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Sterling Daily (8/18/24): El Salvador's Tyrannical Crackdown on Crime May Spread

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News

- This Week Ipsos poll: 50% Har.: 45% Tr. [Remember CNN warning that Tr. polls 9 pts low]
- T. Scriffs El Salvador has been cracking down on gangs, arresting/incarcerating them, resulting in a significant drop in homicides. However, this is being done at the price of ~~not~~ protecting civil liberties. Many being arrested are not gang members and are not being given a chance to prove their innocence. Arrest quotas require x arrests ^{/day...} - despite whether actually gang-affiliated. Now, other nations are considering using the same tactics; including Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala...
- Uk said it destroyed another key bridge in Kursk (video).
- Chicago/pre-DNC protesters; Pro-Palestinian, LGBTQ, abortion
- Growing movement for free lunch, including Walz' MN.

Personal News

I was roughed up this morning and plan to press charges. Resulted in a move out of a dangerous pod to one that is nearly as dangerous and a section (2) that falls into the inmates running the show kind of environment.

The assault came from Ali, a very bossy black guy/Muslim who I've been nominally friendly with. This morning,

he pointed at a sack of toilet paper rolls at the door, pointing for me to carry it into the bathroom. I pointed at my TV, indicating I was in the middle of watching (this week, ABC). He carried the sack next to my chair, signalling his bossiness / insistence. I kept watching TV & taking notes. (2)

A bit later, coming back up the stairs from getting insulin, I told him, "You (coming down the stairs), 'You're not my boss (unrighteous dominion variety). I'm not your servant.'" He turned around to follow me back to the pod, saw the sack of TP still next to my chair, took it into the bathroom, came back and violently grabbed my shirt near the neckline and jammed his fingers into my face, one finger about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from my left eyeball — could have blinded that eye if it was positioned differently. Another finger drew blood from my eye brow, breaking the skin (from the fingernail). Then he punched me hard in the chest, nearly cracking a rib.

Because inmates like getting away with their misdeeds in prison, being a "rat" is the worst thing you can be — that and being a sex offender involving children. (can be lethal) I've repented of the latter and am not afraid to report serious offenses. That takes great courage, especially because it is portrayed as cowardly. They want you to fight and cover it up.

While I can defend myself, in prison, defending yourself is punished as seriously as initiating a fight. I don't want to lose my access to the chapel, piano, and other benefits I presently enjoy. I did not hit back.

Two of the guys in my pod (besides Al) are of the inclination to try to beat me up because of the above

two reasons, so when I reported what happened, to an officer, I requested that I be removed from the pod. As I was packing up, they were berating me mercilessly, saying all kinds of rude things about me. I was ignoring them and staying in a good space by listening to KBYU radio's "This is Sunday" Christian music. (3) Daily 8/18/24

Here in Bear 4, I had thought that sections 3 & 2 were essentially the same, but that view was significantly adjusted when I rolled my bin of belongings into section 2. Some people came up to me, concerned about me being a "rat". Would I let them get away with their drugs? Homosexuality? Fighting? etc.. I said that I did not look the other way on serious offenses. The section leader, "Coach" came up to me, urging me to keep my blinders on and stick to my own business. Otherwise things could not end well for me.

My biggest deterrence is my confidence and love, seeing my fellow men as having great potential if they will apply themselves.

The saddest thing was when I went to check a pod I might (dtd) move to, Mark, who gets out of prison Tues. and attends Church and Institute, who I nominally considered to be a friendly, sitting on his bed in that pod, said to me, "keep your nose to yourself." In other words, he's one of the misbehaviors who want to get away with what he's doing wrong - or at least he's complicit with those of that ilk. That does not bode well for his actually being able to turn his life around and not end up back here.

