

The Quality of Justice is not Strained

*“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”*¹ Today, this is no longer the case in our society. Today, the mistakes of yesterday, rather than being corrected, only continue to be propagated. Today, unless expeditious action is taken, there will no longer be hope for tomorrow.

In all cases of major issues of the state, of its property, or anything thereof, we look to the justice system of our country as peacekeeper. Indeed, we have put our trust in courts and judges to carry out the job of deciding guilt versus innocence and deserved punishments. Have they done an ethically satisfactory job of it? Well, that largely depends on the way we choose to view the situation.

“It is better 100 guilty persons should escape than that one innocent person should suffer.”² I shall adopt this viewpoint throughout the rest of our discussion.

There have been countless cases of faceless people of color being convicted for crimes they did not commit. Less than half of these cases are widely known within the general American community. The transparency and fairness of the judicial process that we have been promised is slipping out of our hands; the due process of law that we are entitled to is no longer within our reach. Behold fellow Americans -- before our very own eyes, the judicial system is crumbling.

And I say this, not to grieve you, but to inform you that we are at a crossroads. At this crucial conjunction of justice and inequality, both of which cannot coexist, for one must triumph. Certainly, we would like to see justice succeed, for who truly supports inequality? So now, the

¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights Charter 1 (United Nations)

² Franklin, Benjamin (Quote)

time has come to consider how exactly we shall go about in completing this difficult task of supporting justice.

First and foremost, we must focus on education. Education is the root of all understanding and conception, and as such, it is an extremely powerful tool. No child is born with preconceived misconceptions about the world, rather, it is their education that teaches them what to think. We must start by introducing classes within school that teach the importance of ethics and equity, and instill in them the importance of diversity so much so, that it becomes natural to comfortably work with diverse groups of people. We do this through the aid of non-governmental aid organizations such as “Teachers Without Borders,” along with funding from national governments and other private organizations.

Now, finally, we describe a set of strategies to be used in tandem with the procedures outlined above. The first strategy is to identify the source of the majority of racial disparities in the judicial system, as well as exactly what types of people are being convicted, and for what reasons. Data is knowledge; knowledge is power. As such, collecting the necessary data is integral to performing any further steps. A second strategy is to communicate directly with personnel within the judicial system and inform them of the issue. Many honest and sincere people have dedicated their life and work to the upholding of justice, and they will stop at nothing to make sure justice will be administered to all. The final strategy presented here involves restructuring the judicial system, to some degree, so as to place more of an emphasis on evidence, as well as its verification. Doing so will eliminate a great many loopholes in our system that mistakes tend to be made through. Following these strategies, over time, is guaranteed to bring a positive effect to our judicial system, and thus, the quality of our lives.

We are living in a time where technology and knowledge are advancing. We are at the forefront of a remarkably novel revolution in almost every field we choose to pursue. Indeed, we have resources and time enough to dedicate to any task we may choose to pursue. I do believe that, with dedication and grit, my fellow human beings will step up and accept their role in this enormous mission. Soon, we, together, will move forward into a brighter, more diverse, equitable, and inclusive future.