

**"I Will Have Died Twice"**  
By Kevin Cooper

On February 10th, 2004 I am scheduled to be the next human being legally murdered by the government of this state. In 1985 I Kevin Cooper was sentenced to death by the county government in San Diego, Ca. for murders that I did not commit!

What I want and need for you to know my brothers and sisters in struggle is this. The person that was sent to this prison to be executed in 1985 has been dead a very, very longtime! I am not too much concerned if the government knows this, but I am concerned that each of you know this very real fact.

If the people who work for this state are successful in their attempt to murder me on 2/10/04, they will not be murdering the same person that they sent here almost 19 years ago, and there is a very real reason for this. Simply put, I killed that person many, many years ago!

That poor, uneducated, miseducated, inarticulate, non-caring and selfish black boy no longer exist. The main reason that he no longer exist is because many truth(s) on many different levels were exposed to him, as well as many different lies. Including lies about him that were told to him throughout his life by many different people. The combination of truth(s) and lies coming together all at once made him realize that something was truly wrong.

He began to truly understand how Malcolm Little could go into prison, and Malcolm X would walk out. The truth can and sometimes does change a persons life. What truth(s) am I speaking of? Well let me tell you. The truth(s) that I speak of are woven into the fabric of this country my friends. Just as the blood of all poor people is soaked and absorbed into the soil of this land!

The hypocrisy that runs rampant throughout this capitalist country, and the hypocrites who own and run this country have done more to educate me about the history of this country than any book could ever do. The treatment of all poor people in this country, both past and present woke me up in such a way that I haven't been the same since.

Over the years of reading and learning about real life in this country and I can honestly say that I did not and do not like what I found out. While I am still poor, I am no longer uneducated or inarticulate. I am no longer un-caring or selfish, or any of the other negative stereotypical things that I may have once been. I never was a killer of human beings, and I pray that I will never become one. So that part of me I could not change!

When I found out that money of all things is the heart and soul of this country, and that we poor people have been suffering because the people who run and control this capitalist society don't really give a dam about we people who happen by not fault of our own to be poor. Then many realities begun to fall into place.

Even my situation concerning me being wrongfully convicted and sent here to death row to be murdered for murders that I did not commit! It seems that truth, justice and money in this country go hand in hand. Because if I had any money I would not be on death row, and in fact no people who are on death row in any prison in this country have money.

All of us are poor, no matter what our sex is, or our religion, or are skin color or culture. We all are poor, and the vast majority of us were sent to death row because we were convicted rightly or in my case wrongly of murdering white people! The only thing that seems to remedy this situation is money!

As I began to not only learn these truth(s), understand them and apply them to my life and situation, that black boy that was sent here to be murdered being to die! We poor people have always been on the bottom of the list when it comes to positive things in this country, and at the top when it comes to negative things. We poor people have suffered the most in this country and we continue to do so today.

How can this be in a country who's leaders proudly boast that this is the greatest and richest place in the entire world? Why in a country like this have some of the greatest crimes against humanity been done to the poorest of it's people? Is it because of greed? Money which buys influence, which buys land, which buys power, which make greed, which makes the conditions for corruption, which sets the table for all types of atrocities and injustices to take place against all poor people!

More of that black boy died when he learned these very real and heart-felt truth(s)! He also learned about all the very positive contributions that all poor people have made and are still making in the building of this great society, but are never spoken about or taught. These truth(s) also help to kill this ignorant person who was never taught the truth about these matters, or about himself as a African American!

It was however the crimes against humanity done to us by the government, the very government that now wants to murder me that put the nail in the coffin of the boy named Kevin Cooper! He found out the he was just another expendable person who this government wanted to dispose of. He knew that the only way for him to fight back was to die and be reborn into the man that I Kevin Cooper am today!

As a child I was not taught about the life and death struggle by all poor people in this country to survive. I wasn't taught about any movements or organizations that help to start any movements. Or the people who built and in some cases died in either forming this movements or maintaining them. I wasn't taught that all poor people no matter what their race, religion, sex or sexual orientation or political belief helped to build this country into what it is today, but paid the highest price that any human being can pay for doing so!

I also wasn't taught that all of us poor people have been in one form or another, 'beat down, tore down, and wore down. We've been 'oppressed, repressed and undressed. Underrepresented and over taxed. Lied to, ignored sent to war, experimented on and conspired against. We've been starved, terrorized,

Tortured, brutalized, made to hate ourselves, brainwashed, deported, burned, lynched and castrated. Had both our heads and our unions busted, as well as institutionalized, imprisoned in everything from mental wards to chaingangs to prison where we have been tortured.

We've been through reconstruction so that we could learn that we had no place in society, and sent to reservations and told to make it our home. We had our land, our history, our language, our customs, our dress and our identity taken from us because we were told that they weren't what was good for this country. We've been raped, enslaved and had our fundamental right to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness taken from us!

We've been whipped, attacked, miseducated, and unemployed. We've been infiltrated, scapegoated, disfranchised. Exiled, bitten by police dogs, had smallpox put into blankets that were for us. We've been redlined and made to live in ghetto's, barrio's, slums, and the worst of the land that this country has. The sad thing about these truth(s) is that this is not all that has and still is happening to us poor people. Who may I add have been executed by every means and manner that the rich and powerful people of this country said we should be murdered by!

These things have happened by every form of government in this country, just like every form of government in this state has taken part in this execution on February 10th, 2004!

This government wants to murder me a black man during black history month. But what they fail to acknowledge in their words, but are doing so by their actions is that we black man as well as all poor people have historically been executed by them! When these people murder me, I will have died twice. Once at my own hands, and the second at theirs.

This unnatural man made death that I am going to experience is something that all of us experience in one way or another each and everyday by the capitalist who control this world! What is happening to me now is not just being done in this country. It is being done in one form or another to poor people across this world.

There is more than just one way to die, but there is only one way to be murdered! So no matter what happens to me, I now know that truth(s) about this country, and according to many spiritual people, 'the truth shall set you free'! If this is the case then I am truly a free person if only for the first time in my life!

In Struggle  
From Death Row  
At San Quentin Prison  
Kevin Cooper

