

Hello,

March 30, 2016

My name is Celestia Mixon and I am writing in response to your letter for an update on my status.

Yes, I am still in prison.

Over the years since your organization published my Profile of Injustice I have taken many strides to better myself as an individual and as a woman. I have taken, and continue to participate in, college courses, intense self improvement classes, drug education and I more than excel in the work place. I have worked very hard to lower my custody level from a low security institution to a minimum security camp, Federal Prison Camp Phoenix.

I continue to build and repair broken and strained relationships with my family. Their continual love and support for me in my situation has never wavered over the years and I take immense pride in their pride in me.

Unfortunately, I have not benefited from any of the changes in sentencing reform, including the "Drugs Minus Two", due to the fact that I have mandatory minimum sentences. My ten months of being a street level drug dealer and addict has held me in prison for almost 9 years now, out of my 15 year sentence. A sentence that was imposed despite the fact that I was never found in possession of any drug what so ever, let alone considered any sort of a "King Pin" or large player.

My addiction and desperation led me here and I can honestly say that I am grateful for the experience. I have grown up in prison, but I am proud of who I have grown up to be. I am smart and strong and vibrant. I am healthy, I am alive, and I am ready to live. I still hold onto hope. I dream of leaving here and helping in the fight to ensure that such an unnecessary tragedy doesn't happen to others in the future. I aspire to have children of my own and to help empower the children of others. I believe that if I would have felt better about myself, been more confident and sure, that I wouldn't have done things that landed me in dangerous, drug induced situations. I plan to give back in many ways, including organizing self esteem workshops for young girls to tell my story and to teach the lessons I have learned.

I have applied for executive clemency. My application was received and signed for by the Office of the Pardon Attorney on May 27, 2014. I patiently wait for my response as I continue to watch others who were actually arrested in possession of large quantities of drugs walk out on shorter sentences or reduced sentences.

I am so grateful for all the time, compassion and genuine love you put into your fight for me and for many others like me. You are appreciated more than you know, by far more than you are aware of. I love to hear stories of people being reunited with their families after so many years, especially when they are people who I have met while being here. I pray for mercy and understanding each and every day. I pray for love and unity. And I thank you for all of your prayers too.

Sincerely,

Celestia Mixon