



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on February 4, 2022

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In the Bowels of the D.C. Gulag

As you've probably heard, all of us rightward of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) are insurrectionists now. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) even went so far as to say last month, about election-integrity efforts, that what "Republicans are doing across the country is really a legislative continuation of what they did on January 6." Because, of course, voter ID policies — one of which the Barack Obama administration essentially touted in 2013, because it was instituted in *Kenya* — are just like a political riot, which itself can be just like 9/11 and Pearl Harbor. The latter comparison to January 6 (J6) actually was made, mind you, by Vice President Kamala Harris when recounting events during which "our democracy came under assault," as she put it. "Dates that occupy not only a place on our calendars," she explained in early January, "but a place in our collective memory: December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001, and January 6, 2021."



allanswart/iStock/Getty Images Plus

This is ridiculous, but also entirely necessary if power by any means necessary is the aim. For just as there are so few actual "hate crimes" committed by conservatives against so-called "victim" groups that they must be fabricated (paging Jussie Smollett), the same can be said of "insurrections." Oh, there was CHAZ, the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone, where left-wing George Floyd protesters seized Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood for three weeks in 2020. But though CHAZ "warlord" Raz Simone was videoed next to his Tesla giving followers AR-15s, and the "protesters" perpetrated theft, rape, and murder, Mayor Jenny Durkan reassured us the occupation could breed "a summer of love." Then there was the two-day, May 2020 attack on the White House, where hundreds of leftists gathered, Secret Service agents were injured, and President Trump had to be moved to an underground bunker. Perhaps that was just part of a spring of love; the media didn't say. But no one called it an insurrection.

J6 protesters are different, however. If you need an insurrection threat to justify arrogation of power, you need to point to a case of insurrection; and if you have a case of insurrection, it follows that it involved insurrectionists. And if it wasn't and didn't, you hammer and distort and spin the facts beyond recognition.

So, as opposed to CHAZ, where police fled the area, presumably under orders, authorities have proceeded no-holds-barred with the J6 defendants. Thus do they still languish in prison, more than a year later, under horrid conditions in what some have dubbed an "American gulag." This is despite the



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fact that for a year they faced relatively minor charges, nothing approximating insurrection or sedition. That is, until a day after Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) mocked on the Senate floor the idea that “our government last year was almost overthrown by a guy wearing a Viking hat and speedos.” So on January 13, sufficiently embarrassed and needing to buttress the narrative for the upcoming midterms, “moderate” Attorney General Merrick Garland brought “seditious conspiracy” charges against 11 people.

The Charge of the Lightest-ever Brigade

Interestingly, however, no guns were displayed by, or seized on-site from, anyone who entered the Capitol on J6. No one is sure what type of insurrection is launched in the third millennium sans firearms, though if there were insurrectionists in caveman days, they might have looked a bit like the viking-hat-and-furs guy (who, unlike Raz Simone, is seen on video calling for “peaceful” protest but is doing almost 3.5 years in prison).

Of course, the FBI, though a tool of the Left in recent years, long ago concluded there was no evidence of “insurrection,” and the only person killed on J6 was unarmed, 5’2” female protester Ashli Babbitt. The Capitol Police officer who shot her, Lieutenant Michael Byrd, has a bit of a history of incompetence but was apparently cleared of wrongdoing without even being interviewed. Contrast this with the plight of cops such as Ferguson, Missouri’s Darren Wilson; after he killed 6’4”, 294-pound thug Michael Brown in self-defense in 2014, media bias and government investigations ruined his life, forcing him to leave law enforcement and drop out of sight.

Tragically, out of sight (and out of mind) largely describes the incarcerated J6 political prisoners. Pawns in a power game, their reality is ignored by the entire establishment. Average citizens couldn’t even imagine their treatment because, well, such things “just don’t happen in America.”

Shredding the Constitution

Emphasizing on December 18 how the political prisoners’ rights have been violated, American Thinker’s Andrea Widburg first reminded us of the constitutional protections in question:

- Amendment IV: Protection against “unreasonable searches and seizures.”
- Amendment V: “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury.”
- Amendment VI: “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed.”
- Amendment VIII: “Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.”

Despite this, many “of the January 6 defendants were arrested [in] dawn raids on their homes, with the FBI stripping them bare (both homes and people),” Widburg then wrote. “They’ve been held for eleven months in appalling conditions ... without bail and without trial. Because they are in D.C., when they are finally brought before a judge after months in Gulag-like conditions, they have the choice of either a



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biased judge or a biased jury. Because most are poor, they seldom have competent counsel and ... [reportedly] often have court-appointed attorneys who despise them.”

Widburg is not exaggerating about the arrests. Just consider the story of retired naval officer Thomas Caldwell, a wizened, portly, disabled senior citizen who walks with a cane owing to back injuries sustained in the service. As American Greatness’ Julie Kelly related September 23 in “An American Horror Story” after interviewing the hapless man:

Thomas Caldwell’s wife awakened him in a panic at 5:30 a.m. on January 19 [2021].

“The FBI is at the door and I’m not kidding,” Sharon Caldwell told her husband.

Caldwell, 66, clad only in his underwear, went to see what was happening outside his Virginia farm. “There was a full SWAT team, armored vehicles with a battering ram, and people screaming at me,” Caldwell told me during a lengthy phone interview on September 21. “People who looked like stormtroopers were pointing M4 weapons at me, covering me with red [laser] dots.”

Agents demanded that Caldwell, a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy who suffers from debilitating service-related spinal injuries, come outside and lay down in the grass.

“Someone grabbed my legs and dragged me through the grass. They threw me face down on the hood of the car, kicked my legs apart, put a chain around my waist and put me in handcuffs.” Caldwell said he looked up to see Sharon, his wife of 22 years, dressed in her nightgown holding her hands up with a sock in either hand. She, too, was covered in red dots from the weapons aimed at her. Sharon, 61, begged to put on her socks before they forced her outside in the cold. “I said a prayer, ‘Father, please don’t let them kill my wife,’” Caldwell said through sobs.

Caldwell was forced into the back of a police car for nearly 40 minutes; he asked several times what he was being charged with but FBI agents refused to answer.

This is even worse than what befell Trump confidant Roger Stone, another harmless senior citizen who was arrested shock-and-awe style in a pre-dawn raid; the main rap against him was allegedly lying to federal officials. Meanwhile, ex-intelligence agency figures James Comey, James Clapper, and John Brennan all lied to Congress but walk free. Clapper’s and Brennan’s “punishment” was to get paid TV media gigs while, among other things, Comey became a professor at Virginia’s William & Mary college teaching a course on “ethical leadership” (you can’t make this stuff up).

Caldwell ended up spending 53 days incarcerated, 49 in solitary confinement. He says that, among other torments, he was denied medication needed to ameliorate his agonizing spinal-injury-induced back pain. “I thought I would die in jail,” he stated.

Lawmakers Speak Out

Yet it appears that many J6 political prisoners endured far worse — and are still suffering. Just consider what representatives Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.) and their staff discovered on November 4 upon gaining access to the D.C. jails in question: the Central Detention



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Facility (CDF, commonly known as the D.C. Jail) and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). The J6 prisoners are in the latter.

In a report Greene issued, entitled “Unusually Cruel (UC),” her office writes that the prison “tour was only accomplished after months of persistence. Representative Greene and her congressional colleagues, Reps. Gohmert, Matt Gaetz, and Paul Gosar, were denied entry to the jail on multiple occasions — July 29 and November 3 [2020]. In July, the Deputy Warden of the facility — Ms. Kathleen Landerkin, charged a congressional delegation led by Rep. Greene with trespassing, avoided and evaded Representatives’ questions, and forcibly locked congressional Members out of the facility.”

When Greene and Gohmert finally did gain access, they were shown the CDF, which housed non-J6 prisoners. With indoctrination being the order of the day for these mainly (if not completely) black inmates, “multiple common areas of the CDF contained distributional reading materials which promoted the Nation of Islam and Critical Race Theory,” Unusually Cruel (UC) informs. “Additionally, members of the Young Men Emerging [a rehabilitation program] cohort of inmates ... revealed that they are reading books which emphasize the unusual cruelty of the American justice system and intend to study materials which promote the view that the United States perpetuates a racial caste system.”

Ironically, however, it’s the primarily (if not exclusively) white political prisoners who are being persecuted at the D.C. gulag. In fact, Landerkin initially refused to even let Greene and Gohmert see the CTF. Greene then threatened to go to the media while Gohmert vowed to get the courts involved. Nonetheless, Landerkin was unmoved until a D.C. mayor’s representative grudgingly ordered her to allow CTF access.

What the two representatives then witnessed was shocking. “For example, cells in the January 6 wing of the CTF were extremely small, composed of a single toilet, sink, and a small bed cot,” Greene’s UC relates. The report continues:



Mostly peaceful: While some of the January 6 protesters did break the law, most of the video from the event appears to show them milling around like tourists. *(Photo credit: AP Images)*

The walls of the rooms had residue of human feces, bodily fluids, blood, dirt, and mold. The community showers were recently scrubbed of black mold — some of which remained. The interior walls of the common area were also freshly painted. According to the inmates, the



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U.S. Marshals had recently visited the area just days before, which caused a flurry of activity by guards to clean up the January 6 area while the U.S. Marshals were inspecting another area.

Inmates explained that they did not have access to their attorneys, families, or proper nutrition from the jail.

... Some inmates disclosed that when they arrived in the area, the cells were crawling with rats and bed bugs.

... But the physical conditions of the area were just the start. Inmates were only allowed out of their cells for five hours a day, a small mercy. Prior to this relative freedom, inmates were kept in their cells similar to the maximum security inmates: 23 and 1 (23 hours in the cell, 1 hour out), 22 and 2, (21 and 3), etc. One inmate, who had been detained since February 3, 2021, explained that he had been subjected to “23 and 1” for four months, followed by two months of 22 and 2. This inmate stated that he had gone through 200 days of solitary confinement. This type of treatment is being used against inmates who are all pre-trial. They have been convicted of nothing.

... Many inmates suffered from a variety of health and dietary issues: one with a broken finger, another from celiac disease. The inmate with celiac disease must go days without eating because the jail will not accommodate his dietary needs. Other inmates claimed that the jail inserts chemicals and pubic hair in their food.

Given that Landerkin and her comrades had time to put their best (but still quite damning) CTF foot forward, you can imagine what the facility looked like before receiving its hasty makeover.

There’s much more in Greene’s UC, including information about (quotations are from the report)

- an inmate being punched in the stomach for singing the national anthem;
- a guard responding to the singing of “God Bless America” with “F*** America!”;
- J6ers being “denied basic medical care, bathrooms, exercise, religious services, haircuts, and a nutritious diet”;
- making things such as receiving Communion or a haircut contingent upon getting “vaccinated”; and
- an elderly inmate developing an apparently gangrenous forearm but being denied treatment, which means future amputation may be necessary.

Double Standard

Contrast this with the accommodations made for al-Qaeda terrorism suspects detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who, among other things, were given halal-only meals and even prayer breaks during court hearings.

None of this is surprising, however, when considering that Deputy Warden Landerkin is a rabid left-wing ideologue who has publicly displayed her biases. For example, as The American Spectator’s George Parry reported December 15 in “A Visit to the DC Gulag”:



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On November 24, 2019, Kathleen Landerkin, Deputy Warden of the District of Columbia Jail, tweeted the following public service announcement: “F-k everyone who supports Trump.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump Give it a f-king break. White men are more dangerous than immigrants.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump Trump How many Americans have been killed by white American men? How about a story on alt-right killers and hate crimes? How did the idiots of this country fall for your bulls-t?”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump What the f-k is it with you and size. Must be the mushroom d[**]k?”

“To the two old white racists who felt the need to flip me off tonight, right back at you. If you’re more offended by my free expression than u are of Trump today, the problem is you! I can’t wait until you’re all extinct.”

“Trump is doing more damage to this country then (sic) foreign terrorists ever have.”

“Replying to @GOP His [Trump’s] corrupt staff and family met with the Russians how many times before the election? How many times did they lie about a meeting with Russians? How many are in prison? Schiff is a hero.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump Trump You’ll be in jail soon.”

“Replying to @SecPompeo And with that they should throw you in jail.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump We know Obama did nothing wrong! You, on the other hand, are corrupt and are running scared because you know Mueller is coming for you!”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump You’re a traitor. You don’t get to determine what’s patriotic. Leave the people [Antifa] engaging in a peaceful protest [Portland riots] alone. Why the hell are you involved in stirring a s-t pot for your deplorables? You’ll be in jail soon.”

“Replying to @GOPLeader He [Trump] didn’t win the popular vote. Abolish the electoral college.”

Regarding Brett Kavanaugh, she approvingly retweeted, “After Kavanaugh’s confirmation [to the Supreme Court], we know one thing for sure. Sexual predators will always have a safe space in today’s Republican party.”

In another tweet she declared, “I am one of many white females who work for social justice.”

In regard to the jailed January 6 Capitol Hill protesters, she approvingly retweeted, “Every prison needs a MAGA wing.” And, in response to the tweet “DC Jail is run by DC Govt agency. Id bet good money no fox news is being shown,” she tweeted “Nope. No Fox News.”

There’s still more to this classy lady’s “body of work,” too. In fact, this history and the torments she visits upon the political prisoners inspired 14 Republicans to sign a December 16 letter to D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser demanding she fire the warden. As Representative Greene’s office wrote in a press



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release:

As stated in the letter, Deputy Warden Landerkin has “demonstrated a consistent pattern of disrespect for Members of Congress and fellow corrections staff, in addition to displaying a public animus toward anyone who supports President Donald J. Trump.”

“The Constitution set out to establish a system where justice would be delivered swiftly, impartially, and the severity of the punishment would be equal to the severity of the crime — absent of any cruel and unusual punishment,” Congressman [and signatory] Michael Cloud [R-Texas] said. “Deputy Warden Landerkin has not lived up to the Constitutional standard. She’s instead demonstrated extreme personal bias in subjecting non-violent first time offenders who trespassed on the Capitol at a greater level than many of the most heinous criminals. She must be removed.”

Train of Abuses

While these 14 statesmen should be applauded, where are the other 199 House Republicans? Where are the 222 Democrats? Their deafening silence enables the American gulag.

But though the J6 prisoners are hidden and locked away, their stories still escape. A few more examples follow.

“Jonathan Gennaro Mellis is one of the ‘Jan Sixers’ who has been held in 11 months of pre-trial detention under 23-hour lockdown, placed without justification for 35 days in solitary confinement and denied attendance to his Purple Heart decorated father’s funeral — a damning testimony to the ‘presumption of innocence’ and far outside the bounds of our legal process,” reported The Gateway Pundit on January 6, 2022. Worse still, Mellis spoke of, and I quote him, “cell doors being opened in the middle of the night to have Patriots zip-tied and beaten by correctional officers.”

J6 prisoner Matthew Council also provided a testimonial, published by The Gateway Pundit January 16. He writes:

To get right into my story, I have been abused after January 6th more times than I care to remember. I have been abused in Hillsborough County Jail [in Florida, where Council was first brought] by a serial rapist who raped my bunkie in the mouth and another inmate I was friends with. Him and other Officers tried to come into my cell repeatedly and I had to stay up for 3 nights straight to stay safe. They were playing a Trump/Flynn parody like a tribunal was going on and a “Hero Hero Hero” song over and over again because of my involvement on January 6th.

Then they released me and made me go to a Mental Institution because they made up that I was hearing things to put me in isolation in the first place. I was having delusions due to football head impacts but mostly loss of sleep/ no food and stress.

Yet another testimonial is from Lexie, the fiancée of political prisoner Jorden Mink. Plaintively noting that their eight-year-old son is not allowed to see Mink and misses his dad, she writes (as related by The Gateway Pundit December 30):



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Eleven months ago Jorden was ripped from our family. He was moved to 4 different prisons until he finally reached his 5th one in DC. In the beginning of him being there he was locked down for 14 days in a cell for 24 hours each day, because he caught COVID. When he was released from medical, he was in solitary confinement for 23 hours & only allowed out for 1 hour per day. That is mentally & emotionally abusive.

... Jorden has lost about 30 to 35 pounds since being there due to malnourishment.

There's mold, no clean drinking water (it quickly turns brown). If something positive happens in there, or they even see a little bit of happiness on their faces the next day they are punished for something & put on lockdown. This goes for all the political prisoners! I could go on and on.



The fox guarding the henhouse: Kathleen Landerkin (center) is not just the warden of the jail holding the January 6 political prisoners, but also a far-left radical. *(Photo credit: Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services)*

Finally, there's J6 detainee Edward Lang, a 26-year-old native of Narrowsburg, New York, who added perspective. "'There was a protest outside the Department of Interior for climate change and there were these leftist activists throwing bike racks at cops, [and] they were just given \$50 violation tickets, loitering, disrupting the peace,' Lang said," wrote Resist the Mainstream January 7. "When we get arrested for the same allegation, we're stripped of everything. I haven't had a visitation in 10 months."

For sure. While we live in a time of no-cash-bail laws; soft-in-the-head (and on crime), George Soros-backed district attorneys; and revolving-door justice, the political prisoners are kept behind bars — *despite having been convicted of nothing.*

There's a racial component, as well. While the political prisoners are defamed as "white supremacists," two of them were black men. And low melanin counts don't yield supremacy, either. As the aforementioned Thomas Caldwell was told, because he's a white country boy, a veteran who believes in Jesus: "You've got no chance against [the Justice Department] when they get ready to take you down."

Oh, the prisoner who told him that, as a friendly warning, is a black man who's spent much of his life behind bars.



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But whatever one's color, the political prisoners' persecution is a cautionary tale: If you oppose the left-wing powers-that-be, you'll be targeted. In fact, right on cue using "white supremacy" as a boogeyman, Biden's DOJ announced in early January the creation of a new "domestic terrorism unit."

Tragically, many "Americans" cheer this tyranny. Yet perhaps those willing to release the demons of despotism to crush their political opponents ought to consider a famous little speech from the 1966 film *A Man for All Seasons*. After a zealous associate said he'd "cut down every law in England to ... get after the Devil," the St. Thomas More character movingly responded:

And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned 'round on you, where would you hide ... the laws all being flat? This country is planted thick with laws, from coast to coast, man's laws, not God's! And if you cut them down ... do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil benefit of law, for my own safety's sake!

When you don't give even the Devil the benefit of law, sometimes the Devil will become the law and end up being in charge — of you.

Selwyn Duke has written for The New American for more than a decade. He has also written for The Hill, Observer, The American Conservative, WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.



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