

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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EVER HIGHER HUMAN PRICES GUARANTEED

It is shameful, but no surprise, to learn that specifics that contracts between for-profit prison companies and state, local, and federal governments often provide for. Two common techniques either guarantee prison occupancy rates (thus creating prisoner lockup quotas) or, force us taxpayers to pay for unused space if the prison population decreases (essentially creating a tax for lower prison population rates). Some of these contracts require 90 to 100% prison occupancy. Contract clauses like these obviously push criminalization of arrestees and of those with demographic characteristics which make them vulnerable to arrest. People should never be profit incentives.

More specifics about contracts with for-profit prison companies include: 1) That 65% of for-profit prison contracts included these occupancy guarantees in the form of quotas or required payments for empty prison cells. Such arrangements result in guaranteeing profits for for-profit prison corporations.

NEARLY 30 MILLION ENSLAVED WORLDWIDE

People are enslaved as forced laborers and sex workers, as child soldiers and child brides in forced marriages, debt bondage, and human trafficking. Mauritania and Haiti have the highest proportion of slaves compared to population size, while India and China have the highest overall numbers. The other highest prevalence countries are: Pakistan, Nepal, Moldova, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia. Ten countries in Asia and Africa account for 76% of the enslaved population, but there were enslaved people found in every single one of the 162 countries investigated. There are 60,000 enslaved people living in the U.S. today.

This information appears in the first Global Slavery Index, compiled by the Walk Free Foundation (80 Birdwood Parade, Dalkeith, Western Australia, \$1.10 U.S. postage, 1st ounce.)

Occupancy guarantee clauses in these contracts range from 80% to 100%. The most frequent occupancy guarantee requirement is 90%. In Arizona (where three for-profit prisons have a 100% occupancy requirement), Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Virginia have contracts with the highest occupancy guarantee requirements of between 95% and 100%. An occupancy requirement for three for profit prisons in Colorado has added \$2 million to their cost. A 20 year deal in Ohio includes a 90% quota.

From: In the Public Interest (ITPI)
1825 K St NW-Suite 210, Washington DC
2006, 202-739-1160.

Similarly, Obama's 2015 budget has a continuation of an immigrant detention imprisonment quota passed by the House of Representatives in 2006. Under it, ICE is required to hold at least 34,000 immigrants each day in for-profit detention centers, which costs \$160 a day, or \$2 billion a year. This quota is the main reason so many immigrants who haven't committed any crimes are arrested and detained by ICE.

Life Sentences Increase

As of 2012, there are now nearly 160,000 prisoners with life sentences in U.S. prisons. Almost 50,000 people have life sentences without parole (LWOP). The lifer population has more than quadrupled in size since 1984. One in nine people in prison currently have life sentences and nearly a third of lifers will never have a chance at a parole hearing; they are certain to die in prison.

LWOP sentenced prisoners have increased 22.2% since 2008, to 49,081. Approximately 10,000 lifers have been convicted of nonviolent acts. Nearly half of lifers are African American and 1 in 6 are Latino. More than 10,000 life-sentenced prisoners have been convicted of crimes that occurred before they were 18 and nearly 1 in 4 have LWOP

PRISON HUNGER STRIKE SUSPENDED

What has been won:

A prison hunger striker leadership collective meeting to decide on the suspension, including phone contact with those transferred from Pelican Bay to New Folsom for medical reasons.

A meeting with organized prisoners at San Quentin, Tehachapi and Calipatria with their wardens agreeing to meet prison specific demands.

Beginning the hunger strike with 30,000; 100 went 59 days. Others joined with work stoppages.

Prison system reduction of violence.

Prisoner discipline with no violence despite guard provocation.

Outpouring of outside support locally and nationally, and widespread coverage.

Unity of family members and other community supporters across differences.

Public hearings scheduled in October in California by supportive legislators.

To receive the Newsletter each month, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address) - up to 12 at one time.

Keep sending us address changes and renewal requests, in order to receive the yearly holiday card/new calendar.

Also, please note that the only address to use to be sure to reach us continues to be: PO Box, Santa Fe NM 87504. There are resource lists which, unfortunately, use the wrong address.

Remember: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS. It is very important not to mark any envelopes "Legal Mail."

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for making our monthly Newsletter available on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: <http://www.realcostofprisonsproject.org/coalition.html>--This is a GREAT site!

We depend on our readers' donations! Thank you for your support! ¡Mil gracias!

There is some hope that "Obamacare" will be of help to many involved in the police, court and penal system as there will be a substance abuse disorder and mental health treatment benefit available through Medicaid. We shall see.



MILESTONES OBSERVED

The Struggle Continues

Herman Wallace of the Angola 3.

September 25, 1941 - October 4, 2013

"He was the best of us. As long as we remember him, he lives on.

Separated but never apart, never touching, but always connected."

--Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3.

Wallace's lawyers at his request, will continue to press his lawsuit challenging his unconstitutional confinement in solitary for over 40 years. His hope was that this will help others, such as Albert Woodfox, not to be forced to continue to suffer such cruelty.

"Nothing can justify the cruelty that the state has inflicted on Woodfox" stated Amnesty International, which is launching a campaign for his release. Woodfox is the one remaining member of the Angola 3 still imprisoned and is being held in the Wade Correctional Center in Homer LA. Robert H. King, the third of the Angola 3, was released after 29 years in solitary.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, Juan E. Méndez, called for Woodfox's immediate release from solitary. "Keeping Albert Woodfox in solitary confinement for more than four decades clearly amounts to torture and it should be lifted immediately. I am deeply concerned about his physical and mental condition."

Guadalupe M. Guajardo, Jr.,

A tireless legal warrior.

Left us September 13, 2013, Mexia TX

In 1971, while a TDCJ prisoner, he

filed a 1983 class action suit to challenge the constitutionality of

the TDC correspondence rules and practices then in effect. He worked

closely with David Ruiz.

Right through the 80s and 90s, the state fought tooth and nail against Guajardo v. Estelle.

El Dia de la Raza el 12 de octubre

Después de 72 días de navegación, el 12 de octubre de 1492 el marino Rodrigo de Triana divisó Tierra. Este acontecimiento cambió la concepción que se tenía del planeta y provocó algo que ni siquiera Colón había imaginado: la unión de dos mundos. Pero en el siglo II, el astrónomo griego Ptolomeo ya había presentado la teoría de que la Tierra era redonda, en el siglo XV creencia popular dijo que "no"!