

On May 20, 1996, 23 year old Cedric Dean was sentenced to Life Plus 5 years for his involvement in a federal crack cocaine conspiracy. The sentencing guidelines in effect at that time were 100 times greater than powder cocaine offenders.

Some 16 years later, Dean's unconscionable sentence has been reduced to 420 months, as a result of the changes in the unfair United States Sentencing Guidelines for Crack Cocaine Offenders. Although Dean recognizes his culpability, the fact still remains that he's serving an unjust sentence considering that 3 of his co-defendants were sentenced to 10 years and less and, the head of the conspiracy received only 15 years. (These reductions were based on their acceptance of responsibility and their cooperation with the government) Nevertheless, Dean has taken responsibility for another infamous role. In 1985, Dean began engaging in crime, drugs and violence to fit in, he says. Only 13 years old, he gained respect by being disrespectful to others. In turn, he admits to being partly responsible for unwittingly sparking a culture of criminal activity - violence, drug dealing and other petty crime - throughout Charlotte, N.C.

Now 39, Dean has spent the last 10 years behind bars spreading anti-crime public service announcements and youth empowerment messages via the media and his websites: cedricdean.com and AboutSave.org and through over 10 published self-help curriculums and books used in prison classrooms and beyond nationwide to dissuade youth from following in his footsteps. Assisted by community activists and leaders, law enforcement and public officials, clergy and principals, the former gangster's writings and message have even piqued the interest of prison officials. Dean has been awarded two times for the Bureau of Prisons' highest honors - the Civil Service Award and Call to Service Award, as well as hundreds of other certificates, putting him in a prestigious stratosphere of prisoner activist.

Despite the acclaim, Dean still faces a 2028 release date for a drug crime that the target of the investigation received a 43% lesser penalty and 2007 early release. Last year, President Obama granted clemency to a female crack offender whose situation was somewhat similar to Dean's.

In 2009, Dean founder Safeguard Atone Validate Educate, a movement dedicated to saving at risk children and youth from premature death and imprisonment. SAVE has impacted the lives of thousands of parents and children nationwide, as well as scores of federal prisoners, and today a parade of beneficiaries and supporters have filed petitions on Dean's behalf, urging President Obama and the Department of Justice to allow Dean early release and the opportunity to work with law enforcement to help save the misguided, an opportunity that thousands of inmates are given by the government to help incarcerate individuals.

Over and over, Dean has answered the big question of when should we trust that an inmate has been truly rehabilitated - the answer is when he has changed himself and thousands of others for the better as Dean has done.

Thanks in advance for your support, and Mr. Dean looks forward to working with you upon his release.