirror the Norway prison system because they are too relaxed with how they sentence and "punish" their inmates.

In the documentary, *Where to Invade Next* by Michael Moore, Moore goes over the pond to Norway to speak with the prisoners and with the guards about how they run their show. Norway only sentences their prisoners to 21 years and rehabilitate them the duration of their time they are serving (Moore). They are able to have hobbies and live on their own houses in the prison. It's a town within a town. They have jobs in the prison and are able to take classes. One inmate is in the dog house for murder and is sentenced for 5 years in jail working in the kitchen. While Moore is interviewing the inmate, Moore notices the knives behind the inmate. "I can't help but notice that right behind you are a whole bunch of really sharp knives." The inmate explains he has nothing to worry about with a grin on his face. The only "punishment" these inmates receive is they get their family visitations revoked.

Being a firm believer in "getting what you deserve" and "what goes around comes around", I don't believe rehabilitating inmates who have committed a heinous crime should be able to have the chance to better themselves god forbid their sentence isn't life in prison. After being in prison for murder and upon getting released they should go to a mental hospital to be fully evaluated and be treated before officially being sent back into our society. Depending on the intensity of the crime, should determine how long the criminal should be in jail. No matter what, you did the crime you do the time. As most of us are taught as children, when you do something you weren't allowed to do, you got a time out. It happened again and again and several times over because you needed to learn a lesson. Some or most of these criminals who could serial killers will never learn. So why is it that we need to rehabiliate? Moore spoke to a victim's father who was killed with 54 other kids at a camp, his son was 17 years old. Most of society doesn't have the same mind set as "one time killers" or serial killers. Half the time I think: "How can someone commit such a terrible crime?"

Reading articles about some of the opinions people have on rehabilitation and some being based off of the Norway system, I feel as though these people don't quite understand that our criminals are completely different from other countries criminals. How Norway does it is working for them, how we are doing it here in the US is working for us. Action would've be taken a very long time ago if people actually felt strongly about our prison system being terribly unfair. So, the American prison system should not mirror the Norway prison system as they are too lenient with their punishments.

Works Cited

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