

Say no to permanent clearance of criminal records

Every year, there are prisoners being released from jail. Whether or not any ex-criminals can ask for a clearance of their criminal record permanently from the court files after three years of not being involved in any criminal offenses is a controversial issue. Many people believe they should be given a chance to clear the record. However, I disagree with this stance. I believe criminal record should not be removable.

The first reason for not supporting the removal of criminal records is that they are a part of the price ex-criminals should pay for the mistake they had made. The effects a lifelong criminal record brings are not only a comfort to the victims and their family, but also the consequences of violating the law and making a negative impact on society. The existence of the record tells the public what they have done, and this fact should not be erased.

The second reason for not supporting the clearance is former lawbreakers are likely to reoffend. According to government statistics, the recidivism rate of prisoners five years after their release was 25%. That means one in four ex-criminals will reoffend in five years. Recidivism rates among offenders of some serious crimes such as sex offenses are especially high, posing an alarming threat to society. The public should be aware of these potential dangers to avoid being the next victim with the reminder of the criminal records.

Some people may think every ex-criminal deserves a second chance. I have reservation about this. Take an instance of drunk driving. There have been many cases where someone drove under the influence of alcohol and accidentally hit the victim into serious injuries, causing irreparable damage such as paralysis, amputation and severe damage to internal organs, ruining their whole life. If innocent victims do not get a second chance, why should ex-criminals, the culprits of the incidents, get a chance to clear the criminal record permanently and get away from their responsibilities?

In short, ex-criminals should not have a chance to clear the criminal record because they have to pay the price for the mistake they made, and they are likely to reoffend. Doubtless to say, clearance of criminal records should not be allowed.