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Health, Safety, and Justice

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Jail For Corporate Criminal Behavior

Jail for criminal behavior has a long history in human events to deter sociopathic conduct by individuals. Jail is now in the news for deliberate harms to health, safety, and societal protection after decades of deaths and denial – for personal gains and corporate profits.

On September 18, 2015, Nader wrote about the known deaths so far of 174 Americans in the GM ignition switch scandal.

<https://blog.nader.org/2015/09/18/general-motors-homicidal-fugitive-from-justice/>

On September 21, 2015, Clarence Ditlow addressing the VW pollution scandal issued a Statement “The only way to change auto company behavior is to put the responsible executives in jail.”

<http://www.autosafety.org/volkswagen-emissions-defeat-devices-violate-epa-emissions-rules>

On October 5, 2015, VW Chairman Hans Dieter Potsch warned the pollution scandal could be an “Existence-threatening crisis for the company.”

<http://www.thedetroitbureau.com/2015/10/diesel-scandal-an-existence-threatening-crisis-concedes-new-vw-chairman/>

On Oct. 8, 2015, VW testified on pollution scandal under oath before a U.S. House Committee. Note the comments by Rep. Peter Welch of Vermont who cited the Justice Department Agreement with BP that allowed the write off of billions of dollars so that taxpayers bailed out BP. See

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?328599-1/hearing-volkswagen-emissions-violations>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/09/business/international/vw-diesel-emissions-scandal-congressional-hearing.html>

On October 7, 2015, Bloomberg reported that VW also may have violated safety problem reporting law for EWR deaths and injuries (not FARS data). See <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-10-07/for-volkswagen-new-questions-arise-on-u-s-injury-reporting>

Former FED Chair Ben Bernanke this week addressed the behavior that created the economic crash of the Great Recession and said that more corporate executives should have gone to jail for their misdeeds. See

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/10/04/ben-bernanke-execs-jail-great-recession-federal-reserve/72959402/>

The Justice Department has prosecuted some former peanut company executives that resulted in jail sentences for salmonella cases resulting in 9 deaths and 714 illnesses. See <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2015/10/07/384091.htm>

Decades of Deaths & Injuries For Dollars

The problems are bigger and worse than we generally know both historically and in our future.

For nearly a century, corporations have influenced U.S. government officials at the highest levels to avoid enforceable regulations to protect people. See Review of latest history of Car Safety Wars in Trial magazine at http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/Trial_2015_09Sept_AmmonsreviewofLemov.pdf

Also see examples of lead poisoning from 1920s to 1970s.
<http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/getleadout.php>

And for examples of “voluntary” legal loopholes in history, see

<http://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1202&context=plr>

And for corporate strategy that contributed to the loss of the American Dream see Nixon era Powell memo at http://reclaimdemocracy.org/powell_memo_lewis/

The questions of jail for executives are for both corporate and government officials. Government officials that made major decisions and then went through the Revolving Door to corporate funded positions also need to be judged. These questions are to be decided by lawyers, judges, and juries. But these questions are also to be decided by the public in the court of public opinion, the marketplace, and the voting booth.

In an interview published on Oct. 8, 2015, Ralph Nader addresses the political possibilities of citizens to act to protect them-selves. See

http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/ralph_nader_jerry_brown/

And citizens are organizing.

Coalition of Citizen Groups Supports Legislation

“WASHINGTON, D.C. – Consumer safety, public health, environmental and other groups in the [Coalition for Sensible Safeguards](#) lauded “Hide No Harm,” a new bill introduced today by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), which holds corporate officers criminally accountable if they knowingly conceal serious dangers that lead to consumer or worker deaths or injuries. Penalties could include jail time.