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Subject: Re: "life in prizon"

Posted by [warranto](#) on Mon, 21 Aug 2006 20:56:16 GMT

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From Wikipaida

Quote:In England and Wales, a life sentence is a prison term of indeterminate length and, unlike much of Europe, can "mean life" in certain circumstances. Formerly, the Home Secretary reserved the right to set the "tariff", or minimum length of term, for prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment, but since the Criminal Justice Act 2003 only a judge may set the tariff. The Act specifies three broad categories of murder with three "starting point" sentences. A "Whole Life Tariff" (known in the US as "life without parole") exists for multiple murders which involve sexual abuse of children or terrorism, as well as any murderer who had come out of prison and killed again. If such a sentence is handed down, then a prisoner is unlikely ever to be released from prison. A starting point of 30 years exists for people convicted of single murders involving sexual or sadistic conduct, killing using an illegal weapon, during the course of a robbery or the killing of a Police Officer. For other murders the minimum starting point is a life sentence with a minimum of 15 years. The average sentence is about 15 years before the first parole hearing, although those convicted for heinous offences serve their sentences significantly longer - Ian Huntley was given a tariff of 40 years. Some receive "whole life tariffs" and die in prison, such as Myra Hindley and Harold Shipman; there are currently around 25 people serving whole life tariffs in the UK. Reggie Kray was serving a whole life sentence but was released on compassionate grounds in August 2000, as he was 67 years old, suffering from terminal cancer and had spent over 30 years behind bars. He died just five weeks after being paroled. Prisoners jailed for life are released on a life licence if the parole board authorises their release. The prisoner must satisfy the parole board that they are remorseful, understand the gravity of their crime and pose no future threat to the public.

Unfortunately, I don't have the time to explain what it may mean at the moment.

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