

**Briefing Note to the
Minister of Public Safety Canada**

**Note d'information au
Ministre de la Sécurité publique Canada**

Subject	s.16(1)(a)(i)	Objet
PRISONERS' JUSTICE DAY	s.16(1)(d)	
Issue:	s.21(1)(a)	

To inform you that Friday, August 10, 2012, is Prisoners' Justice Day.

Background:

Since 1976 on August 10th, inmates in federal correctional institutions have annually observed, Prisoners' Justice Day, by staging one-day peaceful protests by fasting and refusing to work.

Prisoners' Justice Day originated in 1976, on the anniversary of the death of inmate Edward Nalon. Nalon died on August 10, 1974, while in segregation at Millhaven (maximum security) Institution. He bled to death as a result of self-inflicted injuries and was unable to notify staff because his cell call button was inoperative. This was followed by the death of Robert Landers (of heart failure) in 1975, who was also in segregation at Millhaven Institution.

The day was originated by inmates and their supporters to commemorate inmates who have died unnatural deaths in institutions, including murder and suicide. It is a day set aside to demonstrate solidarity amongst inmates and their supporters. The level of participation by inmates varies considerably from year to year and from institution to institution.

In the past, small groups of friends, family, and inmate advocates have usually shown their support by holding peaceful vigils outside the walls at several institutions across Canada to mark this occasion. While it is officially acknowledged in other countries, the Correctional Service Canada neither promotes nor supports the event. Although peaceful observance of the day is allowed, inmates who are required to work or attend programs, and refuse to do so, are not paid.

Current status:

In addition to the yearly observance of Prisoners' Justice Day, the group "End the Prison Industrial Complex" (EPIC), a Kingston-based prison abolition group,

This group claims they "have been organizing resistance to prison expansion for the past two years."

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CSC/SCC 5006 (R-2007-03) (Word Version)

Protégé

Media Lines:

- The Correctional Service of Canada understands the importance of this day to some inmates, their friends, families, and supporters.
- Inmates wishing to participate in peaceful observance of this day can do so without disciplinary action. However, inmates who are required to take part in a correctional program, including work, and refuse to do so, will not receive inmate pay.
- Incidents jeopardizing the safety and security of the institution will not be tolerated and appropriate interventions will be employed.



Don Head
Commissioner
July 25, 2012

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c.c. ACCOP: RDC Ontario Region; A/ACCE
CSC/SCC 5009 (R-94-07)

Protégé



**Briefing Note to the
Minister of Public Safety Canada**

**Note d'information au
Ministre de la Sécurité publique Canada**

Subject

Objet

PRISON JUSTICE DAY

Issue:

To inform you that Wednesday, August 10th, is Prison Justice Day.

Background:

Since 1976, inmates in federal correctional institutions have observed August 10th, Prison Justice Day, by staging one-day peaceful protests by fasting and refusing to work.

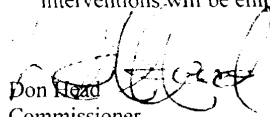
Prison Justice Day originated in 1976, on the anniversary of the death of inmate Edward Nalon. Nalon died on August 10, 1974, while in segregation at Millhaven (maximum-security) Institution. He bled to death as a result of self-inflicted injuries and was unable to notify staff because his cell call button was inoperative. This was followed by the death of Robert Landers (of heart failure) in 1975, who was also in segregation at Millhaven Institution.

The day was originated by inmates and their supporters to commemorate inmates who have died unnatural deaths in institutions, including murder and suicide. It is a day set aside to demonstrate solidarity amongst inmates and their supporters. The level of participation by inmates varies considerably from year to year and from institution to institution.

In the past, small groups of friends, family and supporters of inmates usually have shown their support by holding peaceful vigils outside the walls at several institutions across Canada to mark Prison Justice Day. While it is officially acknowledged in other countries, the Correctional Service of Canada neither promotes nor supports the event. Although peaceful observance of the day is allowed, inmates who are required to work, and refuse to do so, are not paid.

Media Lines:

- The Correctional Service of Canada understands the importance of this day to some inmates, their friends, families and supporters.
- Inmates wishing to participate in peaceful observance of this day can do so without disciplinary action. However, inmates who are required to take part in a correctional program, including work, and refuse to do so, will not receive inmate pay.
- Incidents jeopardizing the safety and security of the institution will not be tolerated and appropriate interventions will be employed.


Don Head
Commissioner
August 2, 2011

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