Australia Bans Brothers Behind Bars

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Since last Nov 19, the Australian State of Queensland in Northeastern Australia has banned the distribution of the monthly newsletter "Brothers Behind Bars" in its prisons. Brothers Behind Bars is a digest of biker club and motorcycle news edited by retired Sons of Silence patch holder Iron Mike Davis, and is an outreach program supported by the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). BBB is specifically aimed at motorcycle club members and is stubbornly non-partisan.

Mike Davis was notified that the words he publishes were illegal in Oz with a peremptory, unsigned form letter from the government of Queensland that read in full: "On 7th of November 2012 Queensland Corrective Services issued a directive from head office that all correspondence between prisoners who are members of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMCG) & OMCG members & associates was to cease immediately. As a result the author of this letter has been identified to be either a member or associate of an OMCG as such your mail has been returned to you."

Iron Mike recently told The Aging Rebel (www.agingrebel.com), "Something I've said for years: 'Australia today, Canada tomorrow, and the U.S.A. the day after.' I



truly believe countries like Canada, Germany, U.S.A., and others are watching to see what works in Australia to outlaw motorcycle clubs - starting with the 1%er ones."

The Aging Rebel article went on to describe "Anti-Bikie Laws" down under: "Oueensland has been trying to outlaw motorcycle clubs since 2009 when the state passed legislation formally called the Criminal Organisation Act of 2009. These anti-bikie laws give police the power to declare which organizations are criminal & which are not. Similar sets of laws have been passed in the Australian states of New South Wales & South Australia, and have been challenged in the courts by the Hells Angels, Finks & Rebels MCs. Australia's strategy has been difficult

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to implement in the United States because the U.S. Constitution specifically guarantees citizens' & visitors' rights to move freely, assemble peaceably, to keep & bear arms & to express themselves freely in numerous ways including the right to wear a patch on your back. Various Fed police forces in America including the FBI, the ATF & increasingly the Dept of Homeland Security have attempted to subvert these Constitutional guarantees using the Racketeer Influenced And Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) & in several recent cases trademark law."

More on this in the states:

Last month we reported that the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars monthly newsletter was being banned from prisons in Australia, but now word comes from one of our own New England states that biker-related printed materials are being systematically rejected.

Referring to a note received from a Connecticut inmate, The Aging Rebel quoted on his website www.agingrebel.com; "Here at our prison, last year they began to bar books about or by motorcycle club members. This includes the book "The Aging Rebel: Dispatches From The Motorcycle Outlaw Frontier" by Donald Charles Davis. These books are purely being banned because their subject matter includes motorcycle clubs. They use the 'catch-all' 'promotes criminal activity' while still allowing books on the Mafia, murder, kidnapping and corruption of government officials, all of which apparently promote NO criminal activity."

Some people may be surprised to learn that among the other rights prisoners forfeit is the right to read what they want, but as TAR expresses; "The high court began to back track in 1987, in a decision called Turner v. Salley. After that case, the First Amendment right to read could be 'reasonably regulated' if prison officials asserted a 'legitimate neutral interest' and the Supreme Court ruling established something called the "Turner Test."

In a letter from the Connecticut Dept of Correction, the Media Review Board determined that "The aforementioned publication was originally rejected in its entirety on November 9, 2012 under Section 6: It encourages or instructs in the commission of criminal activity. This publication was thoroughly reviewed and is determined to have met the criteria for rejection. The publication will not be allowed inside a correctional facility."

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