

Society has become a victim of 3-Strikes. Law enforcement spends 80% of its time and money prosecuting minor offenders and not the violent criminals destroying innocent lives. Civil trials have been cancelled and postponed because of the huge increase in 3-Strike cases. San Francisco and Alameda Counties do not use the 3-Strikes law for nonviolent and non-serious cases and have had greater declines in crime than many counties that vigorously use the 3-Strikes law. California has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world (685 per 100,000). And, the law is particularly oppressive to minorities (71% of 3-Strikers are African American or Latino). **Prisons are big business and people are the commodity.**

Families have become victims of 3-Strikes. The 3-Strikes law has led to unduly harsh sentences for people with no history of violence or who have been convicted of relatively minor crimes. Over 56,000 families have been affected. Many have lost family, friends, jobs and homes and their children now live in poverty.

Three Strikes may only be amended by a 2/3 vote of the California Legislature (or by popular initiative). Write your State Senator, Assemblymember and Governor listed in the "Government Officials" section of your phone book.

**Prisons for profit,
we've got to stop it!**

Make a Difference, Register to Vote! We Do Not Have to Live with This Law!

Supporters: African American Caucus of the Cal. Dem. Party, African Student Union of UCLA, American Civil Liberties Union, Arab American Caucus of the Cal. Dem. Party, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Butte County Democratic Central Committee, California Association of Black Lawyers, California Attorneys of Criminal Justice, California CURE, California Prison Focus Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice, California Public Defender's Association, Children's Caucus of the Cal. Dem. Party, Coalition of African American Bar Associations, Community Development Organization, Concerned Citizens of Leisure World, Death Penalty Focus, Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, Disabilities Caucus of the Cal. Dem. Party, Disabled American Veterans of Bakersfield, Faith Presbyterian Church, Friends Committee on Legislation of California, Gente Unida, Hispanic Advisory Committee of Bakersfield, Islands Support Group, The Green Party of Orange County, The Justice Fellowship, LA County Democratic Party, La Gente de Aztlan, FREE THE MIND, LA Times (Editorial Board), League of Revolutionaries for a New America, Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Mexican American Political Association, Mothers Reclaiming Our Children, NABSIO, National Lawyers Guild, New Life Baptist Missionary Church of Bakersfield, Oakland Tribune (Editorial Board), Orange County Register (Editorial Board), Orange County Public Defenders Office, People Against Racist Terror, Pro-Family Advocates, Students Advocating Truth in Justice, United Black Clergy of Berkeley and Unity One.

As of Mar. 31, 2001 there were 6,700 3rd Strikers in California prisons serving at least a 25 years-to-life sentence and only 41% were identified as "crimes against persons." Included were 332 for petty-theft, 154 for receiving stolen property, 634 for drug possession and 380 for weapons possession.

**Provide Solutions that
Build People, Not Prisons.**

Little known facts about the 3-Strikes law in California:

- ❑ **nonviolent crimes** and minor offenses such as "possession of less than a gram of cocaine," "forgery," and "stealing 3 pairs of Levis" can count as strikes (over 75% of all 2nd and 50% of all 3rd Strike cases are for nonviolent or non-serious offenses);
- ❑ multiple counts during **one act** can count for multiple strikes;
- ❑ it is being applied **retroactively** (meaning crimes committed back in the 1970s or earlier can count as strikes);
- ❑ crimes committed by **juveniles** (16 and 17 year-olds) can count as strikes.

Contact us if you or a loved one has one or more prior felonies, or if you are outraged that your tax dollars are being wasted.

"I am going to trial facing a possible 3rd Strike this week. Although I'm innocent of a false allegation (of what amounts to a petty theft of \$24 in a supermarket), if I'm wrongly convicted, I could go to prison for 25 years to life! At my age this would be a death sentence! . . . I am worth saving. Please pray for me!" -- Martin

