

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504

July 2014

"Give me your tired, your poor...." Today's version

These days, in contrast, the president of our country is submitting an emergency request to ask congress for "fast-track" authority and additional funding to speed the deportation of recently arrived migrant children, largely from the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. According to current law, this would require the suspension of "anti-trafficking rules" that prevent minors from being immediately deported. (Except, somehow, Mexican ones. Mexicans "can immediately" be returned across the border.) Last year, the U.S. returned fewer than 2,000 children to their countries of origin.

The president's request, if approved, could avoid regulations mandating the children's transfer to the "care" of the Department of Health and Human Services, which currently has the responsibility of acting in the children's "best interests," and not forcing automatic deportation. The waiver would apply to most of the 52,000 unaccompanied children who have been seized on the U.S. border since October 2013. According to the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, 58% of unaccompanied children detained by the U.S. could be entitled to refugee protections under international law.

This tragic and horrifying situation is characterized by both a lack of complete information and a lack of putting what is known in context. For example, it turns out that a surge in the immigration of minors has been building for the past three years. In 2011, there were about 4,000 undocumented, unaccompanied children caught by U.S. border agents. Between October 2013 and September 2014, about 90,000 children trying to cross the border without their parents will be caught.

In 2014, it is estimated that there will be about 60,000 such children arrested. More than 174,000 people, mostly from Central America, have been

arrested in Texas' Rio Grande Valley this year.

Since the October 2013, about 39,000 adults with children have been taken into custody. The administration has released an unspecified number of them into the U.S. in recent months with instructions to report later to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices. Agency officials say they don't know how many people have been released or subsequently appeared as ordered.

Among the scattered, uncoordinated efforts to bring some order to this chaos is one in the town of Artesia, in southeastern New Mexico. There, a federal facility will temporarily house families suspected of entering the country without papers. A state representative touring the facility at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center--home to the border patrol's training academy--got local publicity for saying that it was too nice. It will hold around 700 people while they are processed for deportation.

Immigration enforcement is a *civilian* law enforcement job.

Families struggle in many ways to stay united and when separated by unjust policies and practices, to reunite. This important aspect of the current situation should be front and center.

JAIL SUICIDE RATES HIGH

Suicide is the third highest cause of death in jails nationally--surpassed only by heart disease and cancer. The average rate is 41 per 100,000 people imprisoned. In New York City's jail system, the nation's second largest after Los Angeles County's, the rate was 17 suicides per 100,000 imprisoned. Nine of them took place at the Rikers Island jail complex. There were 11 suicides in New York City jails over the past five years.

A high percentage of those jailed have mental health issues. They account for about 40% of the roughly 11,500 women and men in New York City's jails on any given day. This is up from 24% of those imprisoned in 2007.

CRIME OF THE MONTH

U.S. Department of Justice has reported on its investigation of the Albuquerque NM Police Department (APD) for its practice of shooting people. Since 2010, APD police have shot 40 people, killing more than two dozen.

Some of the reports conclusions are:

- > APD engages in a pattern or practice of use of excessive and deadly force.
- > APD officers "too often" use deadly force in an unconstitutional manner in their use of firearms...of the 20 officer-involved shootings resulting in fatalities from 2009 to 2012 we concluded that a majority of these shootings were unconstitutional.
- > APD officers also often use less lethal force in an unconstitutional manner.
- > A significant amount of the force we reviewed was used against persons with mental illness and in crisis.
- > The use of excessive force by APD officers is not isolated or sporadic. The pattern or practice of excessive force stems from systemic deficiencies in oversight, training and policy.
- > We identified several cases in which officers shot and killed civilians whodid not pose an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury.

Apparently none of the officers who killed these people were prosecuted or punished. Murder with a terrorist enhancement is the Crime of the Month, and the APD is an ongoing criminal enterprise.

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

Please continue to send us address changes and renewal requests, in order to be sent the yearly holiday card/new calendar each January.

Also, please note that *only* address to use to be sure to reach us continues to be: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. There are some resource lists which, unfortunately, use an incorrect address. Remember: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS. Please do not mark any envelopes sent to us as "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!

Recursos para inmigrantes

Manual Para Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes, 2014:
INMIGRACION Y TU -- Conoce tus Derechos de **El Centro Nacional de Justicia para Inmigrantes** (NIJC, del inglés National Immigrant Justice Center), 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1300, Chicago IL 60604, teléfono 312-660-1331, www.immigrantjustice.org/kids

El Centro Nacional de Justicia para Inmigrantes promueve los derechos humanos y el acceso a la justicia para los inmigrantes, refugiados y personas buscando asilo a través de servicios legales, reforma de políticas, litigio estratégico y educación pública.

Este manual, con 20 paginas de información y 8 paginas de recursos adicionales, tiene el objetivo de servir solamente como guía introductoria para presentar a los menores el sistema de inmigración de los Estados Unidos. No trata todos los aspectos de la práctica y procedimientos de inmigración. Se deben consultar otras fuentes para cualquier guía o parapreguntas adicionales referentes a la ley y procedimiento actual.

National Immigration Law Center

3435 Wilshire Blvd #2850,
Los Angeles CA 90010, 213-639-3900
"Our mission is to defend and advance the rights & opportunities of low-income immigrants and their family members." Information on the law and the employment & public benefits rights of immigrants. Dream Act information by state

SUMMER FAN AVAILABILITY

From the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Commissary & Trust Fund,
PO Box 629, Huntsville TX 77342:

May 14, 2014 -- Fans offered by TX-C.U.R.E., a Texas advocacy group, are *only* available to those incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT STANDARDS

Seven states are refusing to comply with these national standards designed to reduce prison rape and sexual abuse. Although the law was passed in 2003, the states had until this May 15 to inform the Justice Department whether they were in compliance with the standards or planned to be. The states announcing their refusal to comply are: Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, Texas, and Utah. The excuse being given is the expense involved, allegedly for hiring more staff

For further information contact:
Just Detention International,
3325 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90010.