

Richard Rojem & Peter K.

countdown
of a
crime



Foreword

I'll be honest. I don't know myself at the moment how this book will develop. I am at the beginning of the greatest possible catastrophe of a deeply felt friendship. Who wants to see a beloved friend murdered by the henchmen of a state? Murdered on a very specific day. Planned in cold blood. In the name of a justice that does not deserve the name.

Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. is the name of my friend whose life I now fear for...

And believe me, it hurts terribly every moment since I learned of the State of Oklahoma's criminal plan to assassinate him on June 27, 2024.

Daiji, as he would like to be called since he became a Buddhist, is to die for the murder of a little girl he allegedly kidnapped and killed in 1984. But he emphatically denies the crime. And there is much to suggest his innocence. There is no DNA from him at the crime scene or from the victim and he was only sentenced to death on the basis of weak circumstantial evidence.

These are perhaps the last days of my friend's life. And even though it almost tears my heart apart, he and I will try to document these days so that people can learn what this cruel and inhumane maximum penalty does.

When justice becomes murder, murder becomes justice!

Peter K. - May 2024

An important note!

This book does not claim to be grammatically perfect. Some of the texts are simply reproduced as they were written, without any major corrections. This book has only one claim - to be authentic...

We still don't know what will happen. There was no execution date yet, but we expected it in a few months...

Daiji wrote on the **Countdown To A Crime**

May 8, 2024

Well, guess the countdown clock has started, despite not yet having an "official" date.

I knew that this was coming. Have known it since July of '21, when my name was among a slate of 25 other death-sentenced men who had just had their execution dates published by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals (OCCA). My execution was scheduled for October 5, 2023.

26 execution dates, in 4 groups of 6 men with 2 in the last group, were scheduled at 30 day intervals.

6 men were executed before the State realized that that schedule was unworkable and it moved the OCCA to extend in interval to 60 days. Turns out every 30 days caused hardship for the executioners. A job for which they volunteered. I assumed that that hardship included bad dreams and bed wetting. Haven't seen any evidence to the contrary.

Expecting execution dates, as a death-sentenced prisoner, comes with being a death-sentenced prisoner. You know, well, you come to know that it's entirely within the realm of possible that you could be executed within 60 days of any given tomorrow. That's not a practical application, the appeals process is more drawn out than to permit that, but that doesn't keep the thought far from the front of your mind.

Still, it's one thing to expect something, to know that it's coming and it's quite another to be in that moment. While it's true that I don't yet have an official execution date: yesterday's ruling by OCCA knocks over that first domino, or, rather, the next domino in a nearly 40 year line of dominos. Not all that many dominos left standing now.

Surprisingly, I didn't gasp, there was no clutching of pearls, no nothing like that. I've been expecting this. Was surprised that it came when it did. There was a request by the State before OCCA for a 90 day "gap", a rather contentious hearing on that request, with one of the judges shouting from the bench, "... suck it up and do your job!" and the statement that the court would publish its ruling soon after the hearing. There's also an execution set for 060624. Conventional wisdom had it that the request and the dates would be published after that.

Wasn't.

The court granted the request, discontinued the groupings and stated that it would set execution dates one by one. Most likely to keep the State from coming back and requesting further extensions.

I was first man up in the next group and the next man to be executed. Discontinuing the groups doesn't change my place in line. I expect, now, that my execution date will be published within 30 days of 060624.

We'll see, eh?

I had to call the person who informed me of this. While this is part and parcel of my life, it isn't for others. I needed to know that they were okay and I needed to hear it in their voice. No matter how hard you try, you can't really cover sadness up. It makes itself known.

So, the game's afoot, eh?

Daiji, May 15, 2024

„Guys, Off to get #2! Sees yas ...“

Perhaps the shortest message Daiji has ever written to me. For a brief moment, I wondered what on earth he was trying to tell me. But then I immediately realized what he meant. How happy he was and what fantastic hope my friend wanted to express with these short words.

Daiji had lost more and more of his courage to face life in recent months, because after almost 40 years in prison, with the threat of being murdered at some point, his body was failing more and more. In short, he simply couldn't breathe, sometimes felt like he was about to suffocate and could barely walk a few meters without having to take a break.

But then doctors discovered the reason for his condition and told him they could treat it. Heart surgery could help him. Now he struggled with this possibility, as he assumed they would operate on his open heart... He was terrified of that.

But the whole thing was just a misunderstanding. In fact, he later found out that they wanted to put two stents in him. Not a major operation. The doctors would use a thin tube to reach his heart via his arm and open up the veins again.

Daiji was reassured and agreed to the treatment. The first stent already brought him great relief. Daiji wrote happily on April 20, 2024: *„I feel like a brand fucking new \$1,000,000 bill!! I am not kidding! Decreased breathlessness, no discomfort, no exhaustion, no gorilla sitting on my chest 24/7, no pain and none of the bullshit that accompanies all of that stuff!! Fucking amazing!! I walked the 100+ yards from this cell to the front entrance of this cellblock at about 0400 on 110424 and had to stop twice due to breathlessness. A little over 13 hours later I walked that same distance without having to stop and little breathlessness. Even the gomers noticed and commented on it.“*

It was a great pleasure to hear this from him and over the next few days I felt his vitality returning more and more. Then these brief words from him: "Guys, off to number 2!" Yes, now I understood and could hardly wait for the result. Of course, I hoped that he would feel even better after the second operation. But before I could receive this hoped-for email from him, I had to find out something terrible...

In "**The Oklahoman**" was published on May 17, 2024:

Death row inmate Richard Rojem set for execution June 27

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday scheduled an execution date for a convicted child murderer who has been on death row almost 40 years. (<https://eu.oklahoman.com/story/news/2024/05/17/richard-rojem-oklahoma-death-row-murder-7-year-old-execution-date/73706728007/>)

This can't be true...They must have just operated on him and now THIS!

I wrote Daiji an email immediately:

„My dear friend Daiji,

I have just received the shocking news that they have scheduled an appointment for you on June 27.

So now it's getting serious.

We both knew that the state would not give up so easily. Nevertheless, we will do everything in our power here. Sure, that's easier said than done, because we're a long, long way away. Unfortunately far too far. The huge ocean in between and yet I'm really, really close to you right now...

The countdown has begun, let's do what we discussed and celebrate your pardon or new trial at the end!

Do you have any ideas about what we can do?

In any case, I hope that the second stent has been placed successfully and that you are at least feeling a little better as a result.

I'll give you my private address here again. If you can no longer write using a tablet, you can contact me at these address...

...My friend and brother, I hug you and hug you and hug you...

I love you with all my heart,

Peter“

Then the waiting began... Would my email get through? When would he reply and how would he react to this terrible news?

On May 18, 2024, Daiji replied to me as follows:

„ monjin.

well, its happened - i have an active execution date for 270624 @ 1000.

yeah, i know - shocked the hell out of me too!

i learned of it watching the local newscast last night.

full disclosure: id seen, just an hour before, a copy of the motion seeking an execution date for me 90 days from 040424 and had heard from a guy who had spoken with his attorney earlier in the day and had heard of it - only both of these things were in the abstract: seeing it reported on the news like that put some ommphff behind it. make sense?

whaddayagonnado, eh?

*we knew that this was coming, just not so soon.
sorry to just dump this in your laps like this. figured that youd want to know
immediately and that youd want to hear it straight from me.*

forgive?

*dont really know what to say here, guys, have never been in this spot before.
have had execution dates before, only those were formalities and carried no
weight. this one has the weight of the state behind it.*

this one counts.

this is it.

*oh, the installation of this 2d stent - total success, start to finish. my best
description of it is: its like having 2 cherries on your triple chocolate (!)
sundae - doesnt improve the flavor, its just better.*

*okay, guys, i got a chance to earn a bag of potato chips here and need to get
a card made before the guy changes his mind!! sucks to be me, huh? :-)*

talk to you soon, eh?

be well.

*with my palms together before you,
daiji*

Daiji, May 18, 2024

peter,

time has become a bit of a blur at the moment. i found out about this at about 2225 local time last night and crashed shortly thereafter - got up at 0530 (yesterday) in order to get on the yard list ... yard that was never run!! so, i havent really had the time to sit with this. im stunned that this has come about so fucking quickly. we figured september or october - not tomorrow! so, still processing. still, i walked in here as a man and ill walk out of here as a man. maybe a little bloodied, but still unbowed...

...all this has come at a bad time, late on a friday night. cant really do anything. have sent emails. was very surprised that you received the one that i sent you. happy that you got it, just surprised that you did so quickly.

yeah, i suck! could you re-ask your questions. i deleted your emails along with quite a few others this morning unintentionally and am embarrassed for having done so. big ninny! so, re-ask your questions and ill get you the answers. deal? really? a portrait of me? have you seen me? sure you want that to happen? :-)
thanks for making that happen. dont really know what to say about that. never been the subject of a portrait before.

weve still got some time, eh? ill get the articles to you on a daily basis or, at lest, try too. this part of this is all new to me and i havent yet gotten my sea legs up under me. ill get there. i wont let you down.

ill see the lawyers on tuesday...

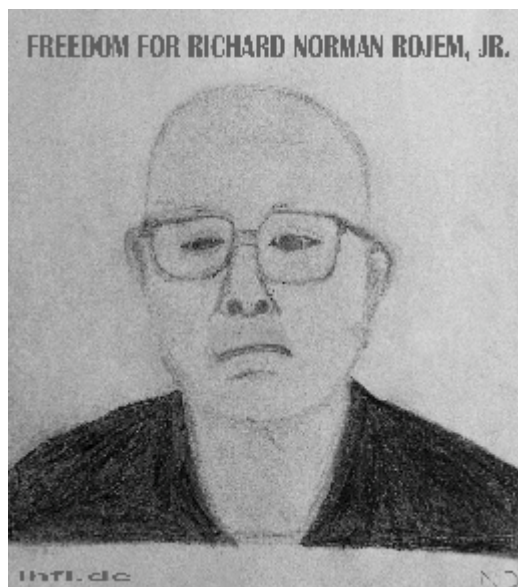
...kindly pass along my kindest of person regards to kai and niklas for their kindness and generosity. i am grateful for that.

were not done, brother.

be well.

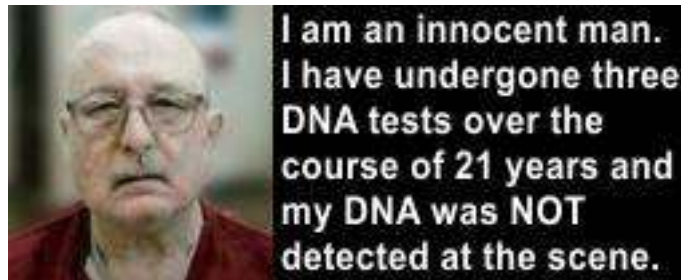
with my palms together before you,

daiji

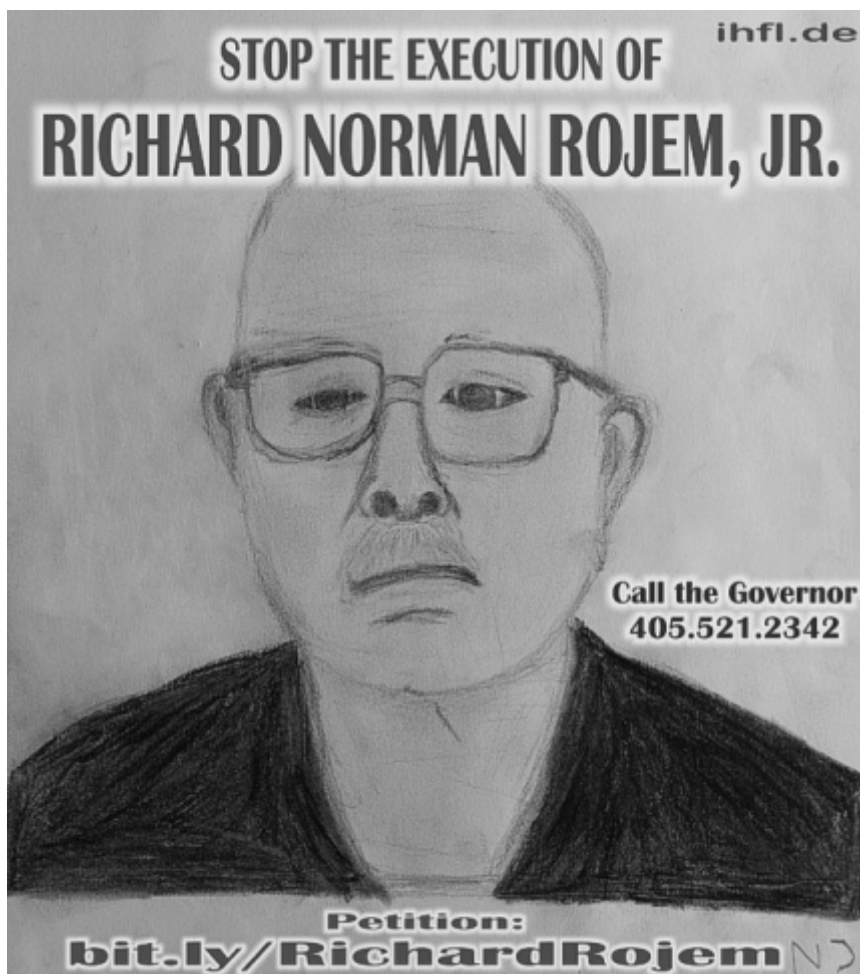


May 19, 2024

Execution date for Richard Norman Rojem set for June 27



Exceptional situation at the Initiative Hope for Life (IHfL), because our friend Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. is scheduled to be executed in Oklahoma on June 27, 2024. He was arrested and sentenced to death for the murder of a child in 1984. He has always maintained his innocence! We firmly believe in his innocence!



Richard has been a practicing Buddhist for many years and also uses the name Daiji.

We would like to let Daiji speak for himself at this point:

My name is Richard Norman Rojem, Jr.

I'm presently a 65 year old man who has been on Oklahoma's death for for 38 years. The longest in Oklahoma's history.

I am an innocent man.

I have been trying for nearly 39 years to prove my innocence.

The State of Oklahoma has a history of convicting and condemning to death innocent people.

...I have had the opportunity to submit to DNA testing. In 2000, it was for a then TV show that was to use DNA to prove a prisoners innocence. The State of Oklahoma objected at first, but agreed because it felt that the DNA testing would "seal my fate" It didn't. My DNA wasn't detected. In 2003, due to a resentencing trial, we had the opportunity to submit to DNA testing of the fingernail scrapings taken from Layla. We even used the guy that Oklahoma used for its DNA testing just to show that we were being above board. I was excluded as the donor of the DNA, the male DNA, discovered under her fingernails...

...I've submitted to 3 separate rounds of DNA testing over 21 years and MY DNA HAS NOT BEEN DETECTED...

...I'd be grateful for your support.

Thank you for reading this.

With my palms together,

Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. (May, 19th 2023)

We have abridged his text here; if you would like to read the full text, you can find it on our website for Richard:

<https://ihfl.de/rj/eng/index.htm>

We are now asking for your help. Please sign the petition. Call the Governor, write letters to him and/or fill out the linked contact form and ask the Governor to stop the execution of Richard!

Petition:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-richard-rojem-in-oklahoma/>

Contact address of Governor J. Kevin Stitt:

**Office of Governor J. Kevin Stitt
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
U.S.A**

Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board

**2501 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 201
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
contact.us@ppb.ok.gov**

Contact form for emails to Governor J. Kevin Stitt:

<https://oklahoma.gov/governor/contact/general-information/contact-the-governor.html>

Phone: **405.521.2342**

We also want to make it clear here that the death penalty also affects the people who are connected to the convicts. Richard has grown very close to our hearts. He is a wonderful person and did not deserve to be murdered by the state. And we are also very saddened by the news that they want to murder him. For us, it feels like they want to murder a piece of ourselves.

We are not ashamed of the tears we are currently shedding and ask Richard's potential murderers: "Why are you doing this to him and to us?"

The campaigns we are currently planning for Richard will cost a lot of money and we would like to thank everyone who supports us.

Donations with the note "Campaigns for Richard" can be made via the following link:

<https://ihfl.de/sp-konto.htm>

or directly via **PayPal**: **<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/ihfl>**

If you give us your email address, we will keep you up to date via newsletter.
(Email to: info@ihfl.de or simply include your email address with your donation)

“When justice becomes the murderer, murder becomes justice!” (Peter K.)

IHfL

Peter K.

Sources:

We would like to thank our colleague Niklas J. for the drawing of Daiji.

<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/2024/05/17/richard-rojem-oklahoma-death-row-murder-7-year-old-execution-date/73706728007/>

<http://okcca.net/cases/2009/OK-CR-15/>

Emails von Richard Norman Rojem, Jr.

<https://ihfl.de/rj/eng/index.htm>

To my question about the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, Daiji answers me on

Daiji, May 19, 2024

The OK. Pardon and Parole Board (PPB) will hold a clemency hearing at a date to be determined. This historically happens at a period approximately 30-25 days prior to a scheduled execution.

A date for my clemency hearing has not yet been set.
Will advise the moment that I find out.

Presently, I'm stuck in an information desert. I learned of this Friday evening whilst watching the late newscast and haven't been able to speak with anyone who knows more than I do. The lawyers are scheduled to come down early Tuesday morning and stay until around noon local time. I'll get whatever I learn from that to you as quickly as I can..

All that said, I am holding out absolutely no hope that I'll receive a recommendation for clemency from this PPB. Guys with cases like mine are not the cases that political appointees stake their reputations on. My life means less to a political appointee than the truth does.

I am grateful for all that you and all of the others are doing on my behalf. I cannot begin to tell you what that means to me and all of the similarly situated women and men around the world.

I, we, are not alone.

Thank you!!

Daiji, May 20, 2024

evening, guys. you are well?

i offer merit for you and for all that you do for our sangha of man.

thank you for your contributions and dedication to all of the rest of us.

still in the learning process here. dont have enough info to really give you any kind of direction. will know more tomorrow after visit with lawyers ... maybe. never been here before, guys. aint no school for this!:-)

right now i really dont know enough to know what my emotion are. not afraid of dying. just another part of life, eh? yeah, know how that sounds, just doesnt make it not so. gotta remember that ive been on this journey for nearly 40 years and have always known that death was the only other option. so, you kinda get used to that companion, whether you want too. my major concern is for you and the people in my orbit. you guys volunteered to do this. it cant be fun or easy for you. plus, those involved in the anti death penalty world now have to mobilize their forces and deal with all of that on top of this bullshit with me. then theres the thought (in my head) that if my execution is carried out - will you feel that there was something more, something different, something else that you couldve done? so, ive got a foot in 2 worlds here - loving mine and the want to protect them. sucks to be me.

oh, the thought to turtle and just do this by myself has popped into my head, only thats the most selfish thing that i could do. ive seen some of your faces, i can envision those beautiful cheeks with tears on them and i just cant do that. not an ogre, you know! :-)

so, you guys do as you see fit to do. this is more your thing than it is mine. contacting me for my approval, what i think about this, that or the other is a waste of time. we dont control the button that releases these emails so we dont know when well get them. know how thayt sounds too, and i apologize for that, only its the brutal truth. do what you know to do. im standing on the fringes here watching the masters at work. we just got screwed - too much too do and too little time in which to do it. cant really get dish tv in 30 days, can you?

more later. yards about to run and i only have so many more yards left. dont wanna miss any of 'em!

with bows,

daiji

May 20, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

Thank you very much for your four emails.

Hey, it's not bad at all that you accidentally deleted my emails with the questions, because I save everything here on the computer and can simply copy these questions and information into here again...

...I totally understand how overwhelmed you feel by this situation. It's exactly the same for us, because none of us had expected such a quick appointment. That's why I'm working here almost non-stop and trying to achieve the best I can and I'm shocked every time I look at the clock to see how quickly time flies by...

I am so proud of you for the strength you are mustering to stay strong. Now is not the time for weakness, now is the time for uncompromising commitment to keeping an innocent man alive.

Too much pathos? - I know, sometimes I'm a real shit and write something like that, but it's true! - The world must not give up on you - you are too important for the world with all that you had to endure and your strength and love, you could still achieve so much good so that this insane path that some countries are going down finally comes to an end.

Now to the portrait of you. Niklas is still a very young artist and at the beginning of his artistic development. But he has already produced a pretty good picture of you. You have to bear in mind that we only have very few photos of you that are of really poor quality...

Thank you very much for sending us articles every day. That's good - because it also gives us a certain amount of support to hear from you again and again... It's quite difficult for me at the moment if there's no news from you for a day...

Oh yes, I've just sent you 40 dollars via Jpay. That's all I have on my credit card at the moment... Please let me know if you need money again. **AND I MEAN THAT SERIOUSLY - I HEREBY OBLIGE YOU TO LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF YOU RUN OUT OF MONEY!** - Don't be angry, okay, but I mean it!

By the way, I've already gotten the address of the Bord of Parole:

Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board
2501 N. Lincoln Blvd, Suite 201

Oklahoma City, OK 73105
boardcommunications@ppb.ok.gov

Thanks for the info on when the board is expected to start. We will make sure these folks get some mail, from hopefully lots of people! - We will organize this through us so that we can read the mail beforehand so that someone doesn't write some nonsense that could be bad for you....

We won't give up hope and will give it our all until we drop... hahaha...

Okay, I think I'll just send your spiritual advisor an email. Maybe he'll get in touch... And he could contact you through us if he doesn't have Securus...

Thank you for the fact that we don't have to ask you every time we have something in mind or plan something... I am happy about the great trust you give us and I promise not to disappoint you!

Oh yes, I understand your thought of "retiring" and believe me, I really do... It's always a difficult decision whether to keep going up the mountain, with all the hardships it means and when the strength dwindles, not knowing what's behind the mountain... But that's exactly it - we don't know what's coming and that's why I think it's the right decision not to give up, because behind the mountain could be a completely new perspective that we hadn't expected at all. I hope you understand what I'm trying to say.

Stay strong my brother!
I bow to you with all my love,
Your brother Peter

May 21, 2024

Save the life of an innocent man

Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. is scheduled to be murdered by the state on June 27, 2024 in Oklahoma. We are convinced of his innocence and are in daily contact with him. We ask all readers and supporters to stand up for his life, to write a text, no matter how short, asking for mercy for him.

**Stoppt die Hinrichtung von
Richard N. Rojem**
Petition: bit.ly/RichardRojem
Ruft den Gouverneur an: 405.521.2342

Er ist unschuldig

ihfl.de **ihfl.de/eng**
Initiative Hoffnung fürs Leben (Initiative Hope for Life)

Richard Rojem is said to have kidnapped, raped and murdered a 7-year-old girl in 1984. **And yet no DNA was found on him!** – That alone is an “impossibility”...

The **Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board** is expected to meet in 25-30 days to discuss Richard’s fate. At best, the Board could recommend clemency.

We are asking you to write a text asking for clemency for Richard Rojem. Please formulate the text kindly and without reproach etc....

Please send your words to our email address:

info@ihfl.de

Please only include data in your text that you really want to pass on.

Of course, a message with your address and/or e-mail address carries more weight, but if you don't want this, then simply write without this data – because it's better than nothing...

What happens to your texts:

We will bundle the collected texts and send them to the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board and the Governor of Oklahoma soon enough. We also plan to deliver your texts to the US Embassy in Germany, if possible, because we are an initiative from Germany.

Otherwise we will not pass on your data to any other persons or organizations!

Here are a few important points that you can use in your text:

1. Richard has always maintained his innocence
2. in several DNA tests, his DNA was not found at the crime scene. Not even on the victim's body.
3. even courts have recognized that his conviction was based on circumstantial evidence only
- 4) Richard is seriously ill and recently underwent two heart surgeries.
5. Richard is a wonderful and peaceful man and has been a Buddhist for many years and has called himself "Daiji" ever since. Nothing is more important to him than love and peace.
6. you can find a personal statement from Richard on our website that we have set up for him:
<https://ihfl.de/rj/eng/index.htm>

We would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts who is committed to saving Richard in whatever form.

Our current actions and plans are swallowing up a lot of money and we ask you for a donation with the keyword: “Richard” – we ask for donations under the following link. You are welcome to use PayPal or bank transfer:

Let us work together to prevent a great injustice, a serious crime, being committed against an innocent man!

IHfL

Peter K.

Remark: Now I'm sitting here waiting... What am I waiting for?... I am completely exhausted... I've been working for over 5 days, interrupted only by far too little and restless sleep, to get something moving for Daiji... Contacting various people. I have written and distributed the articles for our blog and newsletter, updated our website etc...

I have the feeling I'm about to get... I don't know what! - I'm at the end! Is that me? - Wasn't there something else that absolutely had to be done? Oh man, I'm crying like a little child. I think I'm going to fall over... My circulation is somehow not keeping up...

Designing internet banners, writing texts, designing posters for the campaign in Berlin... Wow - it's really expensive to have posters printed that you can hold in your hand and that won't "run away" if it rains... We can't finance that... Where is all the money going to come from... The trip will be pretty expensive for us...

So we come up with a solution to this problem. With the help of a special program we print the posters on A4 paper. This program then turns them into an A2 poster, which we only have to glue together from the many A4 sheets. What do we do with it? - With the little money we have, we have ordered a Din A2 laminator, along with the correspondingly large foils and black Din A2 paper for the back. The plan is to laminate the posters glued together from the small sheets with black paper on the back. That should actually work... Let's hope... The device is due to arrive on Saturday, so we'll see if the plan works... Hopefully a lot of people will write something that we can hand over in Berlin and send to the Governor and the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board...

Last night I dreamed I was with Daiji in the death chamber... I was very close to him... He was so sad, not at all that he had to die, but at how unhappy these people who want to murder him are making him... Yes, that's how I know him... Always worried about people's karma...

An email just came in from another organization. I don't know if she wants to be named here. But her message really touches my heart:

"Hi IHFL,

Thank you for your message and your work.

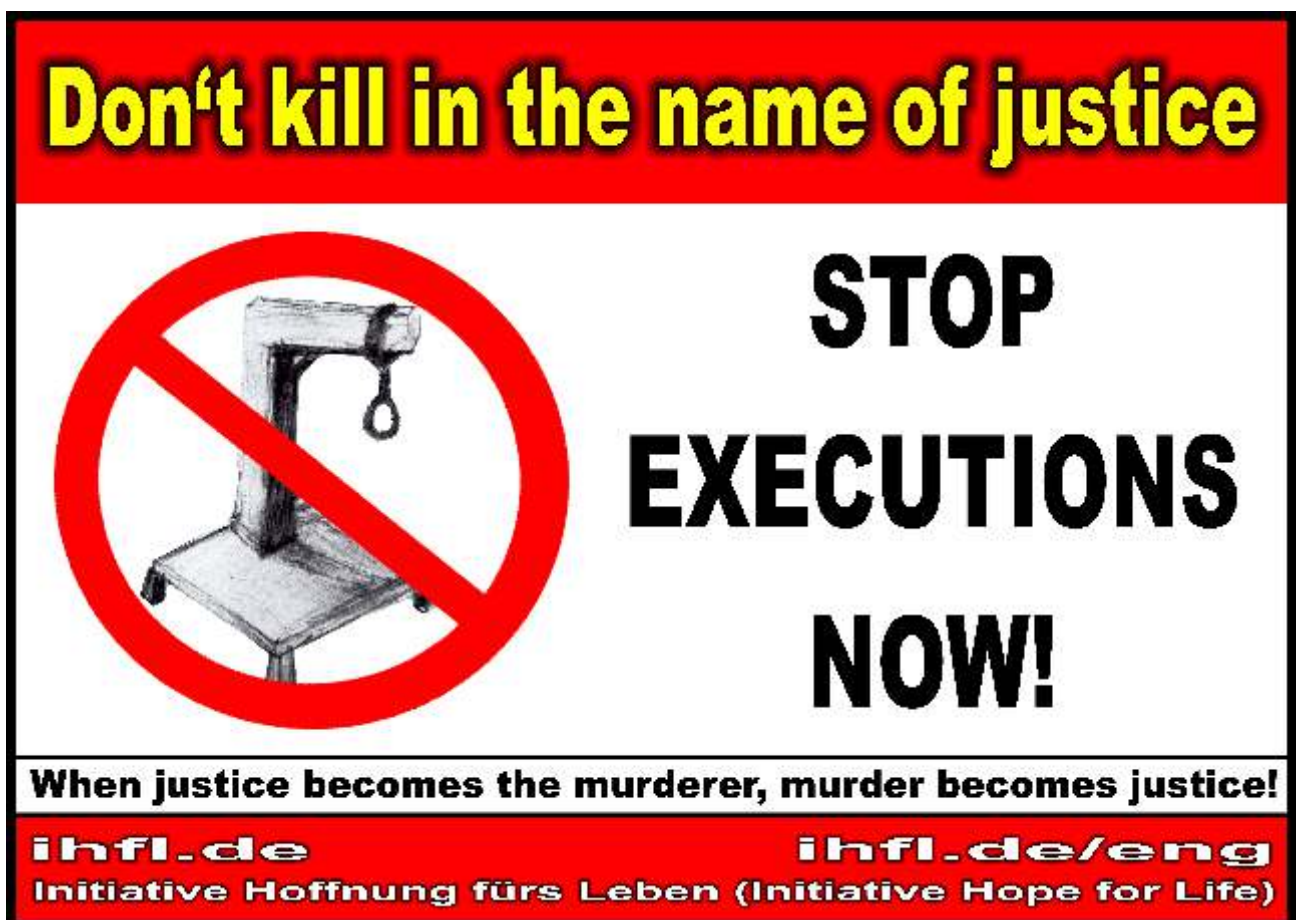
We will continue to spread your information and wish Richard and everyone success.

Best wishes from Berlin“

That's encouraging... Oh man, I could cry again... What was that again: "Men don't cry!" - Fuck it... Thank you, dear friends from Berlin!

I wonder what Daiji is doing now? - He's all alone in his cell and has to see how he copes with this situation. For almost 40 years!
And now THIS!

I do not know how to continue... I am with you, Daiji...



One of our new posters for campaigns and for the Internet

Remark

Of course, how could it be... It was the typical "of course..." effect. Securus, the service we can use to write to prisoners, was down for almost a whole day - apart from an error message, we couldn't see any more of it in the browser and the Android app also flatly refused to work...

So I couldn't receive any emails from Daiji, nor was I able to write to him. pfffft...

However, I received a notification via our normal mailbox that Daiji had written and that I could read the mail at Securus... This only increased my frustration...

Then finally, after what felt like an eternity on Wednesday around 6 a.m., Securus suddenly started working again...

Daiji, May 21, 2024

peter and kai,

monjin.

out the door on the way to visit with lawyers.

the \$40 you sent - just received notification that i have it. dudes!! thank you so very much for the kind and generous gift.

i am grateful.

more in a few hours.

with bows and metta,

daiji

Daiji, May 21, 2024

guys,

took me up there, but jack didn't show. so, still in the same boat i've been in since friday night - I know nothing!

more tomorrow ...

Peter, May 22, 2024

Hello my brother,
I have just received your two short emails.

Unfortunately, there were extreme problems with Securus for half a day. Nobody could use it anymore and so I had notifications that you had written to me, but I could neither read your emails nor reply to you... :- (What a pity... So I was all the happier to finally be able to use Securus again and receive your emails.

Oh man, Jack didn't show up? - I assume that's your lawyer. That can't be true, especially now in your situation, something like that can't happen... You can't be left alone with the situation like that... I hope there is a logical explanation for him not coming and that he turns up soon to discuss everything with you.

By the way, did you receive my two emails from May 20th? I asked you a few questions in them and also told you that I am now in contact with Rev. Master Daishin Yalon and I was able to pass on a message from him to you.

Yesterday I worked about 30 hours to publicize your situation and get signatures and statements from people for the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board... Well, and developed banners that we will print this weekend for an action we are planning and and and...

Then I fell into bed, but was awake again after 4 hours... had been dreaming about you all night.

Daiji, I am with you every second,
I hug you tightly,
Your brother Peter

Daiji, May 20, 2024

peter,

please do as you think is best. you have have my complete trust in all areas here, peter - you know about this and i do not. you have the conn, captain.

i will see my attorney in the morning and will inquire as to whether he has something on his computer that he can send to ihfl along the lines of what youve asked me for. that would make it easier. he hasnt got something on-hand, ill wriite it. not a problem. i know how this is going to sound to you - at this moment im being pulled in every direction imaginable and am not exactly sure which way is up. yeah, yeah, i know - suck it up, buttercup! :-) no excuse, huh? will address the rest of your emails before the night is over. promise.

sees yas ...

Peter, May 23,2024

My dear friend Daiji,

sorry, I wasn't online for a few hours... It knocked me out and I slept like a bear... But now I have new strength!

Thank you for your email of May 20, which interestingly reached me much later than the emails of May 21.

This is probably because Jpay and Securus were no longer available and no one could actually use this service... They must have had real technical problems. Fortunately, everything is working again today.

I found some of your legal papers on the internet:

ROJEM v. STATE 1988 Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Decisions
Oklahoma Case Law Oklahoma Law US Law Justia

ROJEM v. STATE 1996 Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Decisions
Oklahoma Case Law Oklahoma Law US Law Justia

Richard Norman Rojem, Petitioner-appellee_ Cross-appellant, v. Gary Gibson, Warden, Oklahoma State Penitentiary, Respondent-appellant_ Cross-appellee, 245 F.3d 1130 (10th Cir. 2001) Justia

ROJEM v. STATE 2009 Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Decisions
Oklahoma Case Law Oklahoma Law US Law Justia

I will now work through these voluminous papers to find information that we

can work with...

You write: "i will see my attorney in the morning and will inquire as to whether he has something on his computer that he can send to IHfL along the lines of what youve asked me for. that would make it easier. he hasnt got something on-hand, ill wriite it."

That's a good idea, of course. But what would also be good would be if you were to report on your case yourself, as extensively as possible, from your feelings and memory, including emotionally. Because nothing is better for the book than your own words...

I know I'm torturing you by having to do all this... And I'm so sorry that I'm such an ass... But I wish that you would stand upright - and tell the truth to mankind about everything that has been done to you. This is an important task and it would be a blessing if you manage not to give up and bear witness to the world together with me...

Too many pahtos again... I'm an idiot... forgive me... How can I torture you like this with my activism? All I really want to do is give you a perspective, a task... Please tell me if I'm overstepping the mark...

You say I'm the captain... And I'd be so happy if that were the case... But in fact, I'm like a little mouse running around the table all the time, squeaking and squeaking... Hoping that someone will hear the distress call and do something decisive...

It sucks so much to be me and damn it, it sucks even more to be you...

Brother, I love you with all my heart,

Peter

Ps: I have attached Niklas' drawing to this mail.





05/22/2024

-Open letter-

**This letter was sent in German to the Foreign
Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Dear Ms. Baerbock,

In the USA, the execution of a man in Oklahoma is currently scheduled for June 27, 2024.

As you surely know, many states in the USA still do not renounce the death penalty, which is contrary to human rights!

Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. is now scheduled to die on June 27 for a crime he says he did not commit. Richard has been in prison for almost 40 years and suffers from the inhumane conditions on death row.

Richard Rojem is alleged to have kidnapped, raped and murdered a 7-year-old girl in 1984. And yet no DNA was found on him! - That alone is an "impossibility"!

Here are some points that lead us to be convinced of Richard's possible innocence:

1. Richard has always maintained his innocence
2. in several DNA tests, his DNA was not found at the crime scene. Not even on the victim's body.
3. even courts have recognized that his conviction was based on circumstantial evidence only
- 4) Richard is seriously ill and recently underwent two heart surgeries.
5. Richard is a wonderful and peaceful man and has been a Buddhist for many years and has called himself "Daiji" ever since. Nothing is more important to him than love and peace.
6. you can find a personal statement from Richard on our website, which we have set up for him:
<https://ihfl.de/rj/index.htm>

Ms Baerbock, you distinguish yourself by repeatedly arguing with "Western values". But what kind of values are these when a significant part of the Western community of values, the USA, still has people on death row? It is important to take a firm stand against this terrible fact.

We ask you to work to ensure that Mr. Rojem is not executed. As Foreign Minister, you have many important contacts in the USA that you can use to this end.

And please sign the petition for Richard Rojem:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-richard-rojem-in-oklahoma/>

I am a co-founder of our initiative and have been in daily contact with Richard for a long time. Believe me, he is a wonderful person.

I look forward to your reply,

with kind regards

Initiative Hope for Life

Peter K.

Remark: We did not receive a reply...

Daiji, May 22, 2024

okay, saw jack today. inquired about a brief synopsis of the case, jack said that hed send you a copy of what hes putting in the clemency packet. that should be exactly what youre looking for. if its not, tell me and ill get something better to you.

jack and paul have all the bases covered here. i have no worries whatsoever. these guys are simply phenomenal attorneys.

right at the moment im still stuck in a moment that i cant get out of. dont know enough. next tuesday, the day after our "memorial day" is when i think the ball will start rolling.

thank you for the \$40. dont think that ill be needing any more than that. im not the only guy that youre looking out for and would feel guilty because one of my brothers/sisters had to do without so that i could have extra. ant help that, brother, im just "that" guy.

aint nothing wrong with being the occasional shit! sometimes thats what it takes to move the immovable from square one, eh?

kindly let master know that: *„i saw chaplain m. yesterday morning and have submitted to him the appropriate request(s) to staff in re you and master e.. jack was here today and he and paul are all over this. feel free to contact him with any questions about anything on your mind. you have his email. contact l. at your leisure in re the same things. shes our point person on the ground here. aw, she so looking forward to meeting you and master e.. my guess is that tuesday, the party starts - ill get the official notice, make out the witness list, the visitors list and whatever else i need to do. l. has given me some questions to ask in re cremation. m.e.'s office, autopsy and the like. shes also coordinating the cremation stuff. right now im still just sitting on the sidelines. dunno much and dunno whether theres really a lot to know. will keep you posted via peter. with metta, daiji”*

thanks, peter!

ha! no, actually yes, jack did show up. a snafu with the paperwork and the lack of cooperation on the behalf of the prison staff prevented him from getting in. the usual deliberate indifference. the whole fucking prison is aware that i have an active date just a few days away and they all know that jack is my lawyer and they all know why he showed up as he did and still ... :-0 all is good now. well, good enough for today.

yes, its fine to put anyone in contact with me that you see fit. youve done this before, you know the players, eh?

i did receive your 2 emails of the 20th. think that ive responded to your questions. please inform me if i have failed to do so. i will fix it.

thank you for your kind words, brother. im not about to give up or give in. theres a song by an english singer/songwriter named, david ford. david wrote a song entitled, "every time" this song, in its last 15 lines is me. every word of it. listen to it and youll agree. i can send you a copy of its abridged version in english. sorry, dude, aint learnt german yet! :-)

please thank nicklas for his time, effort and talent in this endeavor. im absolutely speechless here about that. i mean, never in a 1,000,000 yrs would it have ever occurred to me that i might be the subject of some artists attention. im magnitudes of order beyond grateful.

get some rest, brother. i know what youre saying here and i appreciate that, only get some rest, eh? listen to kai. bet hes saying/thinking the same thing. more tomorrow.

good night, brothers -
with my palms together before you,
daiji

Peter, May 24, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

yes, that would be wonderful if Jack could send me something to put in the petition for clemency. That would help a lot with our campaign...

How are you doing at the moment? I know, stupid question... But still, it's a completely new situation for you and of course for us too. And yes, the court did surprise us a lot with its hasty decision... That's why things got a bit hectic here in the first few days...

We'll definitely be taking to the streets and I've finally managed to finish the relevant banners... I'll let you know when the time comes...

We ourselves will collect signatures and petitions for clemency from people who are standing up for you and send them to the board and the governor.

I think it's really sweet of you to be concerned about the other prisoners we are supporting. Let's just do it this way. We will send money to you privately so that you have the necessary funds. So we won't take it from the donations! - So, once again, let us know if things get tight financially! - I insist on it! :-)

I have sent your words to the master by email...

Oh man, what kind of people they are... It's bad that your lawyer couldn't come to you... I'm glad that Jack made it now. And I am especially glad that you are happy with his work...

I just listened to the David Ford song. Oh man... Yes, I understand what you mean and why it touches you so much... Again and again you fall in life and sometimes you even stand in your own way...

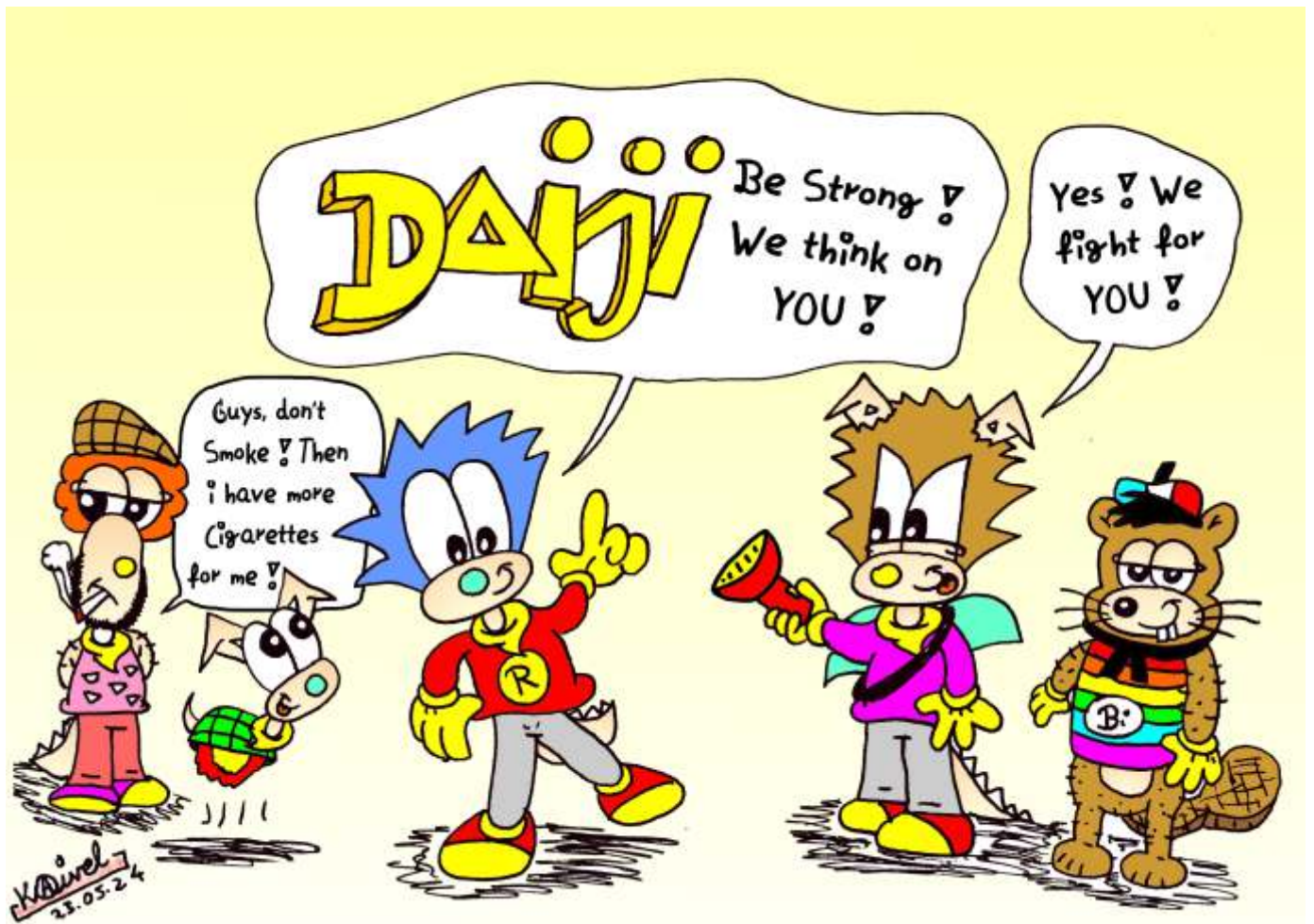
I told Niklas about your words. It was the first time that someone other than the few people around him had spoken about him and his art. It really touched him... I think if he continues to work on his art, he will get better and better...

Yes, I listened to you and got some rest... 9 hours of sleep did me good :-)

I'm enclosing a comic drawing Kai did for you with this email. :-)

Oh yes, I hope you received the videogram I sent you yesterday.

With a big bear hug,
Your brother Peter



Peter, May 25, 2024

My dear friend and brother Daiji,

I fell over again and slept for an extremely long time... I think my body simply took back all the strength I had sucked out of it in the last few days without asking me...

But now I'm full of energy and vigor...

Everything is still asleep here... So I'm all alone and you know that I'm a songwriter... And that's when it happened... I wrote a song about and for you. I hope the translation into English turned out reasonably well...

"Because they are the good guys..."

M/T: Peter K., May 25, 2024
(For Daiji and all the others)

You are imprisoned for decades
They have robbed you of your strength for far too long
They have tortured and isolated you
With their justice
Where prejudice rules

You say you didn't do it
There are many reasons to believe this
In many letters you have explained to me
That hate rules
And that's why no one listens to you

Now they want to kill you - they throw you away
And their actions have only one goal
They want to be better than you
Because their fear of the truth
Will not leave them alone

In their world, they are the good guys
Others have to bleed for it
Dirt sticks to their vest too
And that is the reason
That's why you have to go

This was the story of a man
Who could have a thousand names
I knew him
Unfortunately, I never held
His hand...

On Tuesday, June 11, 2024, we will have an information stand on the street. I have just received permission from the city. Please keep your fingers crossed that it doesn't rain on that day and that we get lots of signatures for you...

How are you doing at the moment? What do your lawyers say?

Let me give you a big hug,
Your brother Peter

Remark, May 25, 2024

Unfortunately, we had to drop the plan with the action in Berlin because nobody responded to our appeal for donations and since we had to finance everything from our modest private means, we could only do this information stand in Kassel...

Remark, May 27, 2024

I am very worried at the moment. No news from Daiji since May 22. At the end of his last email he wrote that he wanted to continue writing "tomorrow"...I have no idea what's going on. I keep checking to see if there is finally a message from him - but unfortunately nothing...Have they taken his tablet away from him? - Did he break down, he wrote that he was going back and forth, mentally... Have they blocked me and he can no longer get through to me? - Has he even been able to receive an email from me? Oh man, it's really mental torture... :-(

Remark, May 28, 2024

Thanks to a tip from an opponent of the death penalty, I was able to send Daiji a message via a different channel. It is another service from Securus and is a kind of chat or SMS. A maximum of 160 characters is possible. Of course, you also have to pay for each of these messages... Just like the Securus emails. The capitalists enrich themselves with the suffering of the prisoners and their families and friends, while in the so-called free world an email only costs a tired smile... Oh well...

Peter, via SMS May 28 2024

Hello brother. Peter writing to you from Germany. Mike gave me the tip about this possibility. I have not received an email from you since May 22. I hug you.

Daiji, via SMS May 28 2024

evening, friend. u/kai r well? good to hear from u! noone has been here to push the button to release incoming/outgoing emails. memorial day, wknd in america

Daiji, via SMS May 28 2024

day wknd, guys been out since last thursday. u. should get a few emails today as shud i. im well. quite well. still have some things to sort out here, ...

Daiji, via SMS May 28 2024

all in all, been a smooth prcess. dont no xactly wat i xpected. this isnt it. si, lucky me? :-) bear hug for both u n kai.

Peter, via SMS May 28 2024

Brother, it is a great relief for me to finally hear from you. Z. show me this way. Not nice that no one is there to forward the emails. I was very worried

Daiji, via SMS May 28 2024

well, we'll see within the next hour. the "office" people begin filing in n thats when the button gets pushed. seems to be a pattern of sorts. be well, brother

Remark; May 28, 2024

Then I received several notifications that I had a total of 3 emails from Daiji in my Securus mailbox. The "joke" of the whole thing, however, is the additional message from Securus, namely that the service is down again and neither emails can be received nor sent... It's a pain in the ass. :-(I'm curious to see when I'll finally be able to read the three emails from Daiji...

Daiji, May 25, 2024

hi, guys -

phew! what a fuckin week!! felt like i was being pulled in every direction there is to be pulled in!!

thursday, the gomers came to to get me to take me to see the doctor for the checkup in the runup to the execution. more of a checkin my veins, in both my arms and legs to make sure theyre good enough to shove a needle in. turns out, i have great veins. then, in a totally surprising move, we go from the doctors room down the hall to the case managers office to meet with the warden in order to do the 35 day notice - thats where the warden reads the death warrant, hands me forms for visitation, witnesses, last meal, property disposal, blah blah blah. now, you dont know my mannerisms, i tend to get this bemused smirk on my mickey when the person talking to me is obviously so fulla blue mud and, in this particular instance - the warden is reading the invalid and vacated 2003 death warrant. so, at the end of this very serious and solemn reading, i simply say to her that shes relying upon an invalid and vacated death warrant. she assures me that she is not. to which i respond, i dont need to debate this with you. you can have this conversation with my attorney tomorrow. so, she whispers to one of her minnions that we need to get the right warrant. i am returned to the cell, where an hour later i am all chained up and hauled before the warden, where she reads the correct 2007 death warrant. were off and running!

filling out these forms was kinda sobering. had to designate who was going to pick up my body from the medical examiners office, designate who was going to pick up my property, what my last meal request is (i only get \$25 - im having a small, double cheese/double pepperoni pizza, a bottle of vernors ginger ale, two 4 oz cups of vanilla ice cream and one large styrofoam cup. i mix the ginger ale and the ice cream together and create what we in/from detroit call a boston cooler. if youve never had one of these - youre in for a summertime treat!! think im kidding? try it. its better prepared in a blender, where you can blend it thick like a milkshake. youll want to give me a trophy!!) nothing screams detroiter like cheese/pepperoni pizza and a boston cooler!!

thing is, i have to have all these forms filled out and turned in by 280524 and its memorial day weekend here in america. my masters (im a buddhist) reside in california - 4 days away via snail mail. i have dear friends that live in florida - 2-3 days away via snail mail. so, its physically impossible to get these visitor/witness forms out in back in the 4 days (96 hrs) that im permitted. well, we figured a workaround. my friend in tulsa scanned and emailed the forms to my people who in turn scanned/emailed these forms to the wardens office all in on friday, before the outgoing mail from the prison ever left the prison. mission

accomplished.

i keep being asked how im doing. so far, so good. im a devout zen buddhist and that informs my every thought about this. plus, this has been a constant companion with me for the past 40 years. being an innocent man sentenced to death doesnt matter to anybody but me for those 40 years, im only getting to say this to you now because i have an active execution date and all of the sudden what i have to say is worth listening too. sounds like im complaining im not. just a little surprised at all the attention while standing in an uncomfortable spotlight. for 40 years noone has really given a rats ass about this particular death-sentenced prisoner or what ive had to say. so, im a little blinded by the light. still, sounds like im whinin", huh?

on 220624 ill be placed in 5 point restraints and escorted down tthe the cellblock where the execution chamber is located. actually, i lived in that cellblock for more than 30 years and on that particular unit for more than 3 years - below and to the left of the death watch cells and the door to the room where it happens. surprisingly, you can get used to that.

ive been here for about 135 executions now. all men that i knew. i knew the names of their wives, mothers, children and grandchildren. ive shared meals with each of them. ive laughed with each of them. ive cried with them, fought and argued with them. death row is a small community of men, sometimes single celled, sometimes forced to double cell. we become a family. oh, some resist, thinking that theyre tough guys, only everyone here needs something at some time and the rest of us make sure that that man has what he needs. not a question of liking or not liking someone. its a matter of respect. whether well openly admit it to anybody but our individual higher power, we care about each other and look out for and after each other. we live in a remarkable well tended and sparkling clean cellblock. this is how we want it. we live in the quietest and most respectful cellblock in the entire prison. so much so that the prison administration showcases death row whenever company comes, visiting politicians, state dignitaries, church people, cadet classes, all of them. death row make this prison look good. sure, like any other family, we have our differences and, used to, there was the occasional bloody nose in response to stepped on toes, but its my house, my family and my business. thats all families, eh?

ha! saw something shiny, huh? so, for that days prior to my execution, ill be placed in an empty cell with nothing in it but a prison mattress, prison pillow, two sheets, one blanket, one towel, toiletries (on an as needed basis), one holy book and one cubic foot each of legal/personal papers. ill get 3 showers per week. ill get one hour outside the cell exercise time per day, m-f. ill be allowed visitors friends and spiritual advisors. and, of course, visits with my attorneys. ill have my very own correctional officer assigned to sit out side the cell door and monitor my every movement and write it down in a journal and, not

surprisingly, who will not open the cell door should i attempt to hang myself in a cell where hanging oneself would be impossible. that amuses me. tough as these guys think they are and act - theres not a single gomer here or who has been here who would dare enter a prisoners cell without first emptying a one kilo canister of pepper spray into the cell (and into the dead/dying face of the hanging prisoner) before going in with 5 other gomers. prisons, eh?

i failed to mention, on 170624, ill attend the clemency hearing. this is where the state and its witnesses will present their case against a recommendation for clemency and my side will present our case for a recommendation for clemency. i will have an opportunity to speak. while this appears to be a fair process for the condemned prisoner, in reality, it is anything but. the pardon and parole board is comprised of former law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys and judges. all possessing all of the biases against law breakers, criminals, prisoners and "them" that youd immediately think that they would. 3 of these appointees are political appointees and are, of course, obliged to dance with the one what brung 'em. its a 5 member panel and 3 of 'em are political appointees - you do the math. i do not stand the proverbial snow balls chance in here.

i expect nothing.

death is not the punishment that my executioner believes it to be.

Daiji, May 26, 2024

peter and kai,
monjin.

just a few minutes ago "found" and watched the video that you sent 220524. took me a couple minutes to compose myself after. thank you, peter. i can not begin to tell you all that that meant and means. got lots of words for lots of things, just none for this. your video is a first for me.

just wanted to tell you this, brother.

hope that you guys are otherwise well, enjoying yourselves and happily looking after yourselves and each other. take the time to decompress, eh? youve been here before, youve done this before, so its nothing new. you know what to do and you know how to do it. you got this. rest is important. eating is important. taking time for yourselves and each other is important.

ha! see! "nco leadership school" lessons are never forgotten!! i can still rally the troops!!

well, good, niklas should know that his work is good and be encouraged to broaden/deepen his skills because he is simply a talented young man with a lifetime of his craft before him. you and i are both musicians, so you know what im saying here. being encouraged is so important, its how were validated, its how we know to move forward, to explore, to learn more, to experiment. this kids gonna be somebody. possibly the next pablo piccasso. who knows, eh?

kai, in this moment i just dont remember whether i properly thanked you for the personalized cartoon and this other one. thank you for these, my friend. both amusing and deeply touching. says a lot about you, kai, and all of it good. take the compliment, my friend! :-)

yeah, that david ford song, eh? actually thought about writing a truly ringing endorsement of him, both as a man and a singer/songwriter/musician/wordsmith and include it in with these stories that im writing for you. the idea being that maybe itd garner him a few more fans amongst the people reading the drivel that i pen here. this fucking guy is simply phenomenal. listen to his "st peter", "and so you fell", "i lost more than i ever thought i would hold" and the rest of his library. youll feel/hear it for yourself. thing is, doing so just might be the kiss of death for him and his career and i cannot do that. i have a friend that knows him, i just might ask him to ask david what he thinks. i mean, why not, eh?

still, that is simply a great fuckin' song! the way the last half builds to the crescendo of "i choose this, motherfucker, and ill choose it again" is, in my opinion, the greatest example of a crescendo imaginable.

has jack yet sent you anything? contact him at: xxxxxx@xxxx.com and simply remind him. its okay to do that. really. its on his computer.

i do have a spiritual advisor, 2 actually - rev. masters d.y. and e.s.. contact them at: xxxxxx@xxxxxx ... what a fuckin boob - you already know this!! must be that shit stuff you were talking about earlier, eh? :-)

other than the party being thrown in my honor next month, im fine. honest. im in contact with the people in my orbit, my masters. im able to send emails, text messages and place phone calls. we all know that we have to get through this together and we will. as a musician youll get this - what we have before us is an instance in life where we just need to relax and play. its just a song. its a sad song, but its just a song and weve played songs before. its what we do. we just have to learn it. we will. and well learn it together. its a song well all play. well get through this. simply take a breath, relax and play.

okay, guys, thats all for now. you gotta have tired eyes by now, eh? :-) enjoy your evening. a good dinner ... and some face to face time with each other. this isnt easy or fun and you need to know that you matter to each other and maybe

now is a good time to say it, eh? sometimes life and all the bullshit in it gets in the way and we overlook the little things that really matter, like saying ... i love you.

be well, guys

with my palms together before you,
daiji

Peter, 29. May 2024

My dear friend Daiji,
I have finally received three emails from you. "Of course" Securus was suddenly down yesterday and so I had to wait a whole day before I could finally read your words.

To be honest, the scenario you described, which was organized by people who were paid for it, disgusts me. How can a halfway intelligent, sentient human being examine another human being to see whether the prisoner's veins are suitable for a lethal injection? Everything in me struggles to imagine what goes on in such minds. Is this what our mothers and fathers raised us for? Is this what these people are raising their own children for, these children with whom they celebrate "The Feast of Love" every Christmas and tell them the story of the Lord Jesus who preached forgiveness? - I want to be there on this Christmas Eve and - excuse me - throw up in their expensive Christmas dinner!

I'm sitting here crying like a child and can't hold back the tears... That's why I get so, how would you say, abusive with my words...

I feel sorry for these people... They earn their money by hurting other people mentally and physically, even helping to kill people. And then they use this money to buy the nice, expensive Christmas dinner and the gifts of love for their children, to whom they tell their own fairy tale about love... And when suddenly their own child is to be laid on a death bier?????!... Maybe they should check their children's veins today to make sure everything is in order!

And what a heroic deed to read you the death sentence. Bravo! - What was the title of the new song I wrote for you again: "Because they are the good guys!" Great performance to expect from you Forms to deliver, in far too short a time. A great achievement!

Yes, for 40 years hardly anyone was interested in you and your situation. Yes,

where have I been all this time? - There are so many on death row and it is often a coincidence how contact is made. It was the same with you. I wrote in my first message to you at the time:

"I came to 20 Stamps for Oklahoma through certain circumstances and the question arose as to what I would do with them.

I already write with some prisoners, but in other states of the USA.

I don't know anyone from Oklahoma.

So I looked around to see what was on death row in Oklahoma. And I found your name and the circumstances of how you got there.

As you can see, I decided to write to you."

Coincidence... 20 stamps for Securus that I didn't want to let expire... I wish this coincidence had happened sooner... :-(

I really understand your disappointment. And it's true - why don't more people stand up for an end to this terrible maximum sentence? We must not leave those sentenced to it alone! And I hope you can sense that I really mean that. And yet it is not always easy to bear this helplessness, which of course also overtakes me time and again... Who likes to fight with their bare hands against the power of hatred, stupidity and lies...

Who benefits from the death penalty? - Will there be less crime? - No. Does it bring murder victims back to life? - No. But it hurts again. It hurts family members and the joy of the convicted person. What could be more traumatizing than having to fear for the life of a loved one, sometimes for decades, and then having to see that loved one killed in the end? Is that justice? - No, it is the opposite of justice. - It's the old "an eye for an eye". It is the monster of hatred that can only do one thing, blindly destroy...

I am constantly tormented by the thought of how it is possible to leave a person alone like this for 40 years - to throw them away, as you put it in your words...

That is simply inhumane! - And I will oppose anyone who says otherwise.

You write that you will be taken to the solitary cell at the execution chamber on June 22. If this happens, will they take away your tablet? - Will you then no longer be able to write to me? And if not, can you at least write to me at my postal address? If so, I'll give you my US address here again, it's quicker than writing to Germany. I could also reply to you from there. Please give me the exact address I need to write to in order to reach you.

Peter Koch.....CA 91606

I can clearly see that you have little hope for the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Nevertheless, we will give these people a lot to read. Who knows, maybe someone there has a heart after all... I myself will of course also write to these gentlemen personally...

I'm glad you got my video. I wish I could be with you...

We are in full preparation here for our actions for you. Please pray to, I don't know to whom, that we don't have rainy weather on June 11th. That would be really bad... An information stand in the rain... tztz... I hope that many people will sign for you and write to the board...

I'll tell you honestly, at the moment we can't be happy, as you put it. It's sweet of you to write that we should be happy, but it's absolutely true that we can't be at the moment. I don't want to be happy at the moment because someone wants to take a loved one away from me... - Very selfish of me, isn't it?

I'll pass on your kind words to Niklas when I see him later - I also think he's on the right track artistically if he keeps working on himself.

Kai was very happy to hear your words... He was very touched by them and considers your words a precious gift, as he just said.

I think we can mention David Ford's music here, what's wrong with that? - I myself thought his song was very strong, especially the way he grew more and more in his singing - so full of power, the whole thing!

Unfortunately Jack hasn't sent me anything yet. Thank you for his email address, I will write to him right after this email.

You write: "i do have a spiritual advisor, 2 actually - rev. masters d.y. and enya sapp. contact them at: xxxxx@xxxxx ... what a fuckin boob - you already know this!! must be that shit stuff you were talking about earlier, eh? :-)"
I'm sorry, but I don't know what you mean by "what a fuckin boob - you already know this!!". :-(
By the way, the ending of e.'s email address is missing. So I can't write to her.

In any case, I am very glad that you are in contact with your masters and I hope they are taking good care of you!

I hope you got the lyrics from my song. I promise you, no matter what happens, I will play this song, again and again, for you and I will teach it to my students so that it lives on and continues to be played...

My dear friend, what else can I say...
The most important thing...
I love you,
Your brother Peter

Daiji, May 28,2024

*sure thing, my friend. anybody who wishes to write can certainly do so. still, this isnt going to have a happy ending, no pots of gold at the end of the rainbow, and noone should be thinking that there might be.

*sorry that it took so long to get back to you - wifi problems of some sort. i went out to the yard at approx. 1030 this morning and the tablet was still only partly functioning. i came in at approx. 1540 and it was still out. dont know whether its securus or the prison administration. do know that the button pushing man did not show up to work today, dont know who actually pushed the button, just know who didnt.

*not an eventful day here on any front. just the usual things for a guy in my present position - unit staff, medicos and the chaplain come by to check on me and inquire as to whether i needed anything. did comfort the chaplain a little. poor guy just started this job and an execution is his first at bat. you can see in his face that this is uncomfortable with all of this.

*the case manager came by and i did have a few housekeeping questions for her. she quipped, "shoot" and me, being me, told her that thats how i got here and i got the response that i hope for - she burst into the most delightful little laugh.

*being an asshole isnt going to get me anywhere and/or make any difference in the grand design of things, so i choose to not be an asshole. that aint the same as thanking anyone for anything or forgiving them for how theyve treated me for the past 40 years. no nunna no no no!! they did every it of that intentionally. so, no passes.

*my concern for you, kai and the rest of those in my orbit continues to grow as each day passes. how could it not? my great hope would be that you could all assemble somewhere and share your stories of your time with me (yes, i know how that sounds!!), and celebrate each other for the genuinely good representatives of humanity that each of you are. maybe youd all become friends and look out for each other as friends do. maybe someday, eh?

*got my final resting spot sorted - in the buddha hall at the abbey on mt. shasta in california. ill be in a golden box in the kanzeon shrine. i kinda hoped for a shoebox in a dusty ol" corner in the basement of the abbey. i am both humbled and honored by the worthiness bestowed upon me by my master and master enya. this is a big big thing, guys.

*hope you guys have a good evening. take some time to just sit back, loosen your belts and relax, eh? look after yourselves and each other, and dont let this

stuff with me rule the day. yeah, i know that you aint going to do that, but a fellas gotta try, eh? :-)

*be well, brothers.

*with bows, metta, love and gratitude,
daiji

Daiji, May 29, 2024

*did receive he lyrics to the song that youve written. thank you, my brother. dont really know what to say here, have never been on the receiving end like this. im sorry that ill never get to hear the music to this piece. will you be posting the song on the ihfl website so that the world has access to it? i mean, itd be a shame for such a beautiful, heartfelt piece to be relegated to a notebook in a shoebox on the top shelf in the closet, eh?

*i did receive the video that you sent. thank you for the kind words. again, havent ever been on this side of those words and will neither confirm nor deny the presence of mistiness during multiple viewings. :-) thank you, peter. thats a high honor for me.

*no, peter, im sorry to tell you that i am unable to sit for a video and send it to you. the odoc doesnt permit that for the obvious reasons. if theres a way for prisoner to fuck something up for every other prioner - hell find it.

*i am well. had a couple moments with some friends where my emotions got the best of me. that was at it should have been too - these men are worth those tears to me and they should know that.the best par of he day came when i came in from the yard, showered and the "beanholes"(the slot in the door where the meal trays and other things are shoved in) were still open. the guys on the other yard were just coming in, getting their showers and getting ready to go back in their cells - the opportunity to shake their hands, look them in the eye and tell them that it is/was my pleasure to have known them was there and i jumped all over it. little emotional at times there too. again, these men are worth that. death row is a small community and we become a family. its amusing to me that some are resistant at first (everybodys a tough guy, eh?), only they see how we treat our own and become part of it. we may not always like each other, only weve got each other. that is as we want it. my house, my family.

*nothing from the lawyers so far this week. weeks just getting started, even though its already wednesday. i have no doubt that theyre up to their asses in alligators. i am fortunate, guys, i have two incredible lawyers, they do incredible on a very difficult case and have for absolute years. ill hear from them.

*good luck with the information stand. can you tell me a little about that? dont actually know what that is. i "think" that i know, only thinking aint knowing, eh? thanks.

*ha! yes, please, guys, get your rest. if you crash for 8-9 hours - good for you! thats your body screaming at you!! :-)) a soldier must tend to himself too or the mission suffers. know how that sounds to you, only those are true words.

* its 0104 as i write and i have no idea what this day has in store for me. i hop that i can get out on the yard this morning and see the guys. thats joy and someone once said that joy is an act of resistance. ha! lots of things exist in prisons all over the world. sometimes the greatest act of humanity is simply giving a thirsty prisoner that you havent yet met a drink of water on a hot day. not because hes asked for it, but because you see he needs it.

*okay, my friends, ist time...

*i offer merit for each of you and for all that you do for our sangha of m,an.

*thank you for your contributions, and dedication to all of the rest of us.

*be well.

*with my palms together before you,

daiji

Peter, May 30, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

Thank you very much for your two emails of May 28 and 29.

I have told V. that she can write to you.

By the way, the problems you had with the connection were due to Securus. The service was down again.

Yes, I can imagine that it was not easy for the chaplain to be confronted with this harsh reality. Perhaps he should ask his God why things are the way they are and why his God actually allows this to happen... Because if God is omnipotent, as is always claimed, then he could prevent many a misfortune...

I understand that you don't want to be an "asshole" and that you treat people with respect and sometimes even with humor. And I can only hope that a house manager, for example, will start to think about his role in this deadly system. Who knows, maybe he is even an active opponent of the death penalty at some point. Many a former executioner and helper of the executioners is fighting on our side today. I am proud of you that you have the strength to be no "asshole"! - And I know that it's not easy under these circumstances...

I understand your concern for us... This honored you, but you shouldn't worry about us. Especially as we are in contact with each other and talk to each other. It's all about you now! - We'll be fine...

I think it's wonderful that you can rest in the Buddha Hall in a golden box. I think that's wonderful... Tell your masters my heartfelt thanks for that. However, I would like you to retire there at the earliest at the age of 98. Until then, you should enjoy life and we will be by your side. I know the chances are not good, but we are not giving up hope yet!

I'm glad you got the lyrics to my song. I can tell you that it took about 20 minutes to write this song. That's actually always the case with me... I have a feeling - no idea how to describe it... In this case, I was completely with you and suddenly there is a melody, a few chords, a few words, deep from my heart and after I "wake up" the finished lyrics are in front of me and the song is finished... I'm not sure if the translation into English is good... Because I write my songs in German. But I hope it's translated reasonably well. Mh... It's not a really complicated song musically, but it's for you and that says it all.

I will try to send you videograms. I'll play the song for you there, just with guitar. Unfortunately I have to record it in 30 second snippets. It's such a shame that the videograms can't be longer... I'll leave out the prelude, so I'll just start singing straight away to make it work. It will probably be 5 videograms. My friend, I'll do it for you today and then send the videograms to you today. Yes, of course I will also put the song on our website. The world should be able to hear your song...

I am glad that you got my video! And I am very sad that you are not allowed to send a videogram. I would have loved to get one from you... But we can't change that. Unfortunately, these decisions are beyond our control. :-)

I am very glad that you were able to talk to your friends, I assume you mean other prisoners, and hopefully you can continue to do so. It is good to have a family and I understand very well that you call them your family. You are going through this hell together and that alone unites you... It's not an easy road, but you are walking it together - that's what matters!

I would also like to thank your lawyers for their tireless efforts on your behalf. It's really, really important that they don't let you down now and fight for you.

Yes, of course I can tell you about the information stand that we are organizing on 11 June. You have to imagine it like this. Kai, Niklas and I will set up a table in the city center of Kassel (this was approved by the city of Kassel) and spread information about you from 10am to 6pm. We have printed large posters showing you and on the posters it says that people should stand up for you. So, for example, there is an internet address, if you go there you can sign a petition for you. But we also have a signature list with us and we ask passers-by to sign it. We will send this list to the governor and the board later. But we will also be handing out leaflets to passers-by all the time. On these leaflets we will tell people about your case and ask them to come to our stand and sign the petition or alternatively do it on the internet... So throughout the day we will be talking to hopefully a lot of people about you and trying to get them to support you. We also have buttons that we are making ourselves that people can have. And we'll be wearing signs around our necks with a message against the death penalty. We do what we can...

Yes, joy is also an act of resistance. Sure, because the enemy doesn't like it when we rejoice... I for one am happy to be your brother. :-)

With this in mind, let me give you a big hug,

Your brother Peter

Peter, per SMS, May 30, 2024

I have just send send you 5 videos. My song for you in chopped form. Unfortunately there is no other way. You have the lyrics from the song. So you can find the

right order. Maybe you can also recognize the order by the time when the parts were send. I apologize that what I am sending you is not professional, but it

was difficult to play the song like this. And in English, too. The speed is also not quite right. It must be played much slower. But I am only allowed to send

30 second per part. The song is written for you and I regret that I have to send it to you in such poor quality and then I was also a little hoarse... with love

Daiji, May 31, 2024

peter and kai -

good evening, my friends. you enjoyed a fairly good day? got a lot done? a good lunch? happy to see each other when you got home?

hope so.

i offer merit for each of you and for all that you do for our sangha of man.

thank you for your contributions and dedication to all of the rest of us.

okay, i need to clear something up here - as a prisoner, especially a death row prisoner, im accustomed to getting whole lot of leaving alone. i dont bother the gomers and they dont bother me - unless/until its necessary. my whiney comments about being here for so long without anybody worrying about how i was doing until now when everybody is worrying about how i am doing are just that - whining! please do not take these things personally. im just blowing off steam. the absurdity of the present moment. if i dont have an active execution date - im just a check mark on the count sheet. thats just true.

to flesh this out little - i am one of thousands of death-sentenced prisoners

around the world. noone could possibly be in touch with that many people. even narrowing that number to a manageable number, whatever the hell that might be, would be a gargantuan task at best, eh? so, that brings us to you and me - my takeaway from your initial contact with me was and still is that youre a genuinely good man whose trying to stop something that he genuinely believes is the wrong thing to do and is more than willing to spend his time, his sweat, his blood and his treasure in his furtherance of this cause. never once did i think or have i thought anything other than that. thats simply admirable, even those who disagree with you on this would agree that what youre doing and how youre going about doing it is admirable. it just is. so, no guilt, no thinking that you could have, should have and/or would have done more than youre doing, eh? thats a game that you cannot win. youre never going to find the place where thats okay because it just doesnt exist. especially not in our heads. go ahead, ask me how i know. :-)

so, we good here?

Ha! "fucking boob", a self criticism. one of my more acceptable language ones. more often than not, its, "what a fuckin moron" or "what a fuckin asshole". "boob" is a kinder way of saying that. :-)

actually, my brother, im not going to not be me. i am a devout zen buddhist and an avowed bodhisattva (with the lower case b) [[Remark: A bodhisattva is a central concept in Buddhism and refers to a being who strives for the highest realization and aspires to Buddhahood. This being is on the path of "virtue perfection" in order to realize Buddhahood within himself and use it for the benefit of all living beings](#)]. and all that is happening now is just something thats happening now. its just the next step in my life. i may have been here many times before ... or, never at all. were born, we live, we die. that this is an intentional act doesnt change that, eh? as the old joke goes, "its my turn in the barrel". its my turn in the barrel. this has been a long time coming, nearly 40 years. so, its kinda been a constant companion along the way. one ive grown accustomed too. know how that may sound to some, only that doesnt change its truthfulness. we get used to things, all kinds of things. this isnt any different. it just seems so to anybody who isnt me in this moment. im nobody special here.

yes, i will get to have the tablet during my time in the death watch cell. maybe as long as up until the last few minutes. Ha! my last word may well be, "well, my rides here. sees yas!" :-)

received your message, havent yet received the videos. thank you for doing that, brother, and for all that went into you doing that. hopefully ill get it today. its 0815 and nothing yet.

prisons, eh?

okay, its okay to be a little sad about this. i men, i am fucking awesome, huh? so, how about this - dislike the system and the unfair process that got us to this point, but not the people trapped in it. theyre just people with a much different perspective than the perspective that you and i have. there are many things that i dont understand. theyre just things that i dont understand and not a good reason to create bad karma for anyone.

have a good evening, eh?

with bows,

daiji

Peter, 01.06.2024

My dear friend Daiji,

Thank you so much for your email.

I'm so sorry... Oh man... I don't know how to explain it, but I'm absolutely unhappy with the videos I sent you of my song for you.

Please excuse me for doing this horrible recording to you. The problem was the 30 second limit on the videograms. Instead of allowing you a few minutes... I had to record and send each verse individually. And in order for each verse to fit into these video snippets, I had to play the song way too fast. It's actually played at a slower, reverent speed. And playing and singing each verse individually somehow killed the song, along with trying to sing it in English... I don't know, it was hardly possible to express what I wanted to say with the song... It's bad when a song that you've put all the feeling in the world into suddenly has to be chopped up like with an axe... I just couldn't sing it the way I actually can... Sorry...

Daiji, I totally understand, maybe more than you think, how you feel. For such a long time, hardly anyone was interested in you and now, yes, now they're practically falling over you. Suddenly people are interested in you. And you have every right to be! - All the more reason to shake the world awake so that this inhumanity finally comes to an end! - Because yes, there are thousands of people condemned to death, but there are billions of people on this planet. Enough people to not leave anyone alone in their cell. People would simply have to act...

We try our best to contribute a little to this...

And no, I don't feel guilty. Simply because I'm just one person and of course I realize that I can't save the whole world on my own... Everyone can only concentrate on one topic and when it comes to contacting prisoners, I can only

keep in touch with a few and try to do something for them, such as the websites for each individual etc... You always want to do more... But unfortunately everything has limits, simply because of the time you have available. I have decided for you. So I fight for you, also in the hope that other people will realize that they can do the same, for you, for others, for a better world. - I don't think there's anything more to say about it. :-)

And I know that you can get used to a lot of things. But that people like you are treated like this and even executed is something I will never get used to!

I hug you with all my love,

Your brother Peter

Daiji, June 01, 2024

peter and kai,

monjin.

good evening, guys. enjoyed a good day? got a lot done?

i offer merit for each of you and for all that you do for our sangha of man.

thank you for your contributions and dedication to all the rest of us.

thank you, both, as well, for your unwavering dedication to me. i am simply humbled by your dedication to, well, to me.

okay, videos arrived and i watched them just a minute ago. watched them quite a few times and will watch them many more times. love the song: its lyrics and the music. dropped "d" tuning? a little tweaking of the "b" string? sounds familiar, only cant say why. doesnt matter, its a beautiful song, start to finish, and i am humbled that you created this for me.

actually, its not all that hard to not be an asshole. my zen practice informs my every breath (step) and that makes it easier. i practice mindfulness and because of that, i kinda pay attention to what i say, the words i choose and the manner in which i say it - being mindful to not create any bad karma for the person that im talking to and/or myself. i can be and often am quite colorful in my speech, and sometimes there are reasons for that. sometimes good, sometimes not so good. i am the ambassador for buddhism, specifically zen buddhism, here on death row. and not just on death row - there are those that work here. that comes with its own duties, obligations and responsibilities. especially at this time. i am uniquely positioned to "show" my fellow death-sentenced prisoners that equanimity in the face of death exists and theres a path to it. anger is pointless.

there is no resolution to anger. i hope that i can do this in a manner befitting the men that surround me. none of this makes me no helluva fella either. ive grown old with the men, i owe them this. i owe it to you too. and for the same reasons - you deserve the same respect and dignity.

i was a little shocked to read your email describing all that youre doing for me. being on this side of this means that i know little about all that goes into what anti death penalty forces do. again, i am humbled by your efforts on my behalf. i know that im kinda overusing the word "humbled" here, only its the only word there is for me to use.

yesterday, the glitches in/with securus continued, not quite as bad as in recent days, but bad enough to make placing phone calls frustratingly maddening. did get through to those that i needed to talk with. will attempt to do the same in a couple hours. my lawyers are not close by and we have to do all this runup to the clemency proceedings by phone.

learned, last evening, that my dearest friend, lynn, will not be permitted to witness my execution. im not at all happy about this. there will be the appropriate conversations beginning monday morning. i assure you. while i really do not want lynn to know the sights, smells and sounds of h-block, and witness my death in a cold, impersonal room filled with uncaring strangers from the far side of a sheet of glass - its what she wants and i can not, will not deny her anything within my power to give her.

its not just her. this is how i am with all of my friends. ha! im not the guy you call at 0300 to come bail you out of jail: im the guy thats sitting on the bench right beside you saying, "geez, dude, didnt think that was gonna happen! did you?" :-) learned in my youth that there are duties, obligations and responsibilities that come with being a friend and these things are and have been the most important things in my life. doesnt make me no helluva guy, either. just makes me a friend. thats all.

missed yard yesterday due to needing to make phone calls. so, missed that day with my friends. didnt like that that was necessary. i get locked in the death watch cell on 20/06 and will never see a friendly to me face again. so, these yard periods are so very important to me. and, i think, to them too.

ah, running out ammo here, guys. what with my rambling and all :-)

mo' later ..

Peter, June 03, 2024

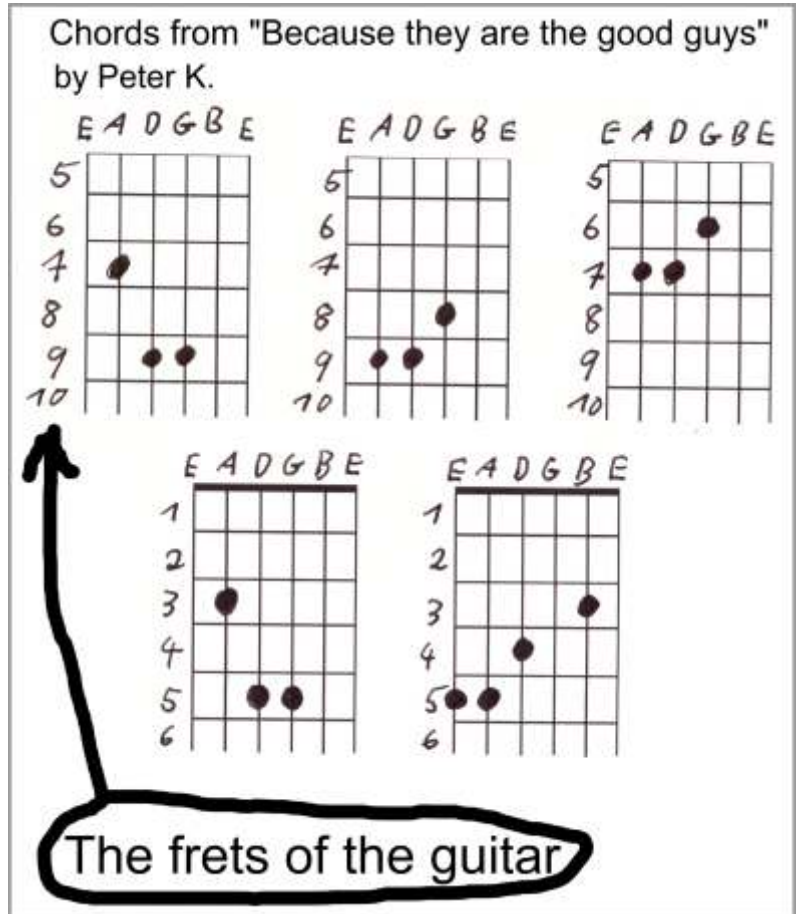
My dear friend Daiji,

Thank you for your words about my song for you.

You be puzzling over the chords? That's no wonder. I don't know their names myself! - I tried to find out with the help of a computer program. But the computer couldn't do it either. So I play the song with chords that I somehow found on the guitar and without knowing what they are called. :-)

Fortunately, there are tablatures and I have drawn the chords of the song for you and attached them as a photo to this email.

In fact, I haven't tuned the guitar any differently. So it is tuned normally. :-) - I want you to know that every word, every note comes from deep in my heart - for you...



I admire your path of mindfulness. This is an important topic in Zen Buddhism and I realize more and more that it is something very valuable. It lets you go your own way, always being with yourself, but also with all the other people. I wish more people would try to live more mindfulness...

I just imagine a world full of people, filled with mindfulness. They respect life, nature, the busy bees just like the power that a big tree radiates. They think about the steps they take, taking care not to trample anyone - neither the little bug on the ground, nor all the people around them. No one would be humiliated any more - no one would be alone any more... Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Then the realist comes around the corner and says: "Stop dreaming!" - And my heart says: "If I can no longer dream, then all hope is lost..."

And if mindfulness is a small flower, then I will try to nurture it, give it enough sun, but also make sure that too much sun doesn't burn it... Because if I have learned anything from you, it is the fact that hope is this small flower and we have to take care of it so that it doesn't fade...

You walk your path with so much respect and dignity that those who want to murder you must turn pale with envy, because they are ruled by hate ...

You write: "i was a little shocked to read your email describing all that youre doing for me." - You really don't need to be shocked, because I'm happy to do this for you and, in fact, I'm doing it for myself too. You've become my friend and brother and I don't want to give that up and lose it so easily. So I fight for both of us and against the death penalty... Besides, I always say and write on our publications: "When justice becomes the murderer, murder becomes justice"... An absolute contradiction that must be eliminated!

And I've always been good at contradicting, it used to annoy my teachers at school. Hahaha...

Yes, Securus has constant problems...

Unfortunately, your lawyer hasn't sent me anything and hasn't replied to my email either. But I'm sure he's very busy at the moment and I'm not that important.

You mention your friend Lynn. Please give her the following URL. There she can see a video with my song for you in German and with English subtitles. The video also includes the heart that you gave me, which you made with wool on a card: https://ihfl.de/peter_k.-because_they_are_the_good_guys.mp4

Unfortunately the address is very long, so I'll give you a short one where she can see and hear several of my music videos (including your song):

https://ihfl.de/startframe_musicvideos.htm

How did they justify not letting Lynn come? - But it's not that far yet and we're still working on preventing this sad day!

Too bad you missed the yard. I understand how important it is for you to meet your friends and family and talk to them. Please give them my warmest regards, will you?

I hope to hear from you again soon and

hug you with all my love,

Your brother,

Peter

They are blind

It's June 6th...

Today is another one of those days that "blew me away". While I was working on this book and editing emails in it, the whole situation overwhelmed me... I burst into tears... Oh man, the words of Daiji, how brave he is, it was somehow too much for me.

There are no words to express what I'm feeling right now. I only know that many people must feel this way as long as this cruel and inhumane punishment exists on earth. They fear for the life of a loved one, often for decades, and when the time comes, they are left with a terrible trauma... Yes, the death penalty should actually be criminalized when I think about how much misery and suffering it produces. And the perpetrators, who are called executioners, sin against humanity and with them all those who take part in it, in whatever way.

Yes, many have grown into it. They know no other way. "An eye for an eye" - and they learn nothing, because in the end all that remains is blindness - blindness to the injuries they cause with their so-called justice. They are blind and unfortunately far too often deaf to the desperate attempts to reach their hearts.

Daiji, you don't deserve this...

His last email was dated June 1 and it didn't reach me until June 3. This waiting for a message from him is really bad...



SMS from Daiji on June 6, 2024

hi, guys! sorry, been one l-o-n-g day. jack should have emailed ppb stuff by now. if not, tell me. ill talk with him again friday at 1430 local. have rcvd all o

your emails and the photo of the chords. have both seen/played those chords before. my musician pal in the u.k. was thoroughly impressed with the song, as were

all others in my orbit. still am overwhelmed by you doing that. actually, the little hoarse added a dimensional flavor that i rather enjoyed. email to follow.

Daiji, June 06, 2024

peter and kai,
monjin.

good evening, gents. good day?

sorry for the recent silence. been going from dawn to late night trying to do my part in this. piss poor excuse, i know. its all ive got! :-)

talked with jack yesterday bout getting that information to you. gave him the website address. suggest that you email as a reminder. hes up to his ass in alligators with all this clemency stuff. hes got to shuffle the papers into some kind of reasonable order and get it into the hands of the ppb by friday at noon. i have no doubt that hell do exactly that too. hes also my friend.

yeah, with lynns being a witness, we kind of tried sneaking one past the goalie. didnt work. shes on the visitors list for another prisoner at a different prison and thats not allowed under their rules. it was worth trying.

i stuck having to deal with just the unit staff and im not suggesting that theyre lying to me, only im hearing an awful lot of "i dont know" from career okdoc employees to questions that they should know the answers too. and, not surprisingly, you can tell by the nature of my questions that this is important and, yet, theres no offer of assistance of any kind. all this is a big deal to me and mine: its just a job to these guys.

whaddayagonnado, eh?

thanks for the tablature. i was able to tell what you were doing by looking at your fingers (when i was a kid id practice in front of the mirror on the inside of my mommas closet door to learn to recognize what someone else was doing. made picking up stuff so much easier. looks like the one chord is in the Esus4 orbit. love that sound, that tone. do know that the song is a big hit with the people in my orbit. i may have been its inspiration, but it applies to thousands around the world.

and, how devastatingly sad is it to say, " ... thousands ..."?

thank you for introducing me to your friends. that was nice of you and i am grateful for that. says a lot about the humanity in their hearts to get involved in

something like this so close to it end. you have good people in your life, my friend. be worthy of them.

today is canteen day here on 4-A and i have some cards made just for the occasion - with luck ill net me a bag or 2 of coffee and a bag or 2 of potato chips. old habits, pal, just old habits. :-)

gomers just came through the door, so yards about to run.
more later.

with my palms together before you,
daiji

Peter. June 07, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

Thank you very much for your email of 6/6/2024.

We are here preparing for our action on Tuesday and are actually as good as finished.

Please think of us on Tuesday when we will be on the street between 10 am and 6 pm to set up our information stand for you.

Of course, I understand that you haven't written for a few days, because there's certainly a lot of hustle and bustle around you at the moment, which I'm sure you're not used to. So you can see that you are not alone!

But please also think about of our project, that we both want to do. Write as much as you can for our book... This book should still speak when we're both gone... I think that's really important! - Think about the movie I saw back then and which I told you about, which is how I got involved in the first place, in the fight against the death penalty...

Unfortunately, I haven't received anything from your lawyer yet. I'll write him another email later. Unfortunately, he didn't reply to my email... I hope it didn't end up in the spam folder too... grrrrr

Yes, I know the problem, if you are on the list of one prisoner, you can't be on the list of another. That's really tragic that Lynn is excluded... She can write to me if she wants: Email: info@ihfl.de

Why won't the staff give you reasonable answers? - I mean "I don't know" is not an answer, because if they really don't know, they have every opportunity to find out the answers! - This really seems to be thoughtlessness... It's really extremely sad how little empathy such people have. :-)

Yes, these chords are wonderful. I love them and have used at least three of them in other songs. I only recently discovered the other two :-) It's somehow

something completely different, not the usual standard chords and it just sounds wonderful. The song for you will perhaps live forever, because as I said, I teach it to others. Both Kai and Niklas are already practicing the song diligently. They have some difficulties with it, but I can see that they will manage it and they have a mission from me to teach the song to others when I am no longer around...

Yes, you are right, the song is for you and inspired by my friendship with you. And actually, it's for thousands of people who are in a similar situation. That's why I sing it:

"This was the story of a man

Who could have a thousand names"

And yes, it's really upsetting that there are thousands. :-(

I remember practicing in front of the mirror from my childhood. But not with the guitar but with my accordion, because you can't see the black keys on the left-hand side and have to play them blind, when I was about 9 years old... oh man, how time flies... :-)

By the way, I've just sent you another 40 dollars - you should have your coffee and your potato chips! :-)

By the way, we have just decided to go to the city center of Kassel tomorrow to collect signatures for you and distribute leaflets. We'll be carrying posters and hanging them around our necks. We can just do this spontaneously, because we don't need a permit. We hope for a lot of attention, because on Sunday there are European elections here and there will certainly be many parties in the city center with information stands - we will especially "annoy" them with the topic of the death penalty :-)

So my dear friend, enjoy your coffee and please write again soon - yes?

With a loving hug,

Your brother

Peter

Peter, June 08, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

Today, on Saturday, the three of us were in the city center of Kassel and spent 4 hours distributing leaflets and collecting signatures for you.

We had many good conversations and were able to convince many people to be against the death penalty and many also signed our petition for you. Some promised to sign the online petition and some even did so on the spot with their smartphone so that we could see it.

I would like to tell you about a man who made me very happy. His name is Martin. He actually came to see me again, maybe half an hour later, after he had read the flyer very carefully. He was deeply shocked by your fate and really wanted to sign for you. He then talked to me for a very long time and I could almost physically feel his empathy. He thought with me about what could be done to improve the situation for people on death row and also asked questions about what could be done with really guilty people. He always had humanity and love for people in the background and he couldn't find anything positive about the death penalty in any way... The conversation about you was so intense that I was suddenly overcome with emotion and even started to cry because your fate hurts me so much... This man then also said how much he had now realized how much damage the death penalty does to people who are related to or friends with the condemned person and he said that this was also an important reason to reject the death penalty. I also told him about the book we are currently working on and he definitely wants to download it from our website when I have published it.

In the end, I hugged this man and thanked him, also on your behalf. I promised him I would tell you about him. So that was Martin - a human being, in the truest sense of the word.

With a big hug,
Your brother
Peter

Ps: Niklas and Kai have also distributed a lot of flyers. On Tuesday we'll be doing the information stand.

Daiji, June 08, 2024

peter and kai,
monjin.

evenin', guys! how was your day today? get just enough done to feel good about it, yet left enough to hit the ground runnin' this mornin'? :-)

again, and i'll never tire of saying this - thank you for all that you're doin', not just my behalf, but on behalf of all death-sentenced prisoners around the world. thanks, guys!

will be offerin' merit for all of you guys on tuesday, throughout the day, for all that you're doin' and for all those that you come into contact with. it's not a small feat that you're pullin' off.

my apologies, peter, for seemingly shirkin' my responsibilities in re our book. sometimes nothin' has changed and there's nothin' interestin' in that. thing is, i'm not angry, i'm not mad, i'm not spiteful and i'm not vengeful. that's kinda borin', eh? still, i will get crackin'. we're in the runup to the clemency hearin' and my head is filled with a bazillion different things. that might make for interestin' reading, huh?

i will be writing to valentin as soon as i finish this email, unless chow shows up first. i was writing to him last night, the tablet hiccupped and i was lookin' at a blank screen! :- (will certainly steer him towards taking a larger role and contributing to the cause.

yeah, sorry about that. in jack's defense, he's been up to his ass in the clemency stuff and that's taken up a lot of his time and attention. now that that's done and we're cruisin' toward the 17th - he's got no excuse, eh? i'll get on his ass about it.

i 'think' that the short answer to why the staff can't, doesn't and/or won't give reasonable responses may lie in their deliberate indifference. this particular execution means more to us than it does to them. to them, it's just another day at the office. if they could just take me out back and shoot me, it'd be easier. they just can't do that!

whaddayagonnado, eh?

dudes!! thank you for the \$40! that came as an unexpected, but very welcomed surprise. plain potato chips and coffee is at the top of my canteen slip! thank you, gents, just thank you. i am grateful.

there has been some kind of audit by the people whose job is trying to prevent sexual assaults in prisons here at osp and while i personally, have no idea what all that was about - it sure took up an awful lot of attention, effort and time of

the prison administration and gomers for the better part of a week. it's over now, so maybe things will get back to its bullshit normal?

been telling anybody who'll listen about the song and they're tellin' their people to check it out. maybe that'll translate to some contributions. hope so!

okay, guys, that's about all for now. it's a saturday mornin' at 1139 as i write and it's too quite. haven't seen or heard a gomer since 00630 - they're prob'ly sleepin' last night off in an office swivel chair and hopin' one of their bosses is too!

have a good evening, guys.

be well.

with bows, love and gratitude,
daiji

Peter, June 10, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,
Thank you very much for your email of 6/8/2024.

Daiji, no matter what you write, every word you say is important! - Even if you think that nothing important is happening, this time is certainly full of thoughts and feelings, but even if there were a formal emptiness in you right now, it would be good and right to talk about it, because all this is part of the sad time that lies ahead of you and all of us and that we are going through right now...

This is not about describing some grandiose and sensational events. No, it's about uncovering the truth... Whatever that may be...

I would like to show you a part of my truth today, which I have written in the book - and this, although it does not seem that something have happened:

"They are blind

It's June 6th...

Today is another one of those days that "blew me away". While I was working on this book and editing emails in it, the whole situation overwhelmed me... I

burst into tears... Oh man, the words of Daiji, how brave he is, it was somehow too much for me.

There are no words to express what I'm feeling right now. I only know that many people must feel this way as long as this cruel and inhumane punishment exists on earth. They fear for the life of a loved one, often for decades, and when the time comes, they are left with a terrible trauma... Yes, the death penalty should actually be criminalized when I think about how much misery and suffering it produces. And the perpetrators, who are called executioners, sin against humanity and with them all those who take part in it, in whatever way.

Yes, many have grown into it. They know no other way. "An eye for an eye" - and they learn nothing, because in the end all that remains is blindness - blindness to the injuries they cause with their so-called justice. They are blind and unfortunately far too often deaf to the desperate attempts to reach their hearts.

Daiji, you don't deserve this...

His last email was dated June 1 and it didn't reach me until June 3. This waiting for a message from him is really bad... “

Now of course the reader could say: „What's with all the whining?" Very simple. It's just the truth - nothing more and nothing less. And THAT is what this book is about. No matter what others say or write, invent and argue... We simply tell our truth as we experience it and counter all the hostility and stupidity...

I understand that Jack is really busy and in the meantime I have already gathered a lot of information about you and have been able to include it in our flyers and other publications or use it in our campaigns. A good photo of you would have been nice, but it's fine as it is. Just say hello to Jack for me and thank him for his efforts for you!

Imagine that - despite your situation, the staff don't care and it all just means another working day for them, when they're probably hoping that they'll get off work soon. When humanity is lost in this kind of work, the workers become machines. - I feel sorry for them...

I'm glad you've already received the 40 dollars. :-)

I'm glad that you've told so many people about my song. Anyone who would like more of my music is welcome to contact me...

The preparations are finished for our campaign on Tuesday, tomorrow. Now I can rest a bit... I hope we can reach a lot of people tomorrow and get a lot of signatures.

So, we'll set up our information stand in the city center tomorrow and off we go... I'll tell you about it and send you a photo.

With a big hug,
Your brother
Peter

Daiji June 11, 2024

peter and kai,
monjin.
evening, guys. busy day? i trust that you each took the time the take in the beauty that surrounds you.

thanks for writing. received two emails yesterday afternoon when i came in from yard. guys are getting a little soft on me now that weve only got a few days left to talk shit together. its kinda nice to be on the receiving end of that and its just a little bit creepy too. one of my best friends is a former enforcer for a white supremacy prison gang, not a guy youd want to meet anywhere (he eats nails and farts firecrackers!!), and poor guy is practically in tears. im the guy staring down the barrel of that needle and im comforting him! ha! go figure, eh? still, these are my guys and id stand beside very one of them.

while i was out there, the case manager came out to see me. of course, im in the last cage, so she has to run the gauntlet of nearly twenty prisoners, all of who want something. how it is around here. so, she comes to ask me the obligatory, "how are you? do you need anything?". shes really a rather pleasant woman, too pleasant for this place and knows that i know that she hasnt the ability to really do anything for me at all. its just a silly little game that must be played. so, we talk for a few minutes and exchange pleasantries before she starts off to run the gauntlet again. poor woman, doesnt make two cages before some guy starts whining about a broken eyelash. ha! you know that you can hear an eye roll? :-)

thank you for sharing the story of meeting martin. what a lovely story, despite the reason for the meeting. i hope that that turns into a meaningful something

for the both of you. i do. never know, you may have just met a public relations wizard wholl take ihfl to places previously unimagined, eh?

thank you, also, for the time, effort, blood, sweat and treasure that youse guys are expending on my behalf. im at a loss for words to adequately describe what its like to be on the receiving end of that kind of attention.

i am grateful.

very grateful.

okay, i get that. ill write a little every day. dont guess that i put any thought into my meaningless musings might be a goldmine! :-)) who doe, eh? im still in a good place. im surrounded by some very good people, both within/without this prison, and that makes it both easier in some ways and harder in others. i mean, theres that perceived need to put on this brave face and puff my chest up a little to show how tough i am and then our caitiesunshine says, "what will i do without you?" and i dissolve into a puddle of daiji. how the fuck can you not, eh? still, my practice continues to deepen and im learning great lessons from this that will be mine forever. turns out that this is the only way to learn these lessons. i just hate that good people do/will experience suffering due to this and i shouldnt hate. so, another lesson, eh?

yesterday, out on the yard, i met a genuine american hero - a u.s. marine and decorated combat veteran. as a vet, myself, these men, these heroes, are my brothers in arms and i am called to do all that i can for them. thats how i roll. i will not allow a vet to suffer alone. he, they are not alone. not as long as theres a me. so, that was a good day for both he and i. i asked did he need anything and he replied that he needed a pair of socks. a fucking pair of socks! you have no idea how much that that pissed me off, that that man needed a pair of socks! i gave him 5 pair of socks and rounded up 5 more pair for him. not on my fucking watch!

sometimes, my friends, something life altering just falls into your lap, eh?

youse guys enjoy a good evening.
with bows, metta, love and gratitude,
daiji

Daiji, June 12, 2024

hi, guys -
monjin.

phew, what a fucking day yesterday was. the unit manager comes around every day (and has since all this started) asking, "are you okay?" and "do you need anything?" and every day i tell her the same thing, "i need to know whether my visitors/witnesses have been approved" well, she came around yesterday afternoon asking the same questions. so, i asked, "you've been coming around here every day asking me what i need and every day i tell you that i need to know whether my visitors/witnesses have been approved. at what point in our daily conversation about the same topic didn't it occur to that i was seeking your assistance in securing the answer to my question? why did it never dawn on you to say, 'okay, rick, i'll get the answer for you'? in your deliberate indifference, there are only 4 reasons for your actions here: 1) you don't know. 2) you don't care. 3) it's not my concern and 4) fuck you, rick rojem. it's one of those 4. pick one." i get the reason, it's as nietzsche posited in his treatise on justice, "... the judge sees the man in the dock as just the usual man in the usual place ...". that means that the man in the dock isn't viewed as a human being worthy of being treated with respect and dignity - he's just some faceless, nameless figure before me for the usual reason that anybody stands before me

prisoners in prisons are the usual people in the usual place. doesn't matter that i'm to be put to death in a few days, it just matters that i want something from her. her default setting is deliberate indifference. however, all that said, she's not a moron and actually got the point that i was making (after having been dragged by her hair the the water edge!) and said, "i'll get the answer for you." to which i replied, "thank you." that's all i wanted. people wonder why prisoners aren't necessarily the nicest people on the face of the earth.

still, she hasn't yet showed herself here in the cellblock and her workday is just a few minutes from being over. my guess is that she's grabbed her purse, looked for her keys and is heading for the gate as i write this.

whaddayagonndo, eh?

then, the securus people show up to do some kind of electronic check on these tablets. so, when they get to this cell i say, "i'm going to be executed on the 27th of june, little over a week from now. what i need to know from you is what becomes of my songs, my photos, my videos and my games?" and the woman looks me square in the eye and says, "when you discharge, arrangements can be made." so, i have to repeat, "i'm going to be executed on the 27th of june. i'm going to be put to death. i will not be available to avail myself of whatever arrangements that you're talking about. what i need from you is whether i can have my songs put on a cd, my photos put on a cd, my games put on a cd and

my videos put on a cd and designate to whom those cds should go. now, if you 'sold' me those games/songs, then they're mine, but if you 'rented' those games/songs to me and failed to inform me, then you cheated me and that stuff is yours. well, i received assurances that the games/songs are, indeed, mine, and they'd have an answer for me tomorrow. it's tomorrow. no answer. i have over 1300 songs on this tablet.

okay, the unit manager was just here. guess who didn't have an answer to my oft asked question? she informed me that notices would be sent out and that she spoke with the person who'd be sending them out. i asked if that person was the person who knows who has/has not been approved? she said it was. "and, you asked who has/has not been approved?"

"no, they'll be notified."

you can't make this stuff up!

these are the people responsible for keeping prisoners in this hi-max prison. the people responsible for properly executing me in just a few days. two soups says they couldn't grab their ass with both hands.

tomorrow, eh?

with bows,
daiji

doesn't inspire a lot of confidence, eh?

June 13, 2024

Successful IHfL campaign in Kassel for Richard Rojem

The Initiative Hope for Life was active on June 11, 2024 with its information stand in downtown Kassel. On the Saturday before, we distributed flyers and collected signatures for Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. who is to be murdered by the US state on June 27 after being imprisoned for around 40 years and tortured with this death threat, although he always maintains his innocence.

We would like to thank all the people who had really good conversations with us over the two days and, above all, of course, for their willingness to support our petition for Richard. We delivered the signatures and personal petitions for clemency to the recipients today.

Now we can only hope that the governor of Oklahoma decides to prevent further suffering. Suffering for Richard and all those who love him, but also suffering for the people who will act as his executioners, because many an executioner suffers greatly from the fact that he has become a murderer for the state.

[Irony on]

We would like to thank the press, Hessian television and Hessian radio for their "great" interest in our work.

With unimaginable professionalism, they managed to ignore Richard's suffering and our fight for his life.

A small detail in passing: Hessian television was actually very close to our information stand. And yes, they even interviewed one of the co-founders of the IHfL. But their report was not about saving lives - NO! - Why should it be, they are professionals after all! - It was actually a "highly intelligent" report about dolls and why some people are creeped out by dolls...

In the interview with fellow IHfL campaigner Peter K., he told the camera that dolls don't scare him, but that something else really frightens him, namely the fact that his friend Richard Rojem is to be executed in Oklahoma and that he would like HR to report on this and on the IHfL information stand just a few meters away.

Probably to be really worth the money these people get for producing such valuable reports, they of course canceled this interview and said

succinctly that they didn't have time for it because they already had to edit the film at 6 pm or something like that...

Yes, and they really didn't have time for such an "unimportant topic" as a group of people trying to save a human life. Which you could also see from the fact that they spent what felt like several hours near our information stand asking other passers-by about their "highly important" experiences with dolls...

So, "very high praise" for these people from television! - We had sent you our press release a few days earlier.

[Irony off]

We have been used to being ignored by radio and television etc. for 12 years...

Because we are an initiative that "unfortunately" only tries to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty and to give hope to people on death row. What is that compared to rabbit breeding clubs, cooking shows and yes, actually potato sacks, because they even reported on that once...

Hard to believe, but not only true, but also really extremely sad...

If you haven't already done so, please sign the online petition for Richard Rojem at:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-richard-rojem-in-oklahoma/>

And now a few more photos of our mission in the pedestrian zone of Kassel:





We would like to say something to all those who have really supported us in this campaign, whether on the street or on the Internet:

Richard is overjoyed that you all exist. He is so alone in this terrible situation, but he knows that you exist and that helps him a lot. He greets you all from the bottom of his heart, says thank you for supporting our fight against the death penalty and that he will hopefully be pardoned.

IHfL

Peter K.

Don't kill in the name of justice

**STOP
EXECUTIONS
NOW!**



When justice becomes the murderer, murder becomes justice!

ihfl.de

ihfl.de/eng

Initiative Hoffnung fürs Leben (Initiative Hope for Life)

Peter, June 13, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

Thank you very much for your two emails of June 11 and 12, 2024.

I apologize for only replying now. It was because we did the information stand and I simply had a lot to do with printing huge piles of leaflets, information booklets, posters, etc. and the whole organization of the event. I can tell you that our event in the center of Kassel was really really good. We had an amazing number of good conversations with passers-by and many of them signed the petition for you or promised to sign the online petition. Ha, one woman even wanted to have my music CD against the death penalty with music by me and donated 10 euros for our work. :-) - An unbelievably large number of copies of my music, because in what feels like three years, exactly one of my CDs has actually been purchased. :-) - A few more hundred thousand years and I'll get the golden CD. Hahahaha...

Oh man, I understand that this "tough" guy who eats nails, as you say, is in tears. That's the amazing thing that you are comforting him because he lacks the strength in the face of what is planned. It's not easy to realize all this and keep dry eyes.

Okay, my sympathy for the case manager is limited because she has to get past the others and everyone wants something from her. I mean, what's the point of asking you if you need something? - Of course you need something and if she would take this actually dishonest question seriously, she would start planning big demonstrations in front of the governor's office and print flyers against this inhumane system etc... She would start fighting for humanity and for love and humanity to reign... Instead, she plays along with a deadly and emotionally hurting game and earns her living with it. Oh, if only she could change position in her heart for once: Herself in this cell and someone else asks if she needs anything. But the fact that she asks this question without actually being able or wanting to do anything for you is somehow cynical. I just keep asking myself what's actually going on in people like that, that they've lost their empathy.

Yes, Martin... That would be really wonderful if he were a PR wizard. :-)

It's wonderful that you write every day. It's wonderful because you let the world look into this dark world of the death penalty. That is the most important thing! - That people's eyes are opened to this area of darkness.

It's wonderful that you gave the veteran socks. Simply wonderful! - I would like to tell you a little story that happened to me when we did the information stand for you. Some homeless people kept coming up to us and asking about your fate. Yes, humanity lives on the street. One of them kept coming near us and we talked about this and that. He was completely broke and at one point, stroking his stomach, he said: "Oh man, I'm so hungry!"... For him it was just a remark, like: "My head itches" or something. But not for me. I gave him some money and he disappeared. I had already forgotten the whole thing when I suddenly heard him behind me: "That man! - This man saved me, even though he doesn't have much himself!" - I turned around and saw him with a dry roll in his hand and a big bag of other rolls. And he kept telling people that I had given him money so that he wouldn't have to go hungry... We talked for a long time and the poor guy is actually living on the street and THIS is in one of the richest countries in the world. Cars are put in car dealerships here and people live on the street - what a disgrace! - He told me to say hello to you and of course he signed for you.

And yes, I understand your frustration and I'm right there with you. It's absolutely impossible to treat a person like this and even more so when they have an execution date in mind. What has happened to this woman that she asks you the same question over and over again so indifferently, knowing that she is not interested in your answer at all? Then why does she actually ask: "do you need anything?" - Well, I think she is one of the human robots that the system produces. It's in the rules to do what she does. So she does it. Without empathy, without real interest. It's the same attitude as the sales clerk at the checkout of a crazy rich supermarket who thinks she wants to look in my bag. When I ask if she wants to accuse me of theft, I get the answer: "No". When I then say that they don't have to look in my bag, she then says: "But I want to look in your bag". And so it goes on and on. None of my arguments that she doesn't have the right to look in my bag and that I don't want to look in her bag change anything. Not even the reference to the fact that she doesn't have the right to look in my bag because of German law. She is a human robot who is doing the job that the management has given her and she doesn't realize that at all. On the contrary, she becomes more and more aggressive and doesn't realize that she's insulting me because she finally tells me that she thinks it's possible that I'm a thief... Mh... funny, she didn't ask the lady in front of me... But I'm also a man with long hair, a full beard and not exactly clothes from a noble tailor. But one thing is for sure. If she's having a party at home, she won't want to look in her guests' bags when they want to leave her apartment. But in her apartment she is not the apparently will-less slave of a capitalist. :-)

Oh yes, in the end I demonstratively let her look in my bag and told her that she should be ashamed that she thought I was possible thief because of her behavior. She replied: "You should be ashamed of yourself!". That says it all...

Yes, a lot of things have gone crazy in this world. And the world's leading state in its opinion, the USA, which supposedly stands for justice, humanity and such values and in this name has murdered huge numbers of people with the help of its soldiers and war machines and brought endless misfortune upon many people, all of course in the name of the "good cause", this state even has death row inmates in its federal prisons. All in the name of justice, turning people into murderers again... Whether it's looking into the intimate secrets of an ordinary pocket or people who work in the death penalty system. They all seem to be dehumanized, at least as long as they do this job. Mh... maybe they have an extra hook on their wardrobe at home where they hang their humanity before they go to work...

Oh man, this is something like that again. These people from Securus... They are not even able to give you a reasonable answer. In fact, it's usually the case that so-called "purchased" songs don't become personal property. That's the latest trick of the capitalists! - Rather, you buy a license that gives you the right to use these digital media. However, this license expires with the death of the license holder. So it cannot be inherited. As sad as this is, it is the case with many digital media and I suspect it is also the case with Securus. So it's not like buying a music CD that you can pass on.

I don't feel comfortable telling you this. :-(

This is totally insane!!! - At the end she said, "No, they will be notified." - THAT is supposed to be the answer to one of your most important questions? Whether the witnesses are approved for you and the visits - I'm telling you. It's like human machines, like programmed robots... It's merciless - inhuman and just makes you want to puke. My sympathy goes to these representatives of an inhuman system who do their job "really well".

No, you're right. You can't invent something like that.

Thank you for telling me about it and I want the world to know!

My dear friend, I am now closing this email with the fact that you are in my heart every second and I am here for you, no matter what may come.

I hug you,

Your brother
Peter

Ps: there 2 photos in this email. On them you can see all of us who took part in the campaign for you in the city center of Kassel. Greetings from Kai, Niklas, Jessica and Anja



Peter, via SMS June 14, 2024

My dear friend Daiji, I have found a way to watch your mercy petition on Monday on the Internet via video. So we will be with you when you are there!
Love you!

Daiji, via SMS June 15, 2024

will talk to jack this afternoon. will also ask him again to send that to you. hes been busy. not a great excuse, just an excuse. i was with him yesterday

and came back to the cell with a 2.5" stack of papers to wade thru. burning midnite oil! gearing up for monday. my apologies for being afk - trying to get in

the groove of this isnt so easy. some of it is maddening beyond belief, some of it is purely fiction and the question is, "do we waste time chasing down that

rabbit hole?" if were talking about their stuff were not talking about ours. jack will have some sage advice. guys simply phenomenal! ill get something written

today for our book. ill try to put yesterday into words that sound better than UGH! hope you guys have a good night!! thanks again for all youre doing.
luv u 2!

Daiji, June 15, 2024

peter and kai -
monjin.

good evening, good friends. i trust that this was a good, productive day for you. thank you for giving up your day(s) of leisure for me.

i am grateful.

i offer merit for you and for all that you do for our sangha of man.

thank you for your contributions and dedication to us.

just wrote about 2000 characters and watched them just fuckin' disappear into the ether. donnie, little bastard that he can be, is still laughing! so, ill try to recreate what i just wrote. wish luck, eh? :-)

yesterday was a day that started out slow and then just fizzled out altogether. was up at 0530 to get on the yard list at 0600. figured that the gomers would run yard before breakfast because it was to be around 32.2° (C) around noon and that too hot for us in those cages. yeah, that didnt happen. no yard ran. wasted morning waiting for it.

jack was due to visit around 1230, to go over the clemency packets (ours/theirs) and discuss whatever needed to be discussed and bullshit for few minutes. 1230 and no jack. 1300 and no jack. then, few minutes later, the gomers come to get me to go see jack. while they were getting me ready (escort to shower, stripped/inspected, dressed, chained up) for the 6-7 minute walk down to h-block. all the while, another set of gomers are starting to run yard. wasnt thrilled about that: happy for the guys/bummed for me)

jack has brought with him a stack of papers about 12 cm thick. half of it was copy of two clemency packets - ours and theirs. they idae was to read through them, discuss the highlights, discuss options and bullshit for a few minutes.

their clemency packet didnt paint a good picture of me. didnt expect it would, just wasnt ready to read that. it was filled with truths, half-truths and untruths.

ours was different. painted a better picture.

monday morning at 0900 (CDT), we do the clemency hearing. the state gets 40 minutes, our side gets 40 minutes, the victims family gets 20 and i get 10. dont know that i can fill 10. dont know that i cant. well find out.

got back the cell, changed, got back into their clemency packet and started looking hen it occurred to me that this was put together the way the state would argue against an upcoming parole - expanded way beyond the perimeters of the case before the clemency board.

thats not a good thing.

no, really ist not.

then, it occurred that 1) if we addressed it in anyway, wed be highlighting what

they said, it being worthy of comment. 2) if we chasing them down that rabbit hole, were talking about their things were not talking bout our stuff. so, what do we do? really dont know.

Ill talk with jack in 30 minutes and see what hes got to say about these thoughts of mine. could be that the ticking clock is beginning to drown out some things and i wont admit it? cant say ist not.

so, more in a little while ...

im back ...

cant say that the all too short conversation w/jack was fruitful - systemic securus problems prevented me from being able to call back. will try tomorrow.

we discussed my concerns (above) and he reserved comment until he had time to consider all of that against the bigger picture here. ill be smarter tomorrow at this time.

ha! dude! are you fucking kidding me here!!! :-) youre just fucking amazing!! youre apologizing to me for being out all fucking day being too busy trying to save my life to respond to my email in a timely manner. yeah, my brother, read that again! thanks!!

im so happy that you realized some cd sales. not surprised by that. youre certainly a talented singer/songwriter/musician. and, that cd is a physical anti death penalty reminder, eh?

thats a beautiful, touching story about the hungry, homeless man. i proud to know a man who would do that. yeah, we are of an age, eh? nonetheless, its a compassionate act of genuinely kind generosity and that, too, plants its seeds. thank you for being "that" guy.

thank you for the photos and the introduction to the people in --
(Note: He could not continue writing here, as emails from him may have a maximum of 4000 characters)

Peter, via SMS June 17, 2024

Directly after the Pardon and Parole Board:

My dear daiji, I saw the board on Zoom and I have to say it was a dirty staging and nothing else. I assure you, I will continue to be by your side. I recorded the video with you and will let the world know what you said. I understand very well why you spoke so briefly because the whole thing was just a staging
A merciless staging. My clear impression was that the outcome was a foregone conclusion. Niklas loves you, Kai loves you, I love you! be strong my brother

Daiji, via SMS June 17, 2024

thank you.
felt like an ambush. and me with not a pebble for my slingshot.
i agree with your every word.
i love you guys and am so honored to be part of this little family despite todays outcome.
you took me in when you didnt have to and that says a lot about your compassion and your humanity.
the rest is easy ...

Peter, June 18, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,
First of all, thank you very much for being willing to be a part of our little family, as I could read from your text message.
And yes, that's exactly how it is. You have become a part of us. There is not really a minute when we are not with you in our hearts and minds.
Thank you also for your email of June 15, which I only received on Monday...
Why am I only replying to you now? - Well, I think you can guess...

After this terrible hearing I had a lot to do to process the whole thing and send it out into the world. Everyone can see you now and hear your words and how they tried to humiliate you. I have rarely experienced such coldness and mercilessness, even inhumanity, as I unfortunately had to witness yesterday. They offered you a deal back then. You turned it down. What else could you do? - Life imprisonment for admitting to a murder you didn't commit... As an innocent man, that couldn't be your path. Now you have been punished for it, in a horrible, cold and arrogant way. "because they are the good guys"... The good guys who want you to jump over the blade, as we say here... :-(

I don't know how a person can be like that, I don't know what to say, I don't know anything at the moment. Except that I love you like a brother and these people have stuck their cold knife straight into my heart.

When I saw you, saw you properly for the first time in my life, I could see in your eyes that you knew what play was being and had been performed there. And that your role was clear from the start.

By the way, it was white people who enslaved the black people and hung them from the nearest tree. Those racists who raged mercilessly against black people?... Yes, that's how it was and sometimes it still is today...

And who gave you a "no" besides the others? - A man with black skin color. He didn't understand anything. He hasn't learned anything. He's a sad something that brought shame to all the people the white race hung from the nearest tree.... But I digress, or maybe I don't? - Is that the gist of it all? - That the oppressed will eventually rise up and become oppressors themselves? - Is that the way of the world? - That would be really sad...

In any case, I didn't get the impression that they really listened to the arguments of the defense... Somehow I got the impression that there are a few bored men, who are actually already at home with their thoughts, in their garden having a barbecue with their family and watching the latest baseball game... Human machines? - Machine people? -I really don't know.

But one thing is clear. When a human being with a thousand prejudices thrown at him says something, you either don't listen to him or you use everything he says against him by twisting his words around in his mouth. - Justice, however, is something completely different and sometimes I doubt whether justice can exist at all.

I will say hello to the hungry homeless man as soon as I see him and give him a hug - I promise! And yes, all those who have helped and will help can read your words in the book so that your thanks reach them directly. I would also like to thank those who did not leave us alone during this difficult time.

No - I have no understanding for people treating you so thoughtlessly. I don't want to understand, because you can also understand yourself to death. I hope you understand what I mean.

So my dear friend, I wish I could really hold you in my arms and cry, laugh and mourn with you... Unfortunately we are denied this. But rest assured, someone who loves you with all their heart is writing here!

Your brother
Peter

June 18,2024

Board of Pardons and Paroles Unanimous: No clemency for Richard Rojem!

The Oklahoma Board of Pardons and Paroles has unanimously decided not to grant clemency to Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. The decision was made after a biased hearing, full of emotional abuse of the convicted man and a weak and uncommitted defense.

All the participants in this event, which was broadcast via Zoom, were easy to understand, except for Richard Rojem's defenders. Yes, you read correctly! – While the defense was speaking, there were constant sound dropouts and errors in the voice transmission, which meant that some what his lawyers says could not be understood via Zoom.

The victim's family and also the prosecution staged Richard Rojem before the jury as a monster, a psychopath who mercilessly abused his victim and in the end literally slaughtered him. A man who was supposed to have been a terrible psychopath even before 1984, although these questionable allegations had nothing to do with the actual case... All this felt like a public inquisition. His accusers wisely "overlooked" the fact that Richard Rojem was only convicted on the basis of weak circumstantial evidence and that no DNA traces of him were found at the crime scene or on the victim.

From the point of view of the author writing these lines, this so-called clemency event had nothing to do with justice or even remotely with the search for it. It felt like the psychological execution of a man who has nothing left in his hands because everything, but really everything, was taken from him during almost 40 years of torture, with the threat of the death penalty and death row.

In my letter to the board of pardon and parole and to the Governor I wrote:

*Dear Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board,
Dear Governor J. Kevin Stitt,*

*I am writing to you because I am very concerned about my friend
Richard Norman Rojem, Jr.*

*Your state of Oklahoma is scheduled to execute Richard on June 27,
2024.*

I have been in regular contact with him for a long time and believe me, he is a wonderful man. He is a man who is full of peace and love and is a Zen Buddhist who follows the path of mindfulness. This means that he is always careful not to hurt anyone and to treat people with respect and love.

I have learned a lot from his mindset and admire his spiritual strength. I find it so sad that the little 7-year-old girl had to die and I feel for those who loved this child. However, I am convinced that the real perpetrator is still free and that Richard has been falsely accused of committing this murder. Because in several DNA tests, no DNA from Richard was found at the crime scene!

I am a musician and songwriter and recently wrote a song for Richard and released it in a video. As I live in Germany, I sang this song in German, but I have published a video of it with English subtitles. Please have a look at this video. Here is the internet address of the song:

https://ihfl.de/peter_k.-because_they_are_the_good_guys.mp4

Perhaps you will feel how connected I am to Richard when you listen to my song.

It's my birthday on June 26th and you can't give me a bigger birthday present than to show Richard mercy and not take him away from me. Do you understand? On the next day of my birthday, my beloved friend is to be taken away from me by a justice system that will once again cause great suffering. I am literally traumatized by the knowledge that Richard is soon to be killed... I can't stop crying when I think of him being strapped to the death gurney and murdered by lethal injection. Can you imagine the pain of loving someone and seeing them killed in this way?

I beg you from the bottom of my heart and with tears in my eyes, let Richard live! - Don't do THIS to him and all those who love him!

There is so much suffering in the world and we should take every opportunity to prevent suffering. You have the opportunity to prevent new suffering right now! - Use this chance of humanity!

*In the hope of mercy for my friend Richard Norman Rojem, Jr,
I send you hopeful greetings
Peter K.*

They ignored my words, just as they ignored the words of many people who wrote something for him or signed a petition.

At the end of this mental execution, Richard was able to say something about it. I know him and I could see in his eyes, indeed in his whole posture, how shaken he was in the face of what these supposedly so righteous people were doing...

Completely dejected, he only spoke very briefly... What else could he have said?



The video can be viewed at the following URL:
<https://ihfl.de/rj/eng/index.htm>

Richard Rojem is still alive, but on June 27, 2024, he has to look down the barrel of the needle with which “THE GOOD” want to murder him... (In my song for Richard, “**THE GOOD**” refers to all those who, in their hatred, want only one thing: the death penalty)

This song and other music videos from Peter K. against the death penalty:
https://ihfl.de/startframe_musicvideos.htm

We are shocked and hurt, because the suffering that these people create in the name of their “justice” is immeasurable...

Please sign the petitions:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-richard-rojem-in-oklahoma/>

<https://catholicismobilizing.org/take-action/stop-the-execution-of-richard-rojem-jr/>

And writes directly to the governor to do everything he can to prevent Richard's execution:

Office of Governor J. Kevin Stitt
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
U.S.A

Phone: **405.521.2342**

Contact form of the governor:

<https://oklahoma.gov/governor/contact/general-information/contact-the-governor.html>

Thank you...

IHfL

Peter K.

Remark

At this point I would like to share a comment from a person who has also seen this so-called mercy event:

„Me and my brother watched it live (it's 4 p m im Central Europe). My brother was shocked at how cold and sterile the whole thing was. The defence could just as well not have been there, probably Chat-GPT (with added voice feature) would have done a better job.“

I replied as follows:

Thank you very much for this absolutely accurate comment. Yes, that's exactly how it was... Unbelievable how cold this whole event has been. And yes, an artificial intelligence would probably have made it better... Richard asked his defense attorney several times to send me documents so we could work with them in our actions on his behalf. I have written to this "defense lawyer" several times... We are still waiting for a response from this "defense lawyer" today... :-(- The whole thing was not a clemency hearing, but a public execution event of a "monster"... Look into Richard's eyes... That says it all...

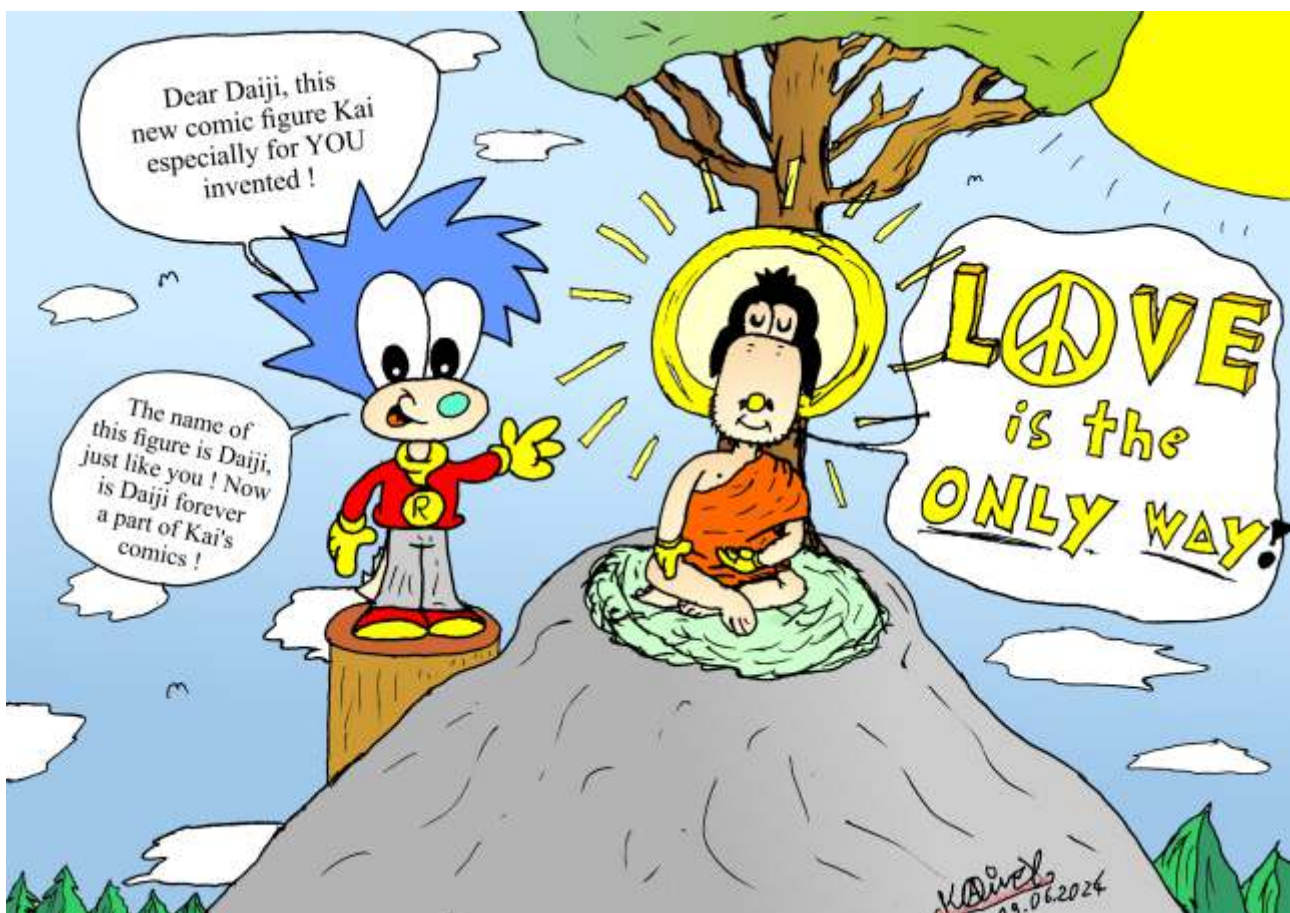
Peter, via SMS June 19, 2024

My dear brother. I worked a lot for you yesterday and then slept for a very long time. I woke up at 7 PM and dreamed about you nonstop. very sad what happend

I wrote you an email. I don't know what to say. I'm here for you, my brother. If you need anything, let me know. I love you. I wish I could be with you. Peter

Peter, June 19, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,
Today I would like to show you something nice.
Kai has invented a new comic figure for his comics.
Three guesses what her name is. :-)
I've attached a drawing of Kai, so maybe you won't have such a hard time guessing the name. :-)
He loves you with all his heart,
Your friend and brother
Peter



Daiji, June 19, 2024

i dont know what to say, my brother. i feel so bad for you, kai, nicklas and our family of friends. this just didnt have to end like this.
still, your work was not for nothing. you advanced the ball and thats not a loss of any kind and please dont think/belive that it is. you looked the beast in its eyes and you did not blink. that says a lot about each of you. this is just a battle lost. one battle.
im sorry that ive let you dont by not writing. ill get on it tomorrow.
no acceptable excuse to offer. was just a bit bummed by the event. am not now.
love you guys too.
youve been incerdible comfort for/to me during all of this.

Peter, via SMS June 19, 2024

Of course you were depressed. Just like us. We were and are all depressed together and that's what matters. We feel together and no one can take that away from us.

I feel for you and you feel for me. That's right, because you are a part of us. I understand why you spoke so briefly, because why should we feed this beast.

Peter, via SMS June 20, 2024

It is really difficult to express speechlessness and that I am speechless with. I have no words to comfort you or myself. I can only say that I am with you and that I love you, brother, with all my heart.

Kai and Niklas can now play the song I wrote for you quite well. So your song will survive when you and I are no longer here. They will then teach it to others.

Daiji, via SMS June 20, 2024

thanks, peter, thats comforting in itself. i dont require much. :-)
just relax and breathe. this is just another phase of life.
thanks to you, the teacher, and kai and nicklas, the students. id love to hear the trio!! :-)
lynn is trying to contact you regarding kais new comic character - she so wants to see it!! thks!!

Peter, via SMS June 20, 2024

Lynn can write to info@ihfl.de - Did you write an email, because none has arrived here yet. I would be happy to get in touch with Lynn. Can I do something for you?

Daiji, June 21, 2024

peter and kai -

what a week!

had the clemency hearing on monday. man, that was an experience. you saw it live and i imagine that we shared many of the same "what the f***!" thoughts. felt ambushed. the clemency packet that the state presented was not the clemency packet that they had provided us a copy of and was just filled with truths, half-truths and complete untruths. if i could have defended myself from any parts of that, i wouldnt have had sufficient time to prepare a defense. of course, that was designed to be exactly what it was. granted, i have been a deplorable human being and have never made any excuses for that. i could never make up for any of that. things change. people change. dont know that "change" is the right word, more like "evolve" in their thinking to the point where committing bad actions is simply not something that they choose to do. thats a conversation for another time in another lifetime, eh? they clemency board did not recommend clemency by the widest margin available to it: 5-0 even the guy that normally votes in favor of clemency voted "no". not that that was unexpected, the final vote, but it was kind tough to hear.

plus, im not alone in this and there was those people to be concerned about. this death penalty stuff isnt kind to anyone on either side of the fence. there are no winners, no nights filled with peaceful sleep. none of that. and, while i am sounding selfish here, there is laylas mother and brother, her aunts and uncles, her grandmother and the family of her father who tragically took his own life just 14 months after laylas murder. i cannot begin to imagine what these past 40 years have been like for them. you cant either. and, their feelings belong to them. i am the face of their pain. its the wrong face, only its THE face, the only face. lets include them in our thoughts, as well as the families of all murder victims throughout the world too.

yesterday morning i got out for my last yard. the unit gomers made that

happen. yesterday was canteen delivery day on a-block and the gomers never run yard until after. yesterday, they did. i got to say good bye to the guys ive been going out to the yard with for the past year and thank them for their friendship, the time we spent in conversation and the laughter we shared. im sure some of them wish for me a fate much worse than the one im facing, only they were cool enough to not say it. so, a good and bittersweet morning. shortly after i get back in the cellblock the gomers come to unpack, inventory and repack my little box of personal property. i have some things that i want to leave to some of those closest to my heart. some books and some x-stitch stuff. 66 years of life not so neatly tossed into a box the size of a case of soda pop. my cellmate, however, thought it was his birthday! i left for him my tv, radio, hot pot and all of everything that i didnt pack. stuff hell make use of. ha! probably souldnt have written that - theyll go shake him down!!

then, i get properly strip searched ... because the chief of security, the unit manager, some lieutenant, a sargent and some two-winger pinger were all present. but! they do it twice within a 20 minute span. all of this is in preparation of transporting down to h-block. this time in a van. monday, for the clemency hearing i had to make the 7-8 minute walk on foot. not complaining. enjoyed the walk. only it did make me look a little disheveled in time for the clemency hearing - red-faced and sweaty. intentional? so, i get a ride this time. we get down there and im taken into the medical room to await the radiologist - were goong to x-ray me from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. its purpose? im guessing to ensure that i havent secreted any implements of my own demise anywhere in/on my body. same reason theres no toilet seats in prisons - you cant hit yourself in the head and drown, eh? thats just darn good thinking! so, we get all that done ... onto #2

#2: and its time to bring me over to the death watch cells. there are actually 5 of these cells. started out with just one, then some suit in okc "found" some money that he didnt want to spend on food or prisoner services and spent it on renovating 5 cells that havent seen more than a single d/r prisoner since. theres a tv in this huge bulletproof glass box bolted to the wall, a remote that doesnt work properly, a brand new mattress and bedding (didnt know brand new anything for prisoners existed in this prison!). the cell is made from cement panels and it echoes due to its emptiness - nothing to absorb the sound. i have my last goodies - peanutbutter and jelly, 6 bags of microwave popcorn (did you know that you can burn that? you can! one of the gomers burnt mine last night. never seen that before.) and one bottle of root beer soda pop. found out that the soda pop i requested as part of my last meal wont be purchased because it isnt sold in he pizza joint where my last meal will be made. so, i ordered a bottle of root beer to go with the pizza. just a small double cheese/double pepperoni pizza. i intended to have a reuben sandwich, but forgot all about it in the

moment. bummer, huh?

theres a gomer assigned to sit outside the cell door and watch me, my every movement, for his 12 hour shift. makes little notations in a log book every 15 minutes. dont know whether that has to do with me or if its just a means of keeping him awake. thats the definition of a meaningless job, eh?

spent a restful night. was up at around 0200 yesterday morning and finally slowed down around 2230. the new mat presented its own unique problem - its cotton batting is filled with air and its presently about 8" thick. over time itll flatten down to just about 2" thick. so, when you lie on it, itll push part of the air to the parts that youre not lying on and it becomes lopsided. so, theres this constant feeling that youre just going to roll off of it. i actually got up in the middle of the night and turn the mat 180° so, if i rolled. id roll into the wall. absolutely none of this is necessary. all this extra buffoonery is both a waste of money and manpower. for more than 25 years, a guy looking down the barrel just packed up his stuff and ducked into one of the hi-max cells until the night before.

whaddayagonnado, eh?

people are coming to see me every day. people who have worked here for years and never once ever stopped by for coffee an a chat. not that i care one way or the other. just dont really understand the purpose. dont suppose it matters either.

were now 6 days away. cant actually describe what that feels like in a way that could be understandable. feels like every day only with this sadly eerie undercurrent.

the real sucky part of this stay just took place - all of my medications have been crushed and mixed with some kinda liquid and placed in these individually labeled medicine bottles. i take 8 different medicines due to heart problems (heart problems the okdoc just 6 weeks ago spent a shitload of money having repaired!). mix these all together in a styrofoam cup and you have a cocktail that you really dont want to know how it tastes! geez, and i have to do this twice a day. oh, kill me now!

i am and all in our orbit are just so absolutely impressed and thoroughly pleased with kai's newest comic creation - me! :-)) looks just like me too. that is so cool!!

and, again, i cannot adequately express my gratitude to you and all in this little family of ours for all of your love and support. to be on the receiving end of something like this is so simultaneously incredible and incredibly

indescribable.

thank you, each of you.
with my palms together before you,

daiji

Remark: The following email is quite long. In fact, as already mentioned, such emails have to be sent in several parts. In this case there were three emails. A way for the exploiters to collect the money for 3 stamps, because they only allow 4000 characters per email for Oklahoma...

Peter, June 22, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,
Thank you very much for your email of June 21, 2024. It was really good to be able to talk to you again, even if it is only in the form of emails. It's not easy to wait in this situation... Okay, I shouldn't complain...

I was very pleased that Lynn got in touch with me. And of course I immediately sent her the Daiji from Kai and also some links to your website, the song I wrote for you, etc.
It is wonderful that she is so supportive of you. I am very happy that she is there for you...

You wrote in a text message that you would like to see and hear the three of us play your song together, because I said that I would teach the song to both of them so that it would live on forever and ever. Okay, look out for a 30 second video that we're going to produce today. I really want you to be able to see them perform your song with me. Unfortunately, we're only ever allowed these 30 seconds, but it's better than nothing, I guess... Who actually came up with this inhumane 30 second restriction... Maybe these people who make a lot of money from it. After all, according for Oklahoma Prison, a video like this costs 3 stamps... That's how you enrich yourself from the misery of others. A misery that the rich have produced themselves, just to enrich themselves... Yes, unfortunately that's how the world works...

Yes, I witnessed it live, this so-called pardon hearing. A sterile production. I think these people need this sterility, this processing of protocols in order to be able to hide behind it. Because otherwise they would realize the monstrosity of the whole event. True to the motto: "It's not my fault, I just followed the rules". It was shameful to see how people allow themselves to be abused in order to allow an inhumane judicial machinery to function, at the end of which there can only ever be one thing: the murder of all humanity for a revenge that could not

be more senseless. If it is wrong to murder, why do they help this system to murder?

What is the definition of a serial killer? - Right, a serial killer is someone who murders again and again. Then what is a state that repeatedly carries out the death penalty? - What are the people who carry out this punishment? - And what are the people who repeatedly demand this punishment? - Everyone can answer this question for themselves.

As I write and say again and again: "When justice becomes the murderer, murder becomes justice".

But that is by no means the end of the story. After all, what is it when people are locked up for decades with the threat of murdering them at some point? - To be honest, I do not know of a serial killer (i.e. a single person) who is so cruel... Is the death penalty then an immeasurable increase? - Well, everyone can answer that for themselves too...

Then there are the tricks that you report on. Like, for example, that they left you in the dark about what the prosecutor would present. Which made it almost impossible to prepare properly.

But even if we leave all that out. Why didn't they care about the missing DNA, I don't get it. Circumstantial evidence only... But circumstantial means "not knowing". It means believing someone is guilty. These people have proven that they are only capable of denying mercy because of their "belief". And again: believing does not mean knowing. In the past, people also believed that the earth was the center of the universe and that everything revolved around this center. And this belief, which everyone was convinced of, turned out to be wrong. In the past, everyone was convinced that witches existed. Many people were tortured and burned because of this belief. But today we know that this was a misconception and that the killings of these supposed witches and sorcerers were simply cruel and senseless.

We in Europe know how cruel and senseless the death penalty is and that is why it was abolished. Oklahoma should take an example from this...

And what if a person really is innocent? - An execution can no longer be reversed. I think of George Stinney Jr - he was the youngest victim of the death penalty in the USA since the beginning of the 20th century, and was 14 years old when he was tortured to death in the electric chair. He was accused of murdering two children. The "NewYorkTimes" reported that the case was reinvestigated. Then it was clear: George Stinney Jr. was a victim of the US justice system. He was innocent. 70 years later, the verdict was overturned and his sister, who was present at the appeal, said that Stinney's mother never

laughed again after her son's execution.

Why has no lesson been learned from this? - How can people be in favor of executing a human being based on their beliefs and in the face of the fact that there are actual wrongful convictions? - I will never understand it.

It's as if they resort to a staging, a play, according to set rules and regulations, so that they can all say later: "It's not my fault, it was the system".

Yes, you are absolutely right when you say that there are no winners in the death penalty...

And yes, I grieve for the poor people who have suffered and are still suffering from the horrible murder of Layla. What a trauma! But I can't imagine that hate can heal and hate can be very blind. Hate is not a good counselor. Your execution will not change anything. Layla will not come back to life. The grief of her death will remain. Nothing will get better. And the bitter "aftertaste" remains that the real perpetrator may still be on the loose. Yes, the bitter realization that you may be innocent after all. A heavy burden... And now let's be completely selfish - why do these people who demand the death penalty not care what they do to us? - Why are they punishing us who love you? What sense does it make to make us suffer like this? To traumatize us because a loved one is forcibly taken away from us? What good is this pain that is inflicted on us? - The death penalty hurts many people. Not only the condemned, but also all those who love the condemned! - It is a serious crime to do THAT to people like us! - The death penalty is cruel, and cruel to the condemned, cruel to an awful lot of other people who are punished without ever having been convicted. I am sorry that I am writing these things to you like this. But you know me. I say what I think and feel and I don't want to cheat you of this truth of mine, so I remain who I am and give you my truthfulness, without false consideration... I hope you forgive me...

In one of my songs I sing: "My tears flow when you are sad and my laughter is for you. I'm happy when you're happy..." And I am not ashamed of the tears I cry for you. I am not ashamed of the despair that comes over me when I think of the 27th... On the contrary, I give you each of these tears. Because I feel like the "stone biter" in the "Neverending Story" (by Michael Ende), who looks at his hands and says: "These are big, strong hands" and is so sad that he can't save his friends with these hands because the "nothingness" destroys everything.

We can't do much about this "nothing" that destroys everything. That destroys humanity... We can only do one thing. Try to save our humanity. To set signs and hope that these signs will become seeds that will perhaps one day allow a better world to grow...

I don't know what it feels like to have walked your path for 40 years, a forced path for 40 years, leading to a very sad end for the world. I only know that it is

wrong to do this to people.

It's good that you were able to talk to the guys again and say goodbye. I'm sure it wasn't easy for you. Yes, it was a bittersweet morning, as you say. And it was a very important moment.

What you describe, how they take you to DeathWatch, search everything, even have a radiologist examine you... It's all sterile and cold. It's a protocol that they work through in order to be able to hide behind it. Nothing more and nothing less...

Do you know why they allow the convicts a so-called last meal? - A meal that the prisoner was not allowed to have in this variety in the last years? - They do it out of fear. They just don't realize it. It's an attempt to wash their bloody hands clean. To understand this, we have to look back a little in history. The death penalty was not originally based on a punishment. Rather, its origins lie in rituals that people held to appease the gods. They sacrificed people to give them as gifts to the gods so that they would be well-disposed towards them. Of course, there was a problem with this. The sacrificial victim was naturally not happy about being killed. And to prevent the victim from coming to the gods angry and upset, the victim was pampered before the execution. The victim was given the best food, the best drink. It was treated like a king. So that it would go to its death benevolently, so that it would not anger the gods and they would then turn against the people. What remains is the last meal - because ultimately people are afraid of the wrath of their victim - because deep down they know that what they are doing is wrong... The last meal is therefore proof that everyone actually knows that their actions are wrong and that they fear the wrath of the condemned. Many an executioner is "haunted" by his victims for the rest of his life... That's another truth about the death penalty.

Oh man, what am I doing here. Why am I writing you something like this...

Okay, you know I'm so...

Sorry...

Yes, the height of senselessness. A Gomer who sits in front of his cell for 12 hours and writes something down every 15 minutes. That's how a person can throw away his lifetime! - Not to mention that it's extremely rude to watch another person like that.

Mh... Why do these people come to you every day? - What do they do? Don't they say anything? - It's amazing that they don't really explain the meaning of their actions to you. - I suppose that's the protocol again...

Oh yes, that's really bad. Anyone who has ever left such a bitter pill in their mouth knows how awful it can taste. And now having to drink the whole thing dissolved in water is really disgusting... I'm so sorry...

Yes, that's Kai. He incorporates a lot of things into his art, so now you've become part of his art too and Daiji is sure to have many an adventure. Kai has produced many comic stories in the past. And believe me, they are not stupid comics full of pointless action. No, each of these comics has depth. It's about exploitation, capital punishment, discrimination and so on. So they are usually quite serious topics that he deals with. And yet he does it with a lot of humor - his special kind of humor that I haven't come across anywhere else. In fact, I hardly like comics and don't read any. But I love Kai's comics! - Because they are different. Because they are truthful. Because they are naive. Because they are simply the way they are. By the way, he also hid me in his comics. A certain "FlederWuff". You and I are sure to experience many an adventure in his comics.

Daiji, we love you!
Your friend and brother
Peter

Peter, via SMS June 22, 2024

Recorded the promised video of your song for you. Niklas is still looking for some of the chords hahaha. And Kai is so excited that he almost bites his tongue off

Of course they will still have to practice, but they did their best and that's what matters. We love you. Your family from Germany sends you a hug. Video on way

Daiji, via SMS June 22, 2024

aw, cant wait! thanks, guys, thank you so much!
have you rcvd yesterdays emails (2)?
will try to write today
big hug! bigger hug!! biggest hug!!!

Peter, via SMS June 22, 2024

Yes, I received your two emails and have already replied to you with a three-part email. I hope you get the video soon. very, very, very big hugs from us!!!!!!

Peter, June 23, 2024

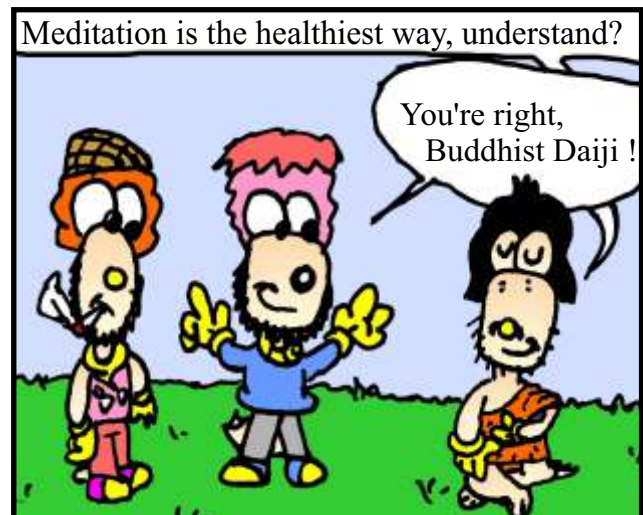
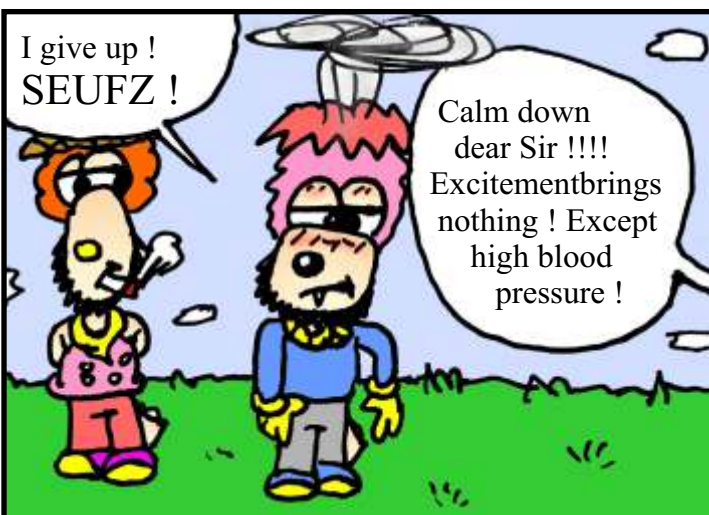
My dear friend Daiji,

It's Sunday and Kai has just finished his first little comic with Daiji. The names in the comic are of course about currencies. Here in Germany we had the "Mark" before the "Euro" was introduced and thus the "Mark" was abolished.

I am attaching the comic to this mail.

Just a brief explanation of this little masterpiece. Hahahaha...

I hug you with all my love,
Peter



Daiji, June 23, 2024

were just a few days out now. sometimes a wave of something washes over me. its not fear. a type of sadness that ive never experienced before and hope to never experience again

wrote what amounted to a final letter this morning. was a truly difficult letter to write. lot of everything went into its writing. lifetime of love. knowing its the end. i had the easy part. i just wrote it. i wont have to read it, refold it, put it back in its envelope and stumble cross it again some time in the future. shed some tears writing it as its to to someone ive loved since ive known the grass was green and the sky blue. i know how theyre going to feel in a few days. that kind of loving loss when there are no more tomorrows. no more phone calls. no more lettes. they were terribly ill a few years ago and for longer than i care to remember i thought that they were gone. there was noone to tell me that they werent. was totally devastating. my friend, the toughest man ive ever known, with tears in his eyes , told me that it was okay to have some in mine. i did. just as i was about to push the 'send' button, i sneezed, opened my eyes and watched me push the 'flush' button - poof! it was gone. wont share the words that accompanied my inability to recall my own finger. i have yet to rewrite it. know i have too. i must.

i know that itll take us both to a place that neither of us care to visit. but, we must. nobody talks about this part. not that im aware of. perhaps its a dirty little secret? the prize at the bottom of this particularly nasty box of emotions? dont know. im supposed to be tough. take it like the man i am and show the world it dont mean nothing. but, it does. wont mean anything to me. itll mean something to my very much loved ones until the end of their days. perhaps thats the idea here? cant make me suffer so make them suffer? more innocence lost?

now you know how we have felt. nobody wins. we all lose. hearts broken. lives forever bruised. noone will sleep better. nightmares wont disappear. nothing changes. ill just be dead. the suffering will continue. know how selfish that sounds, its just the truth. ive lived with this for 40 years. all the suffering ive experienced has been long since eroded by the sands of time. killing me isnt the punishment its intended to be. just creates an open bunk.

its occurred to me that you may think im leaving layla, her mother, brother, aunts, uncles, friends, her late fathers family and friends out here. im not. ive carried each of them in my heart, prayers and offerings of merit every day since laylas murder and her fathers suicide.

i lost her too. its a deliberately gross at of pure inhumanity for force an innocent man to defend himself instead of grieve the loss of a child.

the justice that has been demanded in her name will never be had. the society

that has thrown me away hasnt been made safer. just been made to feel safer.

what about layla. who rings the bell for her?

i have a different perspective about victims, their families and their friends because i did not commit the offenses for which im to be put to death. not so much a different one, but a unique one. 40 years of sitting under the weight of all of this will do that. but, you have to want it too. otherwise youre just taking up space until its your turn. its not free.

how do i feel about having spent 40 years of my life here and being about 96 hours from my death? much differently today than i did 40 years ago. i have become a soto zen buddhist bodhisattva. im 66 years old now. have seen better days. have enjoyed better health. im tired. so very tired. im ready. those in my orbit are not. this is a cause of suffering for them, these genuinely good examples of the finest of humanity. and they have been treated as less than what they are by those who believe that they are somehow better, that they enjoy the moral high ground. do they?

not for me to say.

not now.

Peter, June 24, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

I received your email dated 06/23.2024.

And of course I hope that you receive my emails, the comic with Daiji and also the videogram today.

You will see from all this how much we are with you. Every damn moment in this sad time.

I'm very sorry that you accidentally pressed the delete button on your tablet and lost this important text. But it's obviously very important. So write it again.

My beloved brother, I never thought that you had somehow forgotten Layla and her family. No, really not. - Living for 40 years with the horrible death of Layla and all the hatred and despair that resulted and turned against you must have been a terrible reality for you. In addition to the deep pain that the loss naturally meant for you, there was the fact that it was all dumped on you and you couldn't do anything about it. You were completely alone with your grief. And I cry and grieve with you...

The sad thing is that those who consider themselves "the good guys" have turned this grief into a never-ending hurt. And yes, after hurting you for 40 years, they are now hurting people like us who love you. And they don't seem to care. Or can't they even see THAT? - Yes, hate is blind...

A dark, sad game has been made out of the whole situation. A game in which there can be no winners. Because Layla will not come back. Only more suffering has been caused.

What are we in the world for? - To hate or to be merciful? Are we here to be full of love or to cast people out of the community?

I think everyone has to find their own answer to that.

Life is all around me. Summer is here. Birds are happily singing their songs. The sun is shining and I can hear children playing... Life seems to be celebrating life.

But at the moment, experiencing life doesn't trigger any feelings of happiness... I dissolve into a strange sadness for which I have no words. You say something similar... I mourn for life. For your life, but also for mine and that of all the others. We waste so much of our lives with useless things - yes, many poison their lives with their hatred of whatever. And in the end, we stand in front of the last door, look back and perhaps mourn our lives because a large part of them died much earlier. And that is what was done to you in particular. Your life was taken from you. They locked you up and, as you keep saying, "threw you away".

Did they manage to kill you? - No, they didn't! - You have found your faith and are living a new life in it, which these people have no idea about.

And so they can kill your shell, but you live on - perhaps in another life, but definitely in all of us who love you, who have learned from you, who have laughed and cried with you. They can't kill THAT. They don't have that power. One woman wrote me a bitter, hateful email. She tried to sow doubt with her half-truths and lies. This letter read like an execution of all feelings of love for you. Did she succeed? - No. The only thing she achieved was my deep regret for her miserable life that she uses to destroy love and cheer the death of a human being. What a poor creature...

Layla died around 40 years ago. That doesn't seem to be enough for these people. They want more deaths. But they won't be able to kill my love for you. Yes, we should mourn. Mourn for Layla, for all those who have been hurt by this tragic death. But we should also mourn for the humanity that so many people have lost, preferring death to life.

Please never forget - I will always be with you...
Peter

Daiji, via SMS June 24, 2024

i am well. in a good place. writing some final letters. little difficult, lots of tears. maybe tears are the sign of overwhelming love and monumental sadness? a friend will be sending something i wrote via info@ihfl.de soon. dont remember, in this moment, whether i sent it to you. dont see it in my 'sent mail' file

Peter, via SMS June 24, 2024

I received your email 2 hours ago that you sent yesterday and have just sent you a reply email. So far, info@ihfl.de has not received anything that you reported I hope the friend you mentioned will get in touch with us and send us what you wrote. I'm making good progress with the book and I'm working on it. I promise you

that it will be read all over the world and no one will have to pay for it. It just be able to download it for free from our website. yes the tears are love signs.

Daiji, via SMS June 24, 2024

give me a place that rick can send this? ricks looking for a place. he went to info@ihfl.de and found no place to send it. i cant help - i dont know how!

Peter, via SMS June 24, 2024

he can find me on facebook. my facebookname ist "ihfl peter". also he can send email to "info@ihfl.de" - our webside is: ihfl.de/eng there he can see your side does he not know what an email adress is? he must write with an email app to info@ihfl.de - he also can sent an email to p*****@gmail.com

Daiji, via SMS June 24, 2024

thanks, peter! will send to rick in just a minute!

Peter, via SMS June 24, 2024

at this moment I had sent you a videogramm with Juanito and me. Juanito (Remark: my Blue-fronted Amazon) sings for you. in the second part of the video you hear instrumental music from me

Daiji, via SMS June 24, 2024

hope to get that today! thank you, brother!!
rick is doing that now. to p*****@gmail.com
so hope ive got this right.
big hug, big kiss and lost of love!!

Peter, via SMS June 24, 2024

yes adress is ok. you must receive 5 emails from me and 2 videogramms and 1 photo with a comic from kai and the new figure Daiji. Hope you receive it all today
now I received the email from rick. For the most part, it is the same as the mail

you sent me on 23rd. There are a few minor things that are a little different

Daiji, via SMS June 24, 2024

okay. didnt remember. glad its all work out. have rcvd all emails/videos. am reading/viewing now. thanks for all of this, my brother. means more than you know

Peter, via SMS June 25, 2024

I'm glad that you received everything from us. I've now slept and recharged my batteries and am currently working on the book. I look forward to hearing from you

Daiji, via SMS June 25, 2024

okay, good. have things to do here today, dont know how long that will take. will try to get something written today. glad youre rested. take care of you, eh?

Peter, via SMS June 25, 2024

I'm thinking about you all the time. How are you? - I hope you don't feel bothered by my questions. Because of course it's not easy for you right now. Love you,

Daiji, via SMS June 25, 2024

im fine, my friend. dont mind the questions at all. have a few moments in the morning when i first wake up and then i snap right back. im fine. this is easier than i expected. but, this is today, eh? im concerned for those im leaving behind and for those in my wake. this isnt easy and its permanent. whaddayagonnado?

Peter, via SMS June 25, 2024

I understand that. can't say that the layout work on our book distracts me, since I read and correct everything, but it is meaningful work. Better than pondering.

Daiji, via SMS June 25, 2024

yeah, thats the part that sux, the quiet moments between this thing and that. meditation makes it easier. my peaceful place. be over soon enough and life will

on just like it has. memories have their place in our lives and ill take yours into the ether with me. you, kai n niklas pplaying together. thats gold, brother!

Peter, via SMS June 25, 2024

Your words are so important and I want the whole world to hear them. Did you like the two videos? Were you able to read the text in the comic and my 5 emails?

Daiji, via SMS June 25, 2024

i did and i was. ha! i was the hero! never been a hero before. please thank kai

for me? thank you. masters are due here today. couple hours from now. cant wait!

Peter, via SMS June 25, 2024

so happy that your masters can come to you. Give them my regards and thank them for looking after you. I hope to get another email from you. haha, I'm being cheeky :-)

Good news. Valentin has come forward and is now an IHfL sponsor. He will support our fight against the daeth penalty with a monthly donation. :-) And I will not give up!!!

Daiji, via SMS June 26, 2024

that is great news! and valentin has friends who have friends, eh? im very happy to hear this news. just back from visit /master. im fine. how r u n kai?

Peter, via SMS June 26, 2024

I'm glad that your masters' visit did you good. I just woke up. I want to cry with you, for joy over our friendship. For joy over the people who fight for life. My dear brother, I am currently speaking with a very important supporter. Gabi from Berlin and she has asked me to send you her warmest regards.

Daiji, via SMS June 26, 2024

yeah, please dont do that, please dont have those thoughts. theres no resolution for that, any of that. the buddha said that theres no enemy outside if theres anger inside. be filled with compassion for those possessed of the ignorance that fills the spaces in the atoms of their souls. enlightenment comes the moment that the wave is the ocean. you, kai, niklas and our family of friends are the ocean. understand that and all that it means.

kindly inform gabi that i have no

stamps and cant 'write' her a physical letter. didnt think to buy any. the tablet, eh? i, also, have not yet rcvd the photos. perhaps this evening. it happens.

today will be a bittersweet day. final visits with those i love so very much. i am such a fortunate man. my life is filled with such wonderfully genuine people who genuinely care about their fellow man. who can want for more and not be greedy, eh?

paul has learned the song. hes actually a touring musician of sorts, with gigs in all manner of places. people will hear this song all over england. thank you, my brother, for having composed such a song that has meaning so very

far beyond me.

ill try to get some last thoughts to you this evening.

with a strong embrace and much love,

daiji

Peter, via SMS June 26, 2024

You can send anything you want to send to someone else to me by email. If you give me the appropriate address I will forward your words to the recipient. love you

I turned 65 today. From now on I will have you in my heart every birthday. I don't can I'll forget y at all now. every year I will celebrate our friendship + love

It's wonderful that he learned my song for you and wants to play it. I'm really happy about it. Maybe he'd like to get in touch with me, that would make me happy

Daiji, via SMS June 26, 2024

ill ask him to contact you about that. maybe theres a collaboration there, eh? aw beez, bubba, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Peter, via SMS June 26, 2024

Yes, it would be nice if he contacted me. Thank you very much! And I put everything you and me write into the book. It should never stop talking... love you!!!!

Daiji, via SMS June 26, 2024

just sent paul an email with your "gmail" address. took the liberty of doing that w/o asking first. bit of a time crunch, eh? a world daiji tour? :-)

Peter, via SMS June 26, 2024

thanks you brother. we had send you only 1 photo with the comic von kai to you, and 5 emails and 2 vid. 1 of this with Juanito and me. hope you receive it all.

Daiji, via SMS June 26, 2024

im sorr, brother, i thought that i said - yes, i rcvd all of everything yesterday afternoon. i may have failed to do so in ll the 'noise' tht surrounds me.

Peter, via SMS June 26, 2024

The main thing is that you got it. Juanito sang "beautifully" for you, right? Kai is giving you a big hug. Niklas is giving you a big hug. I'm giving you a big hug some of my DR contacts know about you. Azad, Kevin, and Sparky sends greetings. Mark says: "tel him to keep his head up". Rubi sends greetings and prays for you

Thank you for your lovely birthday email. But I don't want to celebrate, not for a second. I just want only one thing: to be with you! the whole day. with love.

**WISHING YOU
AN AWESOME,
SPECTACULAR,
AMAZING DAY.**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



RICHARD ROJEM

To: Peter Koch

PETER, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MY BROTHER...

June 26, 2024

PETER,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MY BROTHER
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, HAVE A HAPPY
DAY - FILLED WITH GOOD TIME, GOOD FRIENDS,
LOVE AND GOOD FOOD!!
I LOVE YOU,
DAIJI

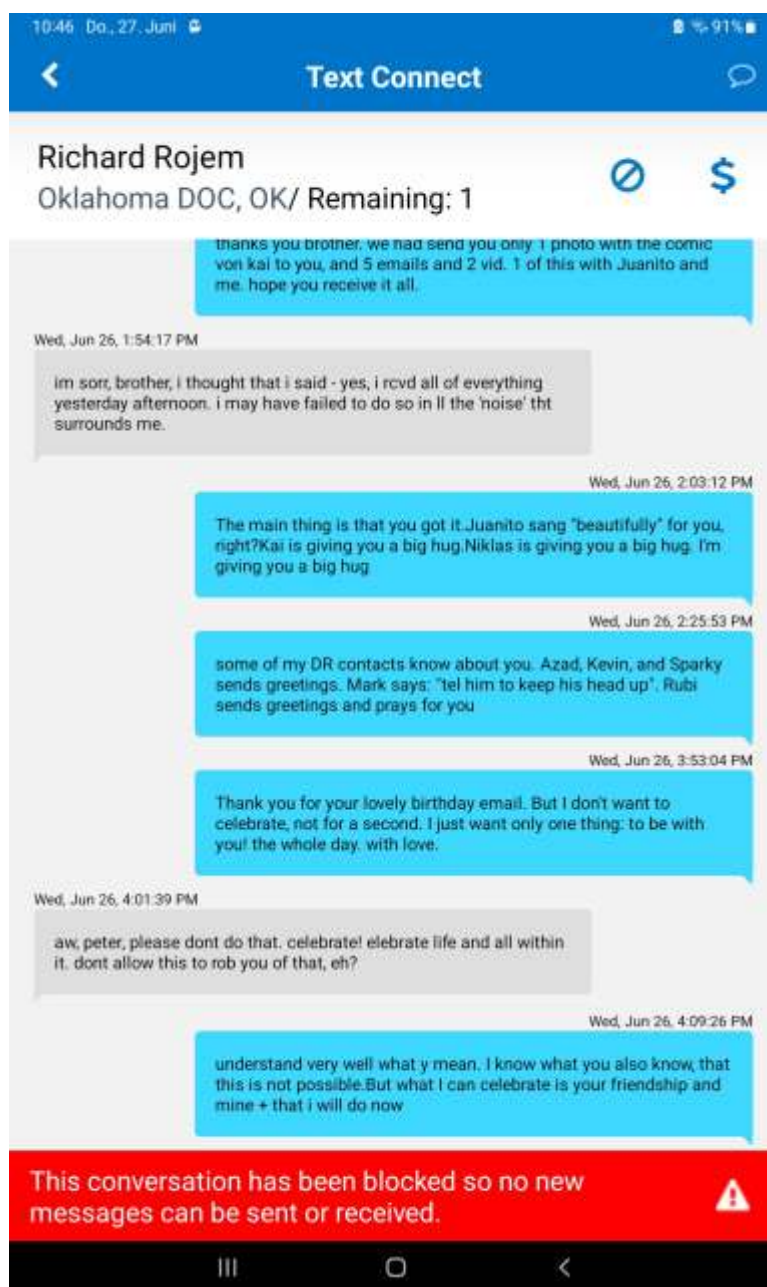
And I drowned in a thousand tears... Oh man, Daiji...

Daiji, via SMS June 26, 2024

aw, peter, please dont do that. celebrate! elebrate life and all within it. dont allow this to rob you of that, eh?

Peter, via SMS June 26, 2024

understand very well what y mean. I know what you also know, that this is not possible. But what I can celebrate is your friendship and mine + that i will do now



I am shocked! - They have blocked the SMS contact to Daiji...

It's 4 o'clock in Oklahoma

I'm sitting here, completely helpless... Had just woken up and wanted to text Daiji.

But suddenly the contact has been blocked. I assume he is no longer allowed to text or receive anything from me. Probably not from anyone else...

Now he's all alone...

The cruelty of the death penalty and those who want it at all costs is immeasurable...

What remains are tears and waiting for the violent end...

Peter, June 27, 2024

My dear friend Daiji,

I have just realized that it is no longer possible for me to contact you via Securus SMS. This option has now been blocked. Mike has confirmed to me that they have blocked him too...

I don't know if you can still receive this email. If you still receive it, please reply to me...

We now have a difficult time ahead of us. I am still hoping for a miracle...

The only thing we have left is to hope for a miracle.

Oh man, you wrote that I should celebrate life - celebrate my birthday and I hope you forgive me that I was not able to do that. The first time I didn't grant you a wish and you had so few wishes that I was supposed to fulfill...

But I did something else. Yes, we celebrated a moment. We celebrated our friendship with you - our deep bond. You see, we celebrated life, because that's exactly what life is, or should be, full of friendship and love.

I am with you in my heart all day today!

I am sending this email quickly now, in the hope that you will still receive it.

Forever your brother,
Peter

His last message

Daiji, June 27, 2024

**peter and kai,
about to slip out the door here.
just wanted to say "i love you" and thank you for everything.
look after yourselves and each other, eh?
love with all of your hearts and hate with none of it.
the buddha said there is no enemy outside if there is no anger inside.
boogers! theres my ride ...
with my palms together before you,
daiji**

Peter, June 27, 2024

My dear brother Daiji,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for writing again.

Unfortunately, I can't text anymore use SMS by Securus, they blocked it.

I am in contact with Caitlin. I am so grateful to her that she can be with you.

Please look deep into her eyes. She will give you strength and love... I'm sure of it...

And yes, I will listen to you and will not hate. Didn't I write that to you once - I don't think so. I don't know hatred. I've never been able to hate in my whole life... I don't know that feeling. Where other people hate, I only ever feel great sadness and often helplessness. But I don't know the feeling of hatred.

Sure, sometimes I say: "I hate this" - but it's just a sentence that doesn't have the feeling of hate behind it... Just a sentence...

So don't worry, right? Your Peter won't turn into a hateful person - I promise!

I will celebrate life as you wished and you will always be with us...

Until we meet again... I am already 65 years old... So look out for me, I will come to you soon! - Then we'll both play guitar together!

Kai and Niklas say hello - they love you!

I love you so much that unfortunately I have no words for it. But in my music, yes, there is all my love and also my love for you...

Your little musician,

Peter

I will never know if he still received this message...

His execution was scheduled to take place at 10am in Oklahoma.

DeathPenaltyAction organized an online vigil for Daiji, which we were invited to attend via video conference.

We were there. But not with the camera. But we wrote down our thoughts in the chat. And they also read out a statement that we had sent to
DeathPenaltyAction:

- Statement from the Initiative Hope for Life (Germany) -

Dear viewers and participants of this online event.

We have been asked if we would like to join the online vigil for Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. who likes to go by the name Daiji on June 27, 2024.

We would like to thank you very much for this.

Well, to be honest - unfortunately we can't be there because what is about to happen hurts us so much that we don't want to be in the public eye.

Daiji has become a wonderful friend to us since Peter started writing with him a long time ago. Daiji has brought us so much joy and always put a smile on our faces, while also discussing many serious topics with us.

We learned a lot from him thanks to his special view of the world as a Buddhist. The basis of the conversations between him and us was one of mutual respect, learning and love.

Yes, we love Daiji with all our hearts and the fact that the state is now going to assassinate him hurts us a lot. We have counted every minute so far and with every tick of the clock, that was like a stab in our hearts, the moment of his assassination came closer.

If Daiji says what he has been saying for around 40 years, that he is innocent, then we believe him. Not only because we are convinced that the evidence against him is not enough to convict him and there is no DNA evidence against him, but we also believe his claim of innocence because we have come to know Daiji as a person who cares so much about the truth that he would never bend it. Daiji is a person who owns up to his mistakes. If he had committed this murder, he would have admitted it long ago.

We apologize for not being present at this event today. But what is happening today is too hurtful for us and so intimate that we want to be with him with our thoughts, our hearts and our tears...

We would like to close this here with the words of Daiji, which he said at the rigged, cold and merciless mercy hearing on June 17, 2024:

"I dit not kiddnap Layla. I did not rape Layla. And I did not murder her."

We have nothing to add to this except: "May Daiji's murderers be forgiven someday."

We would like to thank everyone who stood up for Daiji.

For the Initiative Hope for Life

Peter K.

(personal friend of Daiji)

What followed is difficult to describe and also too personal to be written down here.

Just this much. We sat here together in front of the monitor, listened to the reports of dear people who are campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty. And there was also a Buddhist prayer said by one of his masters... Some People also talked about how they got to know and experience Daiji. We held hands the whole time and when they played my song for Daiji, everything broke...

Then the certainty. They had murdered him!

10:16 he was pronounced dead.

He said no last words except: "I've already said goodbye".

Yes, Daiji, you have! - What else could you have said in the face of your murderers...

Because your murderers are convinced that they are "THE GOOD"...

What a twist: "The murderers are the good guys..."

At the end of the vigil, they played my farewell song that I wrote for all victims of the death penalty: "Fly, like a bird, fly..." - and we could only... No words for it...

Yes, Daiji, fly.... far away to another world...

Our thanks to all the participants of the online vigil for their kind words of support and compassion...

Daiji was not alone in his last minutes. His masters and two of his friends (Caitlin Castro und Kyle Castro) from the USA were with him. Even though he was so very much alone in his prison cell, there was a small but loyal family by his side. And we are happy that we can count ourselves among this family, united by our love for Daiji. These wonderful people have published a memorial page for him on the Internet. There, Caitlin also describes how she experienced his execution from the witness room. Daiji was blessed with the power of her love and that love accompanied him across - hopefully to a better world. Caitlin, thank you from the bottom of my heart for writing about this. Here is an excerpt of her text, which is published in full on the memorial page:

<https://sunflowersintheshadows.wordpress.com/2024/07/18/enjoy-the-beauty-that-surrounds-you/>

Caitlin Castro writes:

People speak of Holy Ground. Sacred Ground. I always understood this to mean the ground we walk on, the dirt beneath your feet. Some sacred site or holy church. But I came to a new understanding of these phrases. Walking a loved one through and to their death - that's holy and sacred ground.

I met Daiji in roughly December of 2021. I decided I would send a Christmas card with a handwritten message to every person serving on death row in the state of Oklahoma. My 9 year old daughter drew a picture and I wrote a card. I couldn't tell you how many responses I got but there were a lot. One in particular struck me more than others. Richard Rojem sent me a letter and signed it Daiji...

Rick grew up in the ghettos of Detroit. I learned what a “cold water walk up” was through him. He had a best friend who had an uncle who was a low level mob “wiseguy”. Daiji sold 10c newspapers and shoeshines for 25c in bars all through downtown Detroit and ran the money bag for the mob guy back and forth. He was 6. He loved baseball and over the years told us plenty of stories about taking the bus to baseball games and getting snacks, there and back for less than \$1. I don't think I could've made it to the grocery store and back alone at 6.

He was an avid guitar player with a “golden ear” as he would say. He told Kyle and I once about playing Hendrix in a talent show in the 6th grade. He was tripping on LSD. I hadn't even kissed a boy in 6th grade and Daiji was tripping and ripping. Sounds like he was a hit at the talent show too...

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He was an avid guitar player with a “golden ear” as he would say. He told Kyle and I once about playing Hendrix in a talent show in the 6th grade. He was tripping on LSD. I hadn't even kissed a boy in 6th grade and Daiji was tripping and ripping. Sounds like he was a hit at the talent show too. Over the years he would teach me many things. He would teach me patience. I couldn't even count the number of times he'd tell me “Just take a deep breath, prettiest girl”...

The last visit

Kyle and I arrived at the prison just before 3 pm for our two hour visit. You are not allowed to bring anything in the prison. No cell phones, no smart watches, no jewelry other than a wedding ring and a necklace. In fact, the guard asked us to take our permanent bracelets off and we were like “umm they don't really come off...” Fortunately he was actually friendly enough and didn't make us cut them off. Maybe because he was a nice guy, maybe because he knew we were there to see a man about to walk to his death and we weren't assholes. We had to take off our shoes, wedding rings, belts, everything, for the metal detector and we were each then patted down, Kyle by the male guard who then swapped out with a female guard to pat me down before being allowed back. I assumed someone would walk us down to wherever we were going but instead once we were cleared and gave the lady guard our drivers licenses and car keys (the only personal items we were allowed to bring in other than the aforementioned), they told us to go up a small set of stairs and to the right and that Daiji would be down there already in “visitation 2”. I didn't know what that would mean but we followed his directions headed that way. We met with Daiji's Buddhist teachers on our way in as they were leaving and embraced them for the first time. Their smiling faces and communication that Daiji was doing as well as could be expected helped to soften what was already an uncomfortable experience. We then walked up two long staircases and down a long hallway. It is difficult to describe the atmosphere of such a place. Everything was gray and white and the floors were SO shiny. It was also much quieter than I had expected it to be. A few inmate orderlies were around doing their janitorial duties and we smiled at them and they to us. I don't know if they knew who we were or where we were going either but it was nice to see a smiling face or two not in chains and not in a cell. The long hall opened into a large room with probably 10-12 little walk up visitation stations. They looked almost like the ones you see on tv but without the phone and with only one stool in front of each window so only one person could sit at a time but you couldn't really even sit because if you did you were a bit too far away from the window to hear. We all had to talk through a grate in the window as loud as possible without yelling so we could hear over the inmates waxing the floors (explained why they were so shiny). Inconveniences aside, boy was it so nice to see my friend's smiling face and shit eating grin in person even through scratchy glass. To see and hear him laugh in person for the first time. We bullshitted mostly. He told us stories about him and Joyce, his first love, his jr and high school girlfriend, smoking

weed and eating little Caesar's every night in 7th grade. He had told me countless stories about her over the years and was still talking about her the day before his death. His last meal was a small double cheese double pepperoni Little Caesar's pizza with vanilla ice cream and ginger ale (the closest he could get to a Boston Cooler - a Detroit delicacy) because of his fond memories of these things back home in Detroit. He told us a hilarious story about tripping acid once when he was working in some sort of metal shop where he worked on these ledges and how he couldn't get down or step off his work ledge because he was tripping so hard he thought he was at the Grand Canyon. For 6 hours. He reminisced about baseball games and playing the guitar - he was a phenomenal guitar player from what I've heard, what I would've given to have been able to hear him play.

He had a lovely day spending time outside with his friends. They toasted him in their own ways and were able to give him a fitting farewell. They each offered him what they could (so much so that he tried to turn some offerings down but his friends wouldn't take "no" for an answer) to bring him a small amount of comfort. It brought me joy to know that he would be missed by everyone around him and that they were able to show him this in a compassionate way. He forced me at the end to "have the conversation I wanted to have". I was really not sure what the hell I wanted to say. I hesitated and stumbled a bit because I'm not great at emotional conversations either and then I said, "I don't know what fucking conversation I want to have.. but this sucks.". He said he knew it sucked. And he proceeded to reiterate all the things he's been telling me the last few weeks. That I already have everything I need. That I already know everything I need to know inside. I already knew everything he's ever told or taught me. That he's just the signpost pointing me to what I already know, "I'm just a signpost baby girl, just a signpost". He got quiet and had to compose himself. That's when he started really tearing up. Watching any 66 year old man cry is hard but when it's one you love who you know is dying the very next day for a crime he says he never committed, it hurts your heart in a way I cannot really begin to articulate. He then said "If I've done anything good in this life, other than my son, it's this.." and pointed to Kyle and I. He was still choked up but I knew what he meant. He told me once "I wouldn't know how to be me without you. That's how I feel about my family of friends. You let me be me." Finding us. Loving us and us loving him. The circle of love and support that he created - myself and Kyle, Lynn, the masters Daishin and Enya, Paul in the UK, the German's - Kai and Peter, this circle of people where he will live in our hearts. He was sad to say goodbye to all of us but he was tired too. He was tired of the same shit every day for the last 40 years. "The same ole knuckleheads bitching about the same ol' stuff day in and day out." And he was tired of that. I can't say that I blame him. I can't imagine institutionalized life for 40 years much less as a wrongfully convicted person convicted of the crime he has been imprisoned and would be executed for.

After his visitation with Master Daishin the day prior he had much more peace about his fate. He had already told me via email how much less weighed down

he felt but he reiterated it by telling Kyle and I that he felt like the wave returning to the ocean because he was the ocean. Just a part of the collective. That he will be with us always - both of us.

"I'll always be there with you, you know that, " he said.

I said "you freakin' better be!".

Kyle said "remember, if you need anything tomorrow, all you have to do is look at us, we're there with you buddy".

He said "I know you will be, and I am really glad you will be, I mean it, it's really going to help".

He winked at me and I winked back but I'm not very good at winking and it was probably really stupid looking so we both laughed at me and I said that was my parting gift to him, that he got to take that awkwardness with him.

When they came to get him at 5:23 giving us a whole 23 extra minutes, that was so unbelievably hard. We all three put our hands on the glass pressing each other's hands and said we loved each other a whole lot, I don't even remember how many times or whatever else we said, we just said we loved him and he said he loved us as many times as we were able. Walking away was so hard that I had to just turn and go and not look back but I know he did the same. I could really feel how much we have meant to him. How much Kyle and I being there that day meant to him. And how much it meant to him that we would be there with him at the end the next day.

As sad as the end of our visit was, my face was sore for hours from smiling and laughing so much with my dear friend. He used to tell me often about the light I brought to his life. "You reached your bare hand down into the cesspool of my existence, knowing what you were doing, and raised me up into the bright Caitiesunshine" he told me once. But I know that he brought me the same amount of light and honestly helped me learn to shine my light the way I do...

The execution

We were escorted into the witness room by a dude in a suit jacket with an earpiece. I assume these men were from the Inspector General's office as there were several of them. The witness room was a small gray room with two long rows of chairs with one window in front and one behind. The front window showed the execution chamber and the rear I believe held the witnesses of the victim. There was a small tv in the corner of the room that showed the feed into the execution chamber for those that didn't have the front row view that we did. Kyle sat at the end, then myself, Enya, Paul and Jack (Daiji's attorneys). The media witnesses were already seated in the back row and the "dignitaries" (the district attorney and others) were seated after us.

Kyle started crying before they even opened the window shade. He was already sniffing when he looked over and saw Master Enya in prayer with tears running all the way down to her chin, he patted her on the back and then lost his battle and needed the tissues. I was extremely anxious and knew to listen to what Daiji would tell me. Take a deep breath count 1-2-3-4 hold it 1-2-3-4 breath out 1-2-3-4. I did this over and over while repeating a centering prayer that came to my

mind in the moment - God be with us, Lord give us peace. I think at first it was just for me and the witnesses, then I tried to surround Daiji with this prayer and these words and feelings, and at some point I think I even thought of the family of Layla and those who were excited for this. That The Divine and peace were with all of us. This prayer and using it to regulate my breathing is the only reason I didn't puke or completely anxiety-panic spiral. There's no clock until the shade is lifted so I'm not sure how long we sat before they finally raised the window shade so we could see Daiji.

He was already strapped to the gurney with a blanket covering all of the restraints. He was strapped at the chest, both arms and legs. He looked over and saw us all and reached for us as far as the restraints would allow. I think I audibly gasped at this and had I not been in such an anxious state, I probably would have burst into tears. I put my hand over my heart to signify we loved him and we were here. He was asked if he had any last words and he said no he did not, that he had already said his goodbyes. We could all hear the anxiety in his voice when he spoke, we know he was a bit scared but he was concentrating and focused on the intentions he set. Master Daishin told us later that Daiji had initially planned to say something but in the moment decided he didn't need to and decided not to. Someone came out and read his charges and said the execution was to be administered for these charges. Master Daishin was then positioned at his feet so that the drug process could start. He looked over at all of us one more time and reached for us again and again, I put my hand over my heart and did the best I could to send him all of our love and the love of those around the world who were sending their love to him as well and then they started the drug. The news reported later that he "attempted to give a thumbs up to an emotional young couple in the front", maybe he did but to us it looked like just reaching out to us, to those he wanted to hold at that moment, but it's hard to tell when someones strapped down and has a buttload of IV tubes in their veins. They also reported that I waved at him, but I didn't. This was when I put my hand over my heart again. I think he knew what it meant that I was sending all of my love to him, all of our love to him, and all of the love that everyone who had reached out to us to send him love had sent. I know he felt it. He could feel the love we were sharing with him. He didn't have tears in his eyes and he knew we were all there with him. He took one big breath when the first drug started. A few moments later he twitched a little, his feet moving left and right just a tad. A few minutes went by and a doctor wearing a full face covering entered to make sure he was asleep. He placed his hand on Daiji's chest and shook him a bit and we could barely hear them calling his name through the glass. When Daiji made no reaction, someone came on the intercom and announced that the inmate was unconscious. They then started the second drug. The drug to kill him. Nothing eventful happened, thank God. His hand twitched and tightened a few times and once curled up and then it released. You could see when his face released and the color drained from his face and he was gone. His chest stopped moving and it was over. He told me once, one of his thoughts about dying was "Aw, Caitiesunshine, I'm gonna get to touch the sun!" I like to

imagine that was his first stop on his new big adventure. I know he's now always "ridin' the gravy train with biscuit wheels" as he used to say. They waited several minutes and then the masked doctor came again, put a finger on his throat to check for a pulse and placed a stethoscope on his chest. He then got out a flashlight and checked each pupil for reaction. He left the room and another man came in and announced that the execution was complete and time of death was 10:16. It was before this, we all saw, but this was the official time of death. They let the dignitaries leave, then us, and we rode back the same way we came. On the van ride back, a hawk swooped in the sky in front of us. Someone made a joke that maybe Daiji hitched a ride. I like to think he did...

Dear Caitlin,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this report and I know how difficult it was for you to write it and relive everything... Caitlin, what I am about to write below will also be very difficult for you to cope with and I ask you to only read the following if you feel strong enough to cope with the cruel truth!

I have made it my mission to make the whole truth and cruelty of the death penalty clear again and again, so that people wake up and begin to recognize the inhumanity of this punishment.

And I have also promised Daiji, however difficult it may be, to give voice to this truth...

Daiji was murdered by three means. The first was **midazolam**. What THAT means is written in the following lines below...

Thank you for being with Daiji until the last moment...

Caitlin and Kyle I hug you!

Peter

Midazolam will continue to be used in Oklahoma executions in 2024. The state's protocol calls for midazolam to be the first of three drugs administered, followed by vecuronium bromide and potassium chloride.

<https://www.newsweek.com/oklahoma-death-penalty-protocol-upheld-midoazolam-1713403>

We have repeatedly reported on the cruel consequences of executions using midazolam. This drug is the first of a total of 3 drugs used for executions. First, midazolam hydrochloride is administered, which has a sedative but not analgesic effect. The prisoner is then given a drug that paralyzes him so that he can no longer speak or otherwise draw attention to himself.

Mark Elliott (Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty FADP) says:

"With injections of three drugs, there is a high risk that the effect of the first will quickly fade and no one will notice." There is only one person who knows whether the use of midazolam hydrochloride causes pain, and that is the person who is killed with it. Finally, potassium chloride is used, which causes cardiac arrest. Mark Elliott explains that this drug virtually ***"burns"*** all the internal organs.

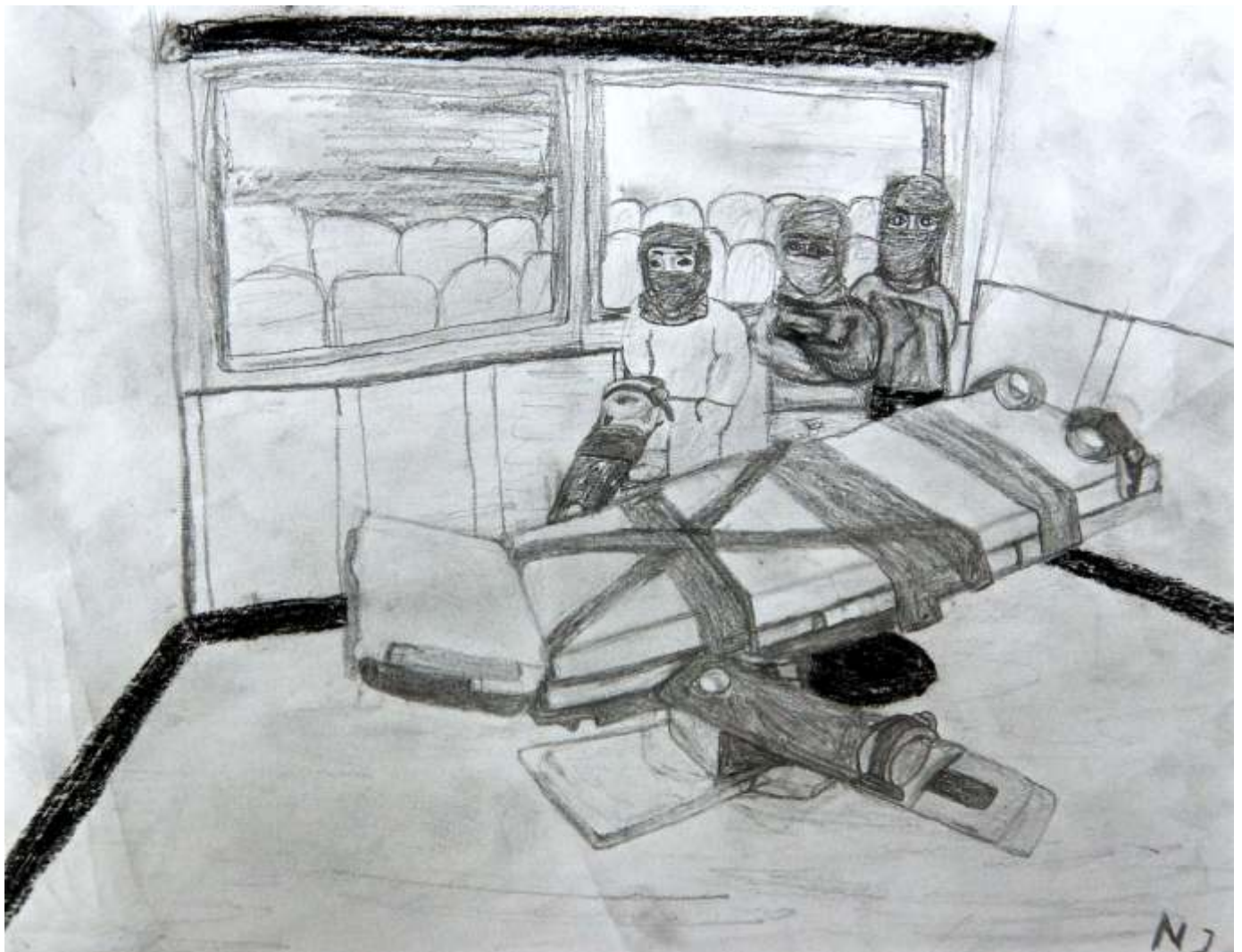
<https://lancelotarmstrong.wordpress.com/2015/09/07/midazolam-hinrichtungswahnsinn-auch-in-florida/>

After the execution of Billy Ray Irick in 2018, in which midazolam was also used, an expert said: ***"Before Billy Ray Irick died in August, he felt terrible pain comparable to torture. But the way his execution was carried out prevented his suffering from becoming visible."***

This statement comes from Dr. David Lubarsky and is in a court file. This is a legal challenge to Tennessee's mandatory execution protocol.... Dr. Lubarsky writes that Irick suffered the sensation of choking and drowning on his own fluids during his execution. It is said to have been like a "living burial" for him, whereby he must have felt a strong burning sensation due to the effect of the potassium chloride.

Dr. Lubarsky is a Florida physician. He testified for inmates at a trial in July. In his opinion, the drug used, midazolam, does not work as intended - it is supposed to render death row inmates unconscious and prevent them from feeling pain. **However, he says midazolam does sedate, but it doesn't prevent victims from feeling the horrible effects of two other drugs, vecuronium bromide and potassium chloride.**

<https://lancelotarmstrong.wordpress.com/2018/09/11/experte-es-war-folter/>



IHfL - Blog

Death Penalty News

June 27, 2024

Our friend Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. was murdered today by the state of Oklahoma



The Initiative Hope for Life asks for your understanding that we need some time to commemorate Daiji (Richard).

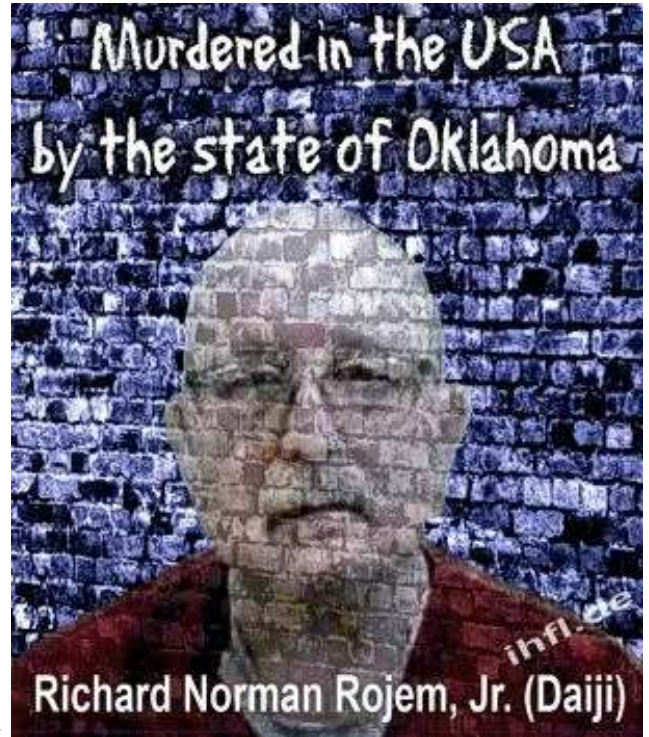
We will write a statement in a few days.

IHfL
Peter K.

July 01, 2024

Oklahoma – Cold, sterile, inhumane – Richard Rojem was murdered, despite claims of innocence

The State of Oklahoma, despite all the actions, signatures and personal appeals, murdered Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. on June 27, 2024. With their supposed “justice” they have only created new pain and suffering. Oklahoma can rightly call itself a “serial killer”, too many have been murdered there by the state and many more are on the death list of this state that has abandoned civilization.



Richard Norman Rojem, Jr. was sentenced to death for the kidnapping, rape and murder of his stepdaughter in 1984. He has been in prison ever since. Decades of torture on death row... Yet he always insisted on his innocence. In fact, he was only convicted on the basis of weak circumstantial evidence. **Later, several DNA examinations found no DNA from Richard at the crime scene or on the victim.** But DNA from an unknown person was found under the victim’s fingernails!

Nevertheless, everyone conspired against him, probably because he had already been in prison once for a sexual offense. Every effort was made to stylize him as a monster. In the eyes of many people, he was seen as nothing more than a “cruel, psychopathic monster”. This was the strategy of the prosecution and large sections of the press. But the victims’ family also followed this merciless dehumanization of Richard.

However, the execution did not have to happen. Up until the trial in 1985, the public prosecutor tried to persuade him to confess, offering that he would then not receive the death penalty. But Richard refused again and again. He could say nothing other than: *“An innocent man never pleads guilty to a crime he did not commit.”*

The death sentences against him were overturned several times because appeal courts deemed the trial unfair. But he was also sentenced to death again at

all subsequent trials. One of the main reasons for this was certainly the prosecution's strategy of emphatically describing him as a monster who had nothing human about him and who simply "had to go".

After being dehumanized in this way for around 40 years, Richard knew that no one would show him mercy. In his contact with Peter K. (co-founder of the IHfL), he writes: *"I am an innocent man...I have been trying for nearly 39 years to prove my innocence...To give an example of what's happened in my case: over the past 21 years, I have had the opportunity to submit to DNA testing. In 2000, it was for a then TV show that was to use DNA to prove a prisoners innocence. The State of Oklahoma objected at first, but agreed because it felt that the DNA testing would "seal my fate" It didn't. My DNA wasn't detected. In 2003, due to a resentencing trial, we had the opportunity to submit to DNA testing of the fingernail scrapings taken from Layla. We even used the guy that Oklahoma used for its DNA testing just to show that we were being above board. I was excluded as the donor of the DNA, the male DNA, discovered under her fingernails."*

In fact, hardly anyone has paid any attention to his case over the decades. When it comes to child murder, many people keep their distance.

On June 17, the clemency hearing took place before the **Oklahoma Board of Pardon and Parole**. In our eyes, however, this was not a clemency hearing, but a virtual execution. Even beforehand, we could sense that "something was wrong". We wrote to Richard's lawyer several times, asking him to provide us with information so that we could campaign effectively on Richard's behalf. We asked him to send us better photos than those generally known. We asked to learn about the strategy and content of the defense etc... **Richard himself asked his lawyer to do this several times!** And Richard told us that he had promised to write to us accordingly. Several emails from us to the lawyer. Several inquiries and requests from Richard to the lawyer. – We received nothing! – Nothing at all! – Not even a rejection...

We didn't have a good feeling... And so it came as it had to... In the clemency hearing, which we were able to follow live via Zoom, this "defense" presented some emotionless facts, such as the missing DNA – and that was it. Stunned, we had to watch Richard experience the opposite of an effective defense. Then came the public prosecutor's office with its "arguments". In the style of a tabloid newspaper, so was our impression, Richard was once again denied any humanity and actually called a monster again. We don't want to go into detail about what we had to witness here, it seemed too cold-blooded, cruel and inhumane to us... It reminded us of times long gone... It reminded us of a witch trial...

And so it went on... The photo of the child was shown again and again. Even injuries to the child's sex were presented in graphic form. It was terrible and unworthy of a clemency hearing. But it was especially unworthy of Richard and

yes, the victim as well... Richard was accused of never apologizing for the crime he is accused of....

How can a man apologize for something he didn't do?

A relative of the victim now shot hate words at Richard and even the child's mother asked that Richard not be granted clemency because she hopes it will help to heal...

In the end, Richard was able to speak for himself. Connected from prison via Zoom, he sat at a table with his hands cuffed, which in turn were attached to a body chain, and we could see in his eyes that he knew what was being played out here. He had no hope. Actually, he could have spoken for 20 minutes. But what else could he have said? Completely degraded and hurt, he limited himself to the essentials, obviously aware that no one was listening to him anymore. He briefly mentioned that he had been offered deals at the time if he confessed to the crime and that he couldn't admit to something he hadn't done. In the end he said: ***"I didn't kidnap Layla. I didn't rape Layla. And I didn't murder her."***

The members of the clemency board did not ask Richard any questions. And it was only a few minutes before they came back and voted 5 to 0 to deny Richard a clemency recommendation....

Cold as the entire event, these men stained their hands with Richard's blood...

It was only after the murder of our friend Richard Rojem that we learned from an article in **THE INTERCEPT** Layla's biological father did not believe that Richard was guilty. He believed that a man on the mother's side had murdered the child. He tried to share this with the law enforcement authorities. Yes, he even undertook his own investigation to exonerate Richard. Unfortunately, he took his own life a year after his daughter die.

Richard's roommate also emphatically told the **Detroit Free Press**: ***"They're trying to build a case that a warped, twisted, pervert rapist from Michigan killed this little girl in a field. ... I don't believe it, not for a minute. Those kids loved Rick Rojem and Rick Rojem loved those kids."***

Layla's 9-year-old brother told the investigating authorities that he had not seen the man who had abducted his sister. – However, on the witness stand, he suddenly claimed that he had seen Richard. Well, children as witnesses, especially when they are under the influence of hysterical people, can certainly take such a turn... And there was no lack of hysteria towards Richard – for decades...

The author of this article met Richard in March 2023. It came about by chance. The IHfL had been asked by a woman to contact her pen pal for her as she was having problems with the online service herself. So I bought a pack of stamps to write to this person. But I never got around to writing to him. I don't remember why... (You have to pay a stamp for every email to a prisoner. So it's not free like normal emails).

Now of course I didn't want to let these stamps expire... So what should I do... I just picked a prisoner on death row in Oklahoma and added him to my contact list... In a few days I would probably write to him, maybe he would be interested in contacting me.

Shortly afterwards I received an email from Richard Rojem, who had seen on his tablet that someone had added him to his contact list. So he wrote me the following email before I had even written to him:

*“Peter –
Have we met?
I didn't rob you or anything, eh?
I'm kidding! I'm kidding!
I found your name on my tablet.
Be well.
With my palms together,
Daiji”*

That's how I learned his name **Daiji**. As you can see, he certainly had a sense of humor. Ever since he became a Zen Buddhist, he was happy to be called Daiji.

Many extensive conversations developed. Daiji was a warm-hearted, sometimes profound and above all loving person. It came as it had to come. We became friends. Real friends. Not just buddies, but friends who shared their worries, hopes, fears and truths. It was incredible what we wrote to each other about. He was always very honest and self-critical, so I believed him more and more that he was innocent. No, this man would have admitted his guilt! – At least the man he had become. Because Richard used to be a completely different person. Through his faith, he became a man who walks the path of mindfulness. A man who always pays attention to whether he makes mistakes, hurts someone, etc. And so he repeatedly wrote sentences like: *“well I think that's a lesson I still have to learn, that I still have to work on”*, when he felt that he had somehow been unfair or something similar... Daiji was full of love, the likes of which I have rarely seen in my life. And yet he was also a broken man. He called himself “institutionalized”. Through the long torture of death row, he had lost much of his strength and often just functioned within the given parameters... It was very sad to see. But he had his faith. It gave him strength.

We became closer and closer in our conversations and for me he became a person I was happy to call brother.

Then came the shock. His execution date was set for June 27, 2024. He was also more than shocked, as he had become increasingly ill in recent times. His heart was causing major problems. He could hardly walk. He was suffering so terribly that he hardly had any strength left to live... He would have preferred to die... Especially

as he had misunderstood the doctor treating him and believed that the necessary operation would lead to his whole chest being cut open and he would then be operated on with an open heart. But that was a fallacy. He had stents inserted in two operations and this was minimally invasive... When he was back in prison, he suddenly felt his strength returning. He was so happy! – He described with joy that he could suddenly breathe again without any problems and could walk better and better. Whereas he had previously needed several breaks to walk from one end of the cell wing to the other, he was suddenly able to do it again in one go without having to stop. I was so happy for him... I was totally happy – the poor guy had suffered so much...

**And right at that moment the execution order came...
Falling from heaven to hell...**

We were all speechless at first and couldn't believe it.

They healed him and then murdered him!!!

We gathered all our strength and “drummed up support”. Yes, we organized an information stand in the centre of Kassel (Germany) and on another day we distributed large quantities of leaflets. We collected signatures for him. And asked for letters to be sent to the governor and the clemency board asking for clemency for Daiji.

We sent all this to the governor and the clemency board...

Daiji was so grateful and he could hardly believe that people were so committed to him.

I myself wrote to the Governor and the Board:

*Dear Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board,
Dear Governor J. Kevin Stitt,*

*I am writing to you because I am very concerned about my friend
Richard Norman Rojem, Jr.
Your state of Oklahoma is scheduled to execute Richard on June 27,
2024.*

*I have been in regular contact with him for a long time and believe me,
he is a wonderful man. He is a man who is full of peace and love and is
a Zen Buddhist who follows the path of mindfulness. This means that
he is always careful not to hurt anyone and to treat people with respect*

and love.

I have learned a lot from his mindset and admire his spiritual strength. I find it so sad that the little 7-year-old girl had to die and I feel for those who loved this child. However, I am convinced that the real perpetrator is still free and that Richard has been falsely accused of committing this murder. Because in several DNA tests, no DNA from Richard was found at the crime scene!

I am a musician and songwriter and recently wrote a song for Richard and released it in a video. As I live in Germany, I sang this song in German, but I have published a video of it with English subtitles. Please have a look at this video. Here is the internet address of the song:

https://ihfl.de/peter_k.-because_they_are_the_good_guys.mp4

Perhaps you will feel how connected I am to Richard when you listen to my song.

It's my birthday on June 26th and you can't give me a bigger birthday present than to show Richard mercy and not take him away from me. Do you understand? On the next day of my birthday, my beloved friend is to be taken away from me by a justice system that will once again cause great suffering. I am literally traumatized by the knowledge that Richard is soon to be killed... I can't stop crying when I think of him being strapped to the death gurney and murdered by lethal injection. Can you imagine the pain of loving someone and seeing them killed in this way?

I beg you from the bottom of my heart and with tears in my eyes, let Richard live! - Don't do THIS to him and all those who love him!

There is so much suffering in the world and we should take every opportunity to prevent suffering. You have the opportunity to prevent new suffering right now! - Use this chance of humanity!

*In the hope of mercy for my friend Richard Norman Rojem, Jr,
I send you hopeful greetings
Peter K.*

It was not in vain, because the support from all of us gave him strength. But it didn't change the fact that the recipients of these letters and signatures were deaf and blind to the appeals of humanity. They condemned him, not as a human being, but as a monster. The monster they wanted to see in him. The beast that murders small children, not as a human being, but as a merciless inhuman monster. They were not interested in Daiji's protestations of innocence, nor in our desperate calls for humanity and mercy for this, our beloved friend.

And so it came as it had to come. We received one last email from him shortly before his execution:

*“peter and kai,
about to slip out the door here.
just wanted to say “i love you” and thank you for
everything.
look after yourselves and each other, eh?
love with all of your hearts and hate with none of it.
the buddha said there is no enemy outside if there is
no anger inside.
boogers! theres my ride ...
with my palms together before you,
daiji”*

I cannot and do not want to describe here what followed. I would like to thank **DeathPenaltyAction** for the wonderful online vigil. (We couldn't be there with a camera because we knew we would dissolve into tears)... But we were there without a camera and thank all the lovely people who gave us comfort... I want to thank that the **song** I wrote for Daiji was played and at the end of the vigil even my **farewell song** for the executed was played and it hurt so much that it is now for Daiji too, but he deserved it to be played for him...

Finally, we would like to thank Daiji for being such an attentive, loving friend and brother, despite the terrible situation he found himself in.

And I personally would like to say: *“Daiji, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love and for everything I was able to learn from you. You will always have a place in my heart.”*

The fact that the prosecutor announced that he was praying that the execution of

Richard Rojem would bring healing to the victim's family shows only one thing, **the whole depravity of a system that turns people into murderers.**



My farewell song, now also for Daiji.
Daiji, we let you fly now, into a better world...

https://ihfl.de/peter_k-fly_like_a_bird_fly_2022.mp4

IHfL
Peter K.

Sources:

<https://theintercept.com/2024/06/26/oklahoma-execution-richard-rojem-death-penalty/>

<https://ihflger.wordpress.com/2024/06/13/successful-ihfl-campaign-in-kassel-for-richard-rojem/>

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Epilogue

Writing this book was one of the most difficult tasks I have ever faced in my life. I had to relive everything that Daiji and we went through. I had to read everything again and lay it out in the book.

There is a lot between the lines that can hardly be put into words. We all can't realize what this man had to endure, because how could we comprehend 40 years in which Daiji was insulted, spat at with words, isolated, repeatedly called a monster and sat alone in his cell. Convicted of a crime that he probably didn't actually commit.

The fact that Daiji himself was grieving is usually overlooked. He was grieving for his beloved stepdaughter Layla, who loved him so much that she wrote a letter for him in which she told him of her great love, indeed, she repeated these words almost ad infinitum...

Even this letter was presented by the prosecution at the "clemency hearing" to hurt Daiji and present him as the cruel monster who cold-bloodedly murdered this innocent child who had such great love for him. So they abused the love of this child to deny Daiji everything human.

Look into Daiji's eyes on our website. I have uploaded the video of him speaking at the clemency hearing.

Look into his eyes... In the face of 40 years of torture, there could only be resignation on his face.

They didn't just execute him once. They executed him again and again, with their words, accusations and mendacious morality.

The real crime is ignored in all of this. Namely, that the USA is still a state in which people are executed in the name of a "justice" that is not justice, but the old "eye for an eye" that can only do one thing, create new suffering.

And so Daiji had to suffer, and all those close to him with him, so that a sick system full of hatred can continue to exist and seek new victims.

Daiji was murdered by the serial killer state of Oklahoma.

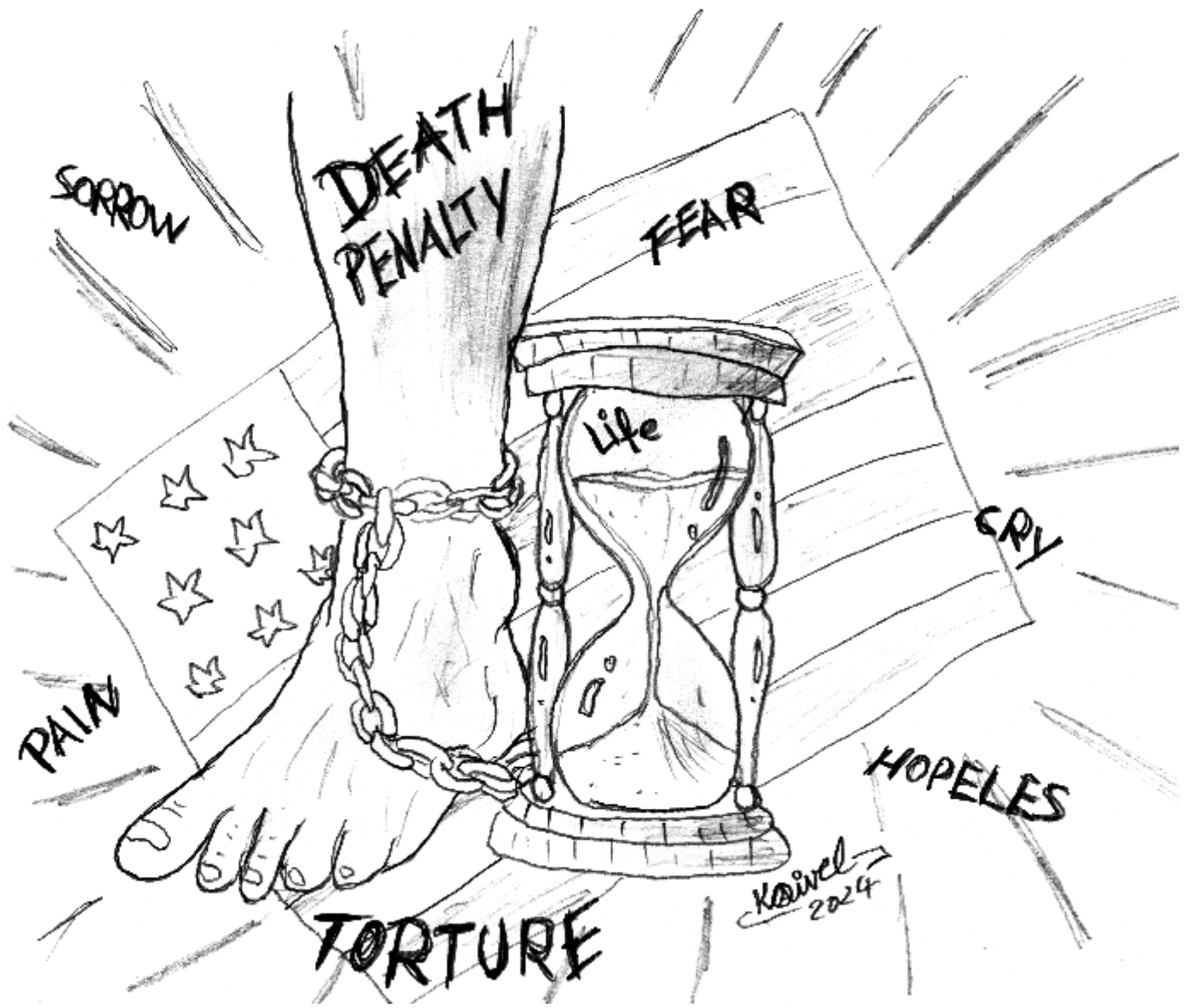
What remains is infinite sadness...

And the fight to finally end the death penalty, Daiji, I promised you, continues...

Your friend

Peter

My thanks go to all those who have not left us alone during this terrible time and have really supported us with their donations and deeds...





Our initiative was founded in May 2012. Until August 2018, it was called the 'Initiative Help for Lancelot'. Lancelot Armstrong was on Florida's death row for over 30 years and maintained his innocence from the beginning. Since our scope of work has since expanded greatly, we changed our name to the Initiative Hope for Life in September 2018 and now serve several prisoners.

Webseite: ihfl.de/eng

Nobody deserves death, if necessary there would be normal prison sentences, and Lancelot as well as many other death row inmates in the USA, even if they are guilty, would have been free in Germany long ago!

We stand on the side of all those sentenced to death, as far as it is possible for us, no matter if they are guilty or not, because they are human beings.

When it comes to the death penalty, we will always clearly take the side of life...

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