



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WHY ARE MORE BLACK MEN IN PRISON THAN IN COLLEGE?**

*Legal analysts and a former prison inmate debate crime and punishment in America on program hosted by James Brown.*

(Washington, D.C. – January 02, 2006) This week, **America's Black Forum** looks at the number of African American men perpetually tied to the criminal justice system. *"It's one of the most horrific incidents in American history,"* says **Harvard law professor, Charles Ogletree**. *"We have more Black men in prison than ever before, we don't have any kind of aftercare program when they're released and what's worse is that now those who have gone to prison can't get a job, can't go to school, don't have a home and they're becoming a burden on society."* **Guest commentator and attorney Jack Burkman** challenged **Professor Ogletree**. *"What's implied is that this has something to do with race. It's not about Black or White, it's green."* **Syndicated columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson** agreed with both guests stating: *"It's race and its class. However, we can't deny that race is a factor."*

A recent CNN/USA/Gallup poll released statistics revealing that nearly one in three African American men between the ages of 20 and 29 is either in jail or on probation or parole on any given day. That is more than the number enrolled in colleges. **Hutchinson** believes that poverty is a huge factor. *"When we look at unemployment among African American males, no matter what president is in the White House, it never changes. Historically, the unemployment rate of Black males has been double and triple that of White males."*

**Evans Hopkins, former prison inmate and author of Life After Life** suggested, *"Let's drop race from the equation and talk about what we can do as a community to reclaim those who are in the prison system."*

**America's Black Forum** is seen on over 100 television stations across the country and on the TV One cable network. **Juan Williams** of *Fox News Sunday* and **James Brown** of *Fox NFL Sunday* host the program. Commentators, including former White House correspondent **Deborah Mathis** and NAACP Chairman **Julian Bond**, join the hosts. Supervising producer is Byron Lewis, Jr. Jaci Clark is senior producer.

In Washington, D.C., **America's Black Forum** is presented Mondays on WUSA/Ch. 9 at 2:05 a.m., ET. In Los Angeles, it airs Sunday on KCAL/Ch. 9 at 1:30 p.m., PT. In New York, the program airs Sunday on WABC/Ch.7 at 1:00 p.m., ET. For other markets, please check local listings for exact air times and dates.

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