**THE INFORMATIONAL CORRLINKS NEWSLETTER (ICON) # 88**

**FEB 2023 – A NEW BOOK, ARM SURVEY RESULTS**

ICoN provides legal, treatment, activism news & practical info for incarcerated SOs. Send inquiries in separate CorrLinks email (iamthefallen1@yahoo.com) or to Derek Logue, 2211 CR 400, Tobias NE 68453. My focus is SO laws; I don’t advise/assist on appeals, sentencing issues, non-SO news, & services like people-finding, penpals & mail forwarding.

NOTE: In the past ICoNs, I have been using “Registered Citizen” (RC) to describe a person who will be forced to register as an “SO.” In “Your Life on The List, Ed. 3” & the ICoN, I have begun using the term “Registered Person” (RP) because many people were confused by “RC”, thinking it referred to an immigration issue. Language is in a constant state of flux & can change again in the future, but for now, the most commonly accepted term among anti-registry activists is RP or Registrant; thus, starting today, we will be using RP/Registrant to describe persons who will be forced to register for a publicly accessible sex offense registry. However, I still may slip up & use RC on occasion, & if you still use that term when writing me, I’ll know what you mean.

**LEGAL ROUNDUP**

*John Doe, et al. v. US Dept of Justice, et al.,* EDCV 22-855 JGB(SPx) (CD CA 1/20/23): CA Dist Ct granted a preliminary injunction against the DOJ’s new rule that would force people to register under AWA rules even when their states of residence no longer require registration, or share information required by the AWA but not by their states. The court ruled that it was likely an unconstitutional violation of due process to require John, or anyone else, to affirmatively prove their innocence only after being arrested & charged; requiring disclosure of internet identifiers violates 1st Amdt protections of anonymous speech, & ruled it was bound by 9th Cir precedent to reject a challenge to the DOJ’s power to issue any rules at all, but the order noted the “significant, even disturbing” threat to the separation of powers that arose from the rule. (This only affects CA but a final ruling could be binding across the US)

*Ohio135th Leg*. – Passed SB 16, which bans all Tier 2/3s (ore pre-AWA “s\*xual pr\*dators” & “habitual offenders”) or anyone with offenses against anyone under age 18 from “commenc(ing) service in a position as a volunteer with any person, group, or organization, in a capacity affording extensive contact with minor children.” “Capacity affording extensive contact with minor children” means any capacity in which a person would be working directly & in an unaccompanied setting with minor children on more than an incidental & occasional basis or would have supervision or disciplinary power over minor children. "Working directly & in an unaccompanied setting" includes, but is not limited to, providing goods or services to minors. Note: SB passed 2 days after the new legislature convened, & this provision was added to an existing bill that was fast-tracked through legislature. No one had an opportunity to oppose it.

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ARM ACTIVIST SURVEY FINDS SURPRISING RESULTS**

I have concluded a survey of people directly associated with ongoing efforts to reform or abolish the registry. Amazingly, all the major groups participated—NARSOL, ACSOL, WAR, FAC, & TX Voices, & other smaller groups. Roughly 700 people responded, about 2/3 of them were fellow RPs. Because this was a huge survey (99 questions), it will take time to fully analyze the results. However, I wanted to share some of the more surprising results with ICoN readers.

Demographics: About 450, roughly 2/3, of Respondents are RPs, mostly male (97%), white (88%), over age 45 (78%), holding at least an associate’s degree (63%), but with household incomes under 50k/yr (57%); 11% of RPs not retired were unemployed with an equal amount of SSI/Disabled; 9.6% were either currently homeless (3.5%) or homeless w/in the past year (6.1%); nearly half were either married (36.5%) or in a relationship (11.5%), & just more than half (53%) met their partners after conviction; 24% stated the registry laws are directly related to personal mental health issues.

Struggles: About half (53%) report having no friends or only associates within the cause; 57% reported feeling frequently bitter about being on the SOR; only 1/3 reported not ever being the victim of scams or vigilante incidents like harassment, & 9% reported being assaulted; 31% were driven out of a home; 37% were forced to leave a public venue, church, or business; 72% say going to the registry office is the source of pain/stress; 57% at least somewhat agree that registry officers are “passive-aggressive” or disrespectful; 20% stated they are treated poorly at registry offices; & 47% believe the registry is a beta test for more large-scale gov’t intrusions.

Attitudes: Most shocking to me is despite the high levels of negative effects of the registry, only 54% of RPs who took my survey wants the registry completely abolished. An equal number (22% each) are divided between supporting a police access-only registry & a limited registry for only those deemed “high-risk”; Of those who should remain on the registry, the top choices were recidivists/repeat offenders (40%), Sex Traffickers or CP producers/creators (25% each), & those deemed or admitted to be “pedophiles” (18%); 47% have never participated in any form of anti-registry activism, & 20% can’t/won’t participate in future events; 23% believe those who identify as MAPs have no place in activism & 8% wouldn’t work with a MAP or actively attempt to oust one altogether.

RPs still largely proclaim they are still willing to help others in need—only 13% stated they would refuse to help a lost child (46% would call 911 but keep their distance, 27% would directly help); only 15% would turn a blind eye to a harassing neighbor if they saw a burglar enter the house, but 86% wouldn’t donate to charities that refuse services to RPs.

While 80% believes society is too strict on sexual matters, 40% believes porn increases sex crimes, 51% believe society is “grooming” children into more sexualized lifestyles, & 18% believe in Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA, the modern form being QAnon).

While 2/3 consider themselves patriotic, 2/3 believe the gov’t tracks us beyond registration; 62% believe the gov’t is setting us up to fail; half believe RPs won’t benefit from the collapse of the US, while 23% do; half believe a self-governed community would help RPs, 37% supports the idea of a “sovereign nation,” but only 10% stated they would move to one w/o exception while 9% stated they would move only to a community that remained a US community, not a sovereign nation. Half would leave the US if they had the resources to leave.

Activism: RPs think somewhat positively about anti-registry activism; 40% believe activism has only slightly positively influenced the narrative (near 15% strongly agree, while 20% disagree); yet 30% believe we will not succeed w/o help from victim advocacy; 46% believe the registry will only be reformed, 26% believe the registry will get worse & 20% believe the registry will be abolished. RPs think we should focus primarily on litigation (91%) & influencing legislators (90%) & the media (88%), & values public awareness events/protests (60%) & public speaking events (69%) the least.

Cops: RPs have little faith in police—65.5% distrust the police while 23% at least partially trust police; 12% would allow a warrantless search even if they weren’t on supervision, half would support efforts to “Defund the Police”; 7% support at least some community notification through social media & 9% support community meetings; & only 10.5% at least somewhat agree the gov’t adequately separates “high risk” RPs from low-risk RPs.

Media: Nearly half of RPs have no faith in the mainstream media; 85% believe the media merely acts as advertising for the registry or pushing more registry laws; 2/3 believe RP stories are aired for sweeps week & shock value; only 29% believe media that caters to their political ideology would offer better cover; only 6% believe the media should be allowed to report on RPs in the community; 8% stated registry info should be removed from social media.

Politics: Finally, political alignments & affiliations are nearly even (ever so slightly leaning Democrat); however, of those who don’t believe all parties treat us equally bad, RPs largely see Democrats & Libertarians as most open to reason; Republicans & conservatives are seen as most hateful towards RPs & most responsible for bad legislation; 70% would be willing to vote for a candidate for the opposing political party if that candidate promised to repeal most RP laws.

Overall, those engaged in anti-registry activism have varied beliefs about the registry & the role we play in changing the narrative. Of course, this is only a survey of current activists & because people who were unhappy with the direction this movement has taken & quit likely didn’t take the survey, I can only speculate as to why they quit. Sometimes it because only out for themselves, they did not feel like the movement wanted to abolish the registry, the cause is “going nowhere,” they’re afraid of being targeted, or reading constant bad news is bad for mental & physical health. But I’d love to hear my readers tell me what they think of these results. Please send a separate email with your thoughts & I will share some the best responses in the newsletter & in the published results of the survey.

**NEW BOOK: “CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING? WORDS OF HOPE & ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE MODERN DAY LEPER” BY BOB VAN DOMELEN (2021)**

If you are looking for a Christian book with an emphasis on the struggles faced by those with sex-related offenses, then there is a new book you may find helpful. This book is a collection of 28 “Into the Light” main articles written since 1997. Each article speaks directly to issues that those who committed sexual offenses will face while on the journey to recovery. “Someone understands me” is the most frequent response to the newsletter. Retail Price: $14.95, sold through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, & other book retailers.

The author is a ministry director at Broken Yoke Ministries, a non-profit jail/prison ministry emphasizing support for those with sex-related offenses. Broken Yoke Ministries provides newsletters to prisoners who personally request a copy through the mail (no email). If you want a copy of the newsletters, send a request to Broken Yoke Ministries, PO Box 5824, De Pere, WI 54115-5824

**SCAMMER SENDS OUT SPOOF EMAILS POSING AS REGISTRY OFFICES**

A fellow activist in NE recently warned RPs that someone posing as an agent at the NE “s\*x offender unit” sent out a suspicious email. The name was of an actual agent but the link provided was to a fraudulent website. It is likely the intent was to infect the computer with malware, or to convince individuals to send them money.

It is commonplace for scammers to spoof local registry offices to attempt to scam PRs by phone. There are phone services that allow you to spoof a phone number. But it is also possible to spoof email addresses. In one recent scam not directed at RPs, scammer sent emails that looked legitimate down to the address (for example, contact@paypal.com). PayPal is a legitimate online payment service, but the scammer had spoofed the address using characters that look similar to our alphabet but are not (such as characters in the Russian or “Cyrillic” alphabet).

It is also possible that the actual email account was hacked into. Scammers who hack into emails can then access the owner’s online address list. Commonly, the hacker will pretend to be that person & send out request for money or send a link that downloads malware.

Either way, any time you receive an email or a phone call claiming to be from the local registration office, hang up the phone, look up the number to your registration office, then called to confirm the phone call or email was legitimate. Always assume such calls & emails are fraudulent, & do not assume the information on the email is legitimate. The point is to make you think you are in some kind of trouble so you will be gullible enough to turn over information or money to the scammer. That is why I suggest you look up the number to the local registry office independently, or keep it in your phone at all times, so that you may contact them directly to confirm the legitimacy of the contact.