

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND PRISONS, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES



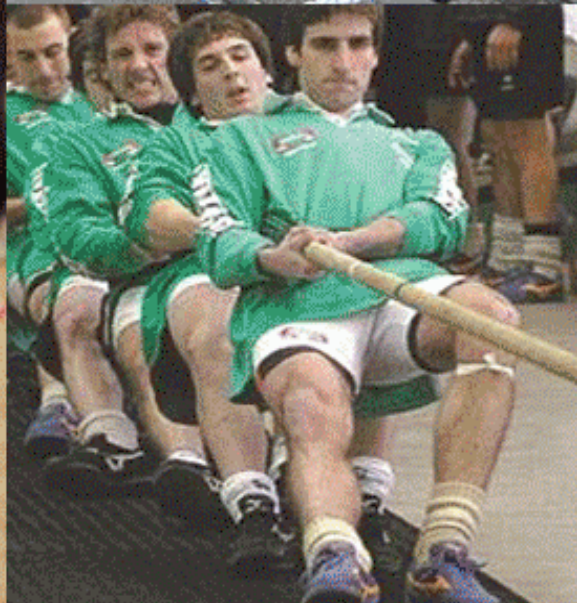
Roberto Moreno



Solasaga







EXPERIENCE IN PRISON:

- ❖ 10 years visiting prisoners in most of Spanish prisons being a member of and abolitionist NGO
- ❖ Legal advising, personal contact (letters) supporting families
- ❖ Personal support, always giving something of your life.
- ❖ Denouncing human rights violations (some torture cases)



RISKS:

- ❖ Prison and RJ are basically contradictory.
- ❖ Prison is a total institution: it controls all the aspects of the dairy life of prisoners, promote irresponsibility and offenders feel victims of the system.
- ❖ RJ in that hard unnatural context must be well developed in terms of strategy and authority: need to be sure that Direction knows what RJ is and is really going to support it to make a change for all prisoners.



- ❖ Need to work too with security officers, give good information to all prison officers to get them involved.
- ❖ Need to be a change for all prisoners: not a pilot only for the “good ones”.
- ❖ Never forget Victims perspective and community since the very first moment working inside prison (prison officers considered working to avoid new victims, really involved in rehabilitation of prisoners).
- ❖ RJ must be part of the rehabilitation process for prisoners, although they do not get direct benefits, and in permanent contact with the community from the very first moment



WARNINGS

REGARDING THE CONTEXT THE MINIMUM TO START RJ PRACTICES IN PRISON IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WARRANTED

IF RJ IS UNKNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IN PRISON

NEEDS AN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ALL CRIMINAL SYSTEM TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN TIME AND EVIDENCE (ASSESSMENT, DISEMINATION, MEDIA)



OPPORTUNITIES:

- ❖ It is always good for prisoners involved: helps to change identity (responsibility process), it helps to start rehabilitation processes in prison.
- ❖ It is always good for prison officers: they get more involved, it gives sense to their work, empowerment, recognition.
- ❖ Better atmosphere in general, less violence.
- ❖ Good to involve relatives and community.
- ❖ Helps to change the vision of criminal system: prisoners like active citizens that belong to their cities. Prisons are not in Mars.



SOME CONCLUSIONS:

- ❖ **Abolitionists in the utopia and reductionists in practice: less prison for all: GOOD. Only better for some: BAD**
- ❖ **Human rights warrantied.**
- ❖ **In prison context is everything: strategy for all prison/prisoners.**
- ❖ **If RJ practices can be done out of prison never do it inside prison.**
- ❖ **Be very critical (external observers and evaluation)**
- ❖ **Based on evidence (research)**
- ❖ **Wide vision of all criminal system**
- ❖ **Well backed by Prison Direction.**
- ❖ **Good strategy of communication.**



» **THANK YOU**

» **ESKERRIK ASKO**

WEBSITES:

<https://www.justizia.eus/>
<http://www.euforumrj.org>

ro-moreno@euskadi.eus

