

# Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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## FEDERAL FOR-PROFIT PRISONS

There are 13 of such prisons listed on the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) web site. All but three are clustered in the southern tier of states from Florida and Georgia in the east to California in the west. They are: CI Adams County, CI Big Spring, CI Cibola County, CI D. Ray James, CI Eden, CI Giles W. Dalby, CI Great Plains, CI McRae, CI Moshannon Valley, CI Reeves I & II, CI Reeves III, CI Rivers, and CI Taft.

The BOP describes them: "Contract prisons are secure institutions operated by private corporations. The majority of BOP inmates in private prisons are sentenced criminal aliens (sic) who may be deported upon completion of their sentences."

We take as an example the Great Plains Correctional Facility, located in Hinton OK, empty since 2010 when Arizona ended its contract to keep prisoners there. Its current capacity is usually listed as 1,940 people. Listed as part of the educational programing is English as a Second Language. Also mentioned is employment assistance (no locations given). It is described both as housing for "low security federal inmates" and as an "adult male medium security facility." Many of the men to be held there are said to have 90 months (seven and a half years) or less remaining on their sentences.

It is currently owned by Geo Group and is one of six for-profit prisons in Oklahoma. The Watonga Diamondback Correctional Facility, owned by CCA, is the remaining facility not currently being used.

One of the many disturbing parts of this increasingly common federal arrangement is the 10 year contract the company got. Together with Geo's Moshannon Valley Correctional Center in Philipsburg PA, there will be space for 3,818 federal prisons at a cost to us taxpayers of \$431 million. Of that, \$361 million is said to be for the Hinton prison.

### Resource:

Oklahoma Watch  
395 W Lindsey St, Suite 3120D,  
Norman OK 73019

## THE EXECUTIVE PEN

On April 22, 2016, the governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe, issued an executive order restoring voting rights to those with felony convictions who, as of that date, had completed the terms of their incarceration and any period of supervised release. Virginia had been one of four states whose constitution permanently disenfranchised citizens with past felony convictions, although it grants the governor the authority to restore voting rights. There are currently 39 other states and the District of Columbia that allow all citizens with past criminal convictions to vote.

On July 22, 2016, the Virginia Supreme Court held that the governor's order to restore voting rights on a *collective* basis to the 206,000 people eligible to have their voting rights restored was unconstitutional. Four leading constitutional experts in Virginia dispute this interpretation of the state's constitution. They include A.E. Dick Howard, who drafted it. In addition, the Virginia legislature had ousted a state Supreme Court judge appointed by the governor when the legislature was out of session. They installed their choice, who joined three other judges in the 4 to 3 decision overturning the governor's order restoring voting rights. The case, *Howell v. McAuliffe*, was just heard on July 19, 2016

The governor has stated that he will sign orders of all 206,000 people negatively affected by this court decision, starting with the 13,000 who registered to vote between the issuance of his orders and the court's decision.

McAuliffe says that his restoration order was his "proudest moment as governor." Nearly a quarter of Virginia's Black population has been disqualified from voting because of felony convictions.

### Resource:

Brennan Center for Justice  
161 Ave. of the Americas, 12th Fl  
New York NY 10013

## FAN PROJECT -- TEXAS ONLY

Texas State Prisons are not air-conditioned. Prisoners and guards suffer in cells and halls above 110 degrees, with high humidity. A small fan that can save a life costs \$20. TX-CURE provides free fans to poor and needy prisoners who have no family or friends for financial support.

Donate to TX-CURE Fans, PO Box 381, Dallas TX 75238 or on-line at: <http://www.texascore.org>; Michael Jewell, CURE Pres [mikewaynejewell@hotmail.com](mailto:mikewaynejewell@hotmail.com)

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To receive a CPR Newsletter by postal mail monthly, send us up to 12 self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address).

Keep sending us address changes and renewal requests as we struggle to maintain the mailing list for the January holiday card/new calendar mailing as accurately as possible.

Also, note that the only address to use to be sure to reach us is: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. Some resource address listings are incorrect.

NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS, so, for our protection, please do not mark envelopes sent to us as "Legal Mail."

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

We depend on our readers' donations & thank you for your support! Mil gracias! \*\*\*\*\*

## BLOQUEO

El partido Republicano apoyó formalmente la propuesta de construir un muro a lo largo de la frontera entre México y EE.UU. presentada en la plataforma. Al fin de julio, frente a la Convención Nacional Republicana, cientos de personas se reunieron para bloquear la entrada al lugar donde se realiza la convención, al levantar un "Muro contra Trump" con una enorme tela pintada como si fuera una pared.

### Romance sonámbulo

Verde, que te quiero verde.  
Verde viento. Verdes ramas.  
El barco sobre la mar  
y el caballo en la montaña.  
Con la sombra en la cintura,  
ella sueña en su baranda,  
verde carne, pelo verde,  
con ojos de fría plata.

--por Frederico Garcia Lorca

## Numbers Tell Us

> According to PBS on July 22, 2016, the average Net Worth of "white" families is \$141,000+, while the average Net Worth of Black families is \$11,000.

> According to a Duke University study, about 10% of "rich" Black youth in 1985 would eventually go to jail, whereas about 2.7% of the poorest "white" youth would.

> Corizon Correctional Healthcare, the country's largest for-profit provider of "health services" for imprisoned people has had a lawsuit filed against it in NM state district court by the newspapers in two of the state's largest cities and the NM Foundation for Open Government. The suit is seeking copies of the settlement agreements, currently denied, between Corizon and then prisoners. The suit states:

"During the course of providing medical services to New Mexico prisoners, Corizon and the DOC were sued many times as a result of the alleged inadequacy of medical services provided by Corizon to New Mexico prisoners. Corizon settled many of these lawsuits before the courts had adjudicated the plaintiffs' claims. The lawsuits that are the basis for the settlements are public records. The settlements are public records." Corizon was providing all the medical services for New Mexico state prisoners at 10 facilities in New Mexico under contract with the state. Corizon was paid \$37.5 million per year.

> Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, held for 22 years in solitary confinement in Pennsylvania, a key organizer in the PA Association of Lifers, working to abolish LWOP sentences, has won a permanent reprieve from solitary and a settlement of nearly \$100,000.

> An expert on the Second Amendment, Gerald Horne at the University of Houston, points out that the Second Amendment is closely tied to slavery. "When the Second Amendment speaks of militias and of guns, they're expressing their fear of slave revolts... The Second Amendment did not apply to enslaved Africans.... (During the) post-1865 reconstruction era one of the reasons that the Ku Klux Klan was organized was precisely to disarm newly freed enslaved Africans....

\* \* \* BLACK LIVES MATTER \* \* \*