

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

Vol. 44-A, No. 8

PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504

August 2019

WHAT IS IT REALLY ABOUT?

Federal Executions to Start Up

There are currently 62 people on federal Death Row. The total number of people on U.S. Death Rows combined as of July 4, 2019 is 2,632. As of April 19, 2019, there were 737 on Death Row in California. Virginia, Texas and Missouri perform almost half of the U.S. executions, which in 2018 totaled 25 human beings.

However, 166 people who had been wrongly convicted and sentenced to execution have been exonerated since 1973 when execution was reinstated as a possible sentence in the U.S. There is currently one woman among the total of 62 people on federal Death Row.

Of those currently on federal Death Row, 27 of the 62, that is 44%, are "white." Other ethnic groups represented are: Black, 25 of the 62, that is 41%--although they are only 14% of the U.S. population as a whole. There are also 7 Hispanics, 11%; one Native American, 2%; and one Asian, also 2%. Clearly the racism resulting in the mass incarceration of African-American men is a big part of how death sentences are applied. And, not one single study regarding whether or not these death sentences are in any way a deterrent to anything bad says: NO.

Federally death sentenced prisoners are housed in two Bureau of Prisons facilities. Men are kept in the Special Confinement Unit (SCU) at the USP in Terre Haute IN. Women at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Carswell in Fort Worth TX.

In 2006, the Federal Capital Habeas Project (the "sec. 2255 Project") was established to assist federal courts (please note: federal courts) with appointment of lawyers in federal death penalty habeas proceedings. Its purpose is to ensure that any one and every one sentenced to death in federal court who has completed their direct appeals receives post-conviction representation "consistent with the highest standards of the legal profession."

Contact: Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland, Southern Division, 6411 Ivy Lane, Suite 710, Greenbelt MD 20770.

The Quick Fix Boomerang

In May 2019, the then interim, now appointed, secretary of corrections in New Mexico hadn't gotten the message yet. She was quoted in the state capital's daily paper as saying: "I do not see any data right now that indicates we are reaching our capacity." More typically, everyone officially speaking for the prison system always says: We need more prisons and jails. That was certainly their message at legislative committee hearings last year. There are currently 11 state prisons in New Mexico, 6 "public" and 5 for profit.

And as time goes on, the for-profit ones struggle with the same problems--how to keep their profits up and be allowed to continue at their level of performance. An effective tactic so far is to present themselves as the concerned providers of employment in various poor, rural communities which New Mexico, as one of the very poorest states in the country, has many of. State legislators get that point.

This tactic has already played out successfully in local jails. In Grants NM, the county helped the for-profit prison reopen to detain new immigrants. And now Torrance County, in central New Mexico (a couple of hours from Albuquerque), is generously partnering with ICE to help out CoreCivic reopen its jail and bring back hundreds of low paying, dead end jobs to the Estancia area. CoreCivic brought in \$459 million total from ICE last year.

The Estancia jail has space for 1,000 human beings; soon it could be 90%, or up to 892 people, filled with new immigrants because of the contract the county got from the feds. Current U.S. border policy has resulted in 144,000 detentions so far. In May 2019 ICE was detaining an estimated 52,000 migrants.

The U.S. Marshals Service also rents space in local jails. As of April 2019, there were nine such in New Mexico. Daily rates vary from \$58 to \$83 a person.

In Estancia, the jail was the town's largest employers and so it was one of its most important revenue sources.

La redada masiva de Mississippi

Funcionarios del Servicio de Inmigracion y Control de Aduanas en el estado de Mississippi dijeron que han liberado a 300 trabajadores, en su mayoría latinos, victimas de la mayor redada de inmigración en un solo estado de la historia de Estados Unidos. La redada del miércoles que terminó con el arresto de 680 trabajadores en siete plantas avícolas se realizó el primer día del año escolar y dejó a decenas de niños traumatizados y llorando por la ausencia de sus padres.

To receive the 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 in order for us to maintain our *only* permanent mailing list--the one for our January holiday/new calendar--as accurately as possible.

Also, note that the correct address to be sure to reach us at is: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. And still: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS; for our protection, please do *Not* mark envelopes addressed to us as Legal Mail.

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for posting our Newsletter on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: www.realcostofprisons.org--this is a GREAT site! Thank you all for your support!

BACK TO SCHOOL?

I. The United States, on any given day, incarcerates nearly 60,000 youth under 18 in jails and prisons. Approximately 250,000 are tried, sentenced or incarcerated as adults, and around 10,000 teens are housed in adult jails and prisons. Most teenagers held in adult jails are awaiting trial, though up to half of them will not be convicted or will be sent back to the so-called juvenile justice system. Many will have spent at least one month in the adult jail, and one in five of them will have spent over six months there. The United States incarcerates more young people than any other country.

II. The Homestead detention facility in Florida, which had a capacity of 3,200 and was holding "unaccompanied" migrant youth in prolonged detention and terrible conditions has been emptied out. All children that had been held there have been moved and are not supposed to be returning.

III. Of the 50,000 children imprisoned by Israel since 1967--the only country that detains children through military courts with a near 100% conviction rate.

from **LAM**

**I am because I feel
I am because I hurt and I heal
I am because I exist
I am because I stand up to oppression and resist
-- B.B., MO**

POVERTY

The U.N. and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative have devised Index which not only considers the lack of financial resources of people but also their degree of health care and access to education, sanitation and electricity. Data gathered from 101 countries covering 5.7 billion people, shows that 1.3 billion, 23.1% of those considered around the world, live in "multidimensional poverty with insufficient nutrition, irregular access to safe drinking water or lack of physical property."

More on "Camps"

Additional examples of U.S. camps include the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II at a variety of isolated sites, as well as--earlier--Native Americans--members of both groups were held at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, now yet again to be a "camp."

Nazi concentration camps were influenced by these U.S. examples according to the book *Hitler's American Model: The United States and the Making of Nazi Race Law*, by James Q. Whitman. Hitler is referred as having "spoke admiringly about the way Americans had 'gunned down the millions of Redskins to a few thousand and now keep the modest remnant under observation in a cage.'" And another historian, John Toland, in his book *Adolf Hitler*, states "Hitler's concept of concentration camps as well as the practicality of genocide owed much, so he claimed, to his studies of English and United States history....he often praised the efficiency [sic] of America's extermination--by starvation and uneven combat--of the red savages [sic] who could not be tamed [sic] by captivity."

Murphy Davis, On Women's Health

"There are states that have been specifically targeting women's health care for budget cuts for a number of years, and it comes as no surprise that these states are among those with the highest maternal death rates....in 2019, women are *twice* as likely as their mothers were to die before, during and after childbirth....The rates for African American women in the U.S. are three to four times higher than for "white" women...."