

# WILL TRUMP PARDON AARON?



Aaron Sandusky was a colorful and outspoken advocate for the medical benefits of marijuana use. He operated three medical marijuana dispensaries in the Inland Empire providing medicinal marijuana to over 17,000 legally qualified patients.



In 2011, the U.S. Attorney's office sent Aaron a series of letters informing him that his G3 Holistic dispensaries were in violation of federal law and that he better shut them down or suffer the consequences. He did shut down two of them but continued to operate one in Upland, a town known for its ferocious opposition to all things marijuana from cultivation to distribution.

Several months after the letters were sent the Upland dispensary was raided twice by federal agents seizing marijuana plants, product and \$11,500 cash.

In a kangaroo-court trial that riveted the entire Inland Empire, he was not allowed to present evidence that he was following state law. Notably he was also not allowed to claim entrapment based on the public statements by President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder that federal resources would not be used to thwart state medical marijuana laws. Aaron was convicted of violating federal marijuana prohibition laws and sentenced to a mandatory minimum of 10 years in federal prison.

Over the last six years he has been imprisoned in three different federal prisons and is now serving time at the Florence Federal Correctional Complex in Colorado – a state that legalized the use of marijuana for all purposes back in 2012. This sprawling federal prison complex includes the highest-security federal prison in the country known as the “Alcatraz of the Rockies.” A few of its more infamous inmates include unabomber Theodore Kaczynski; Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev; and Zacarias Moussaoui, an al Qaeda operative who played a role in the 9/11 attacks.



Aaron is being held in a lower-security camp facility of the prison, even though he works inside the “Alcatraz of the Rockies” section several days a week.



After his conviction, Aaron started a petition at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) to request a presidential pardon. It went nowhere, but now Aaron has rekindled his hope of obtaining a Presidential Pardon from President Trump.

President Trump has been issuing a number of very high profile pardons that have mostly involved cases that drew attention in conservative media or have come to his attention through celebrity interventions. His ten pardons include former Arizona sheriff Joseph M. Arpaio convicted of violating a court order barring racial profiling, Watergate conspirator Lewis “Scooter” Libby and, after being lobbied by reality TV star Kim Kardashian during her visit to the White House, a commutation of the life sentence of Alice Johnson, who had already served 20 years for a first-time non-violent drug conviction. *Continued on next page*



In an interview with the Huffington Post, Aaron stated “There’s a rumbling going through the prison walls right now of Donald Trump possibly sparking a clemency wave.” Aaron is basing his hopes on a June memo issued by the Trump administration asking advocacy groups across the country for a list of prospective candidates for clemency.

The CAN-DO Foundation, a nonprofit organization that advocates for clemency for prisoners convicted of drug offenses, submitted 60 names. Aaron’s name is listed as one of the 22 people on that list currently serving time for marijuana offenses.

Trump has reveled in overturning as many Obama era regulations and programs as possible from the Affordable Care Act to the Paris Climate Accord. It was under the Obama Administration that Aaron received his 10-year sentence. Perhaps Trump’s anti-Obama crusade will include pardoning Aaron from his inhumane, unjust and repugnant 10 year prison sentence.

