

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

Vol. 31, No. 9 PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504-1911 September 2006

BUYING POWER

The for-profit prison company originally called Wackenhut is now called "The GEO Group, Inc." In 2005 and 2006 to date, it has contributed the following amounts to political candidates:

Florida	\$ 58,500
New Mexico	58,000
Virginia	34,107
Mississippi	12,900
Indiana	11,000
Louisiana	10,300
California	10,000
Texas	2,200.

Nationally, this Boca Raton, Florida based for-profit company has given a total of \$114,157 to Republican candidates this election cycle, compared to \$74,725 to Democrats. In 2005, GEO contributed \$95,000 to the Republican Governors Association. In March 2006, it donated \$30,000 to the Democratic Governors Association.

GEO operates a total of about

50 prison and jail operations in this country. It also has contracts in: South Africa, the United Kingdom and Australia. GEO also manages the "migrant operations program" for those detained at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard at the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base as a joint effort with the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security.

In south Texas, for-profit companies currently run seven detention facilities for the U.S. Marshals Service and for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a division of Homeland Security. The top companies running south Texas detention centers are: CCA, GEO and Emerald Correctional Management.

A "super jail" to be built to keep immigrants in Laredo has been bid on by five for-profit companies, including CCA and GEO.

BUYING POWER, cont.

CCA has offered to pay the \$100 million construction cost if it wins the contract; GEO has said it would give \$1 million to impoverished Webb County, where the prison will be located if it gets the contract.

The biggest single beneficiary of GEO to date is New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, who has received \$42,750 since 2005. As of May of this year, Richardson had received more money from GEO than any other politician nationwide running for state office in this coming election. Former NM state Sen. Les Houston is a New Mexico lobbyist for GEO. GEO receives \$38 million per year for running two state prisons and a hospital in New Mexico. It has contracted with the city of Clayton NM to operate the planned state prison there with 600 beds.

Desde 1810, el 15 de septiembre:

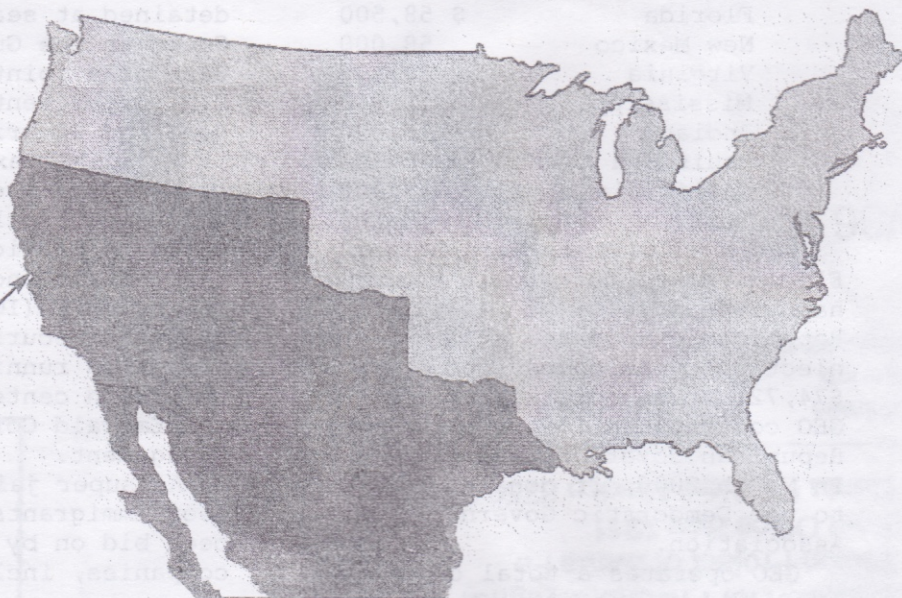
New Mexico ranks ninth for all states in contributions from the prison industry, based on numbers from the 2002 and 2004 elections. New Mexico vies with Mississippi for being the poorest state in the country. But it doesn't have limits on campaign contributions. Since 2002, GEO has contributed more than \$79,000 to politicians running for state office in New Mexico.

Texas has 17 GEO-operated prisons.

In addition, we understand that the mother of the current administrator of the prison phone company EverCom is a large shareholder in GEO. And Wyoming prisoners formerly held in a GEO prison in Littlefield TX (and now in Sayre OK), have not, as of the beginning of July, had their mail forwarded or their account money or pay due sent to them.

El DIA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA, pero:

**Mexican Territory
Stolen by the U.S. by
1848**



WITH EXECUTIONS: ALWAYS STAY

The growing number of lawsuits challenging lethal injection as a method of execution has led to a whole new area of arbitrariness, as some imprisoned on Death Rows have their executions stayed, while others are executed. As one U.S. Court of Appeals judge has pointed out, there is no "principled distinction" to justify this patchwork of decisions by different courts.

The following is from the Death Penalty Information Center, 1101 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 701, Washington DC 20005, (202) 289-2275, www.deathpenaltyinfo.org: At least 12 people imprisoned on Death Rows have received stays based on their challenge to lethal injections while at least 36 people have been executed. However, this is a fluid situation and all of these numbers may no longer be accurate by the time this article appears in print.

At the time of this writing (8/27/06), states in which stays are in effect as the result of litigation over lethal injection include Florida, Missouri, Maryland, Delaware, Arkansas and California, as well as all federal executions. In addition, New Jersey and Illinois have continued their moratorium on all executions, New York has declared its execution statute unconstitutional, and New Hampshire has no one on its death row.

In other jurisdictions, executions have gone forward despite the obvious inequities. As always, Texas leads the pack with 19 executions so far this year. Other states in this category include North Carolina (3 executions), Oklahoma (2 executions), Virginia (3

executions, including one in which the prisoner chose the electric chair rather than lethal injection), and Indiana (1 execution). In three states--South Carolina, Montana and Nevada--prisoners waived their appeals and were executed.

However, the prize for most arbitrary goes to Ohio, which stayed one execution and went forward with four (one of which was a person who waived his appeals). Tennessee gets second place with one execution and one stay.

The only way to increase justice in this area is to abolish all death penalties.

Un reto histórico

La humanidad entera se enfrenta a un reto histórico: cómo detener el calentamiento global mientras se satisfacen las necesidades energéticas de una población mundial que supera los 6.000 millones de almas.

La industria automotriz ya tiene a su disposición la tecnología necesaria para que todos los carros y camionetas ligeras que construya rindan al menos 40 millas por galón, lo que permitiría, en 10 años, un ahorro de todo el petróleo que importamos del Golfo Pérsico.

Todas nuestras necesidades de energía eléctrica se cumplirían combinando mejores medidas de eficacia energética, con energía solar y de viento, turbinas de gas natural de alta eficacia y plantas de carbón limpias. Además reduciríamos al menos el 70 por ciento de las emisiones de gases que causan el calentamiento global.

Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter



**VOICES
FROM
INSIDE
since 1976**

ORTHOPEDIC DEPARTMENT

Huntsville TX

June 26, 2006

The UTMB-Galveston Hospital Orthopedic Department has subjected many seriously injured inmates with bone-breaks to cruel and unusual punishment by failing to do necessary surgery to set and pin bone fractures. If this has happened to you, please send declarations, copies of grievances, affidavits concerning denial of surgery, unmet medical needs and references about their reasons for denial to: Clerk of Court, PO Box 61010, Houston TX 77208 and request that your information be added to the record of Civil Action No. H-05-2743. If possible, contact: Thomas E. Birmingham, 1244911, Wynne Unit, Huntsville TX 77349.

TYPEWRITERS

Las Cruces NM

July 7, 2006

I am concerned about the way prison officials refuse to let prisoners buy typewriters. Handwritten documents sent to courts do not have the same effect as typed ones do. The typewriters for sale in J.J. Marcus, Access and some of the other mail order magazines are clear and have been accepted in some U.S. prisons. New Mexico is no. 40, according to the U.S. Chamber for Legal Reform ranking study. Not allowing prisoners access to legal materials and modern equipment prevents them from adequately defending themselves.

PARALYSIS

Jefferson City MO

July 19, 2006

If you were a tortured or a witness as a result of not wanting to double cell in long term Ad-Seg in the control unit of 7 H.U. A, B, C, and D wing here at J.C.C.C. from September 9 to 16, 2005, I need your assistance. I and several other prisoners were left chained to benches for over 4 days without food or water. As a result, I no longer have the use of my lower extremities. I need affidavits, statements of what went on here last September. Please also contact both the "Special Litigation Section" of the US Department of Justice (request that they send an investigator) and the ACLU, 4557 Laclede Ave, St Louis MO 63108. I can accept mail from other prisoners. Contact me at: Shyheim D. El-Mu'min, 509071, JCCC, 8200 Fence Line Rd, Jefferson City MO 65101.

GLBT

Hobbs NM

July 20, 2006

The GLBT Support Group of NM would like to update its gay pen-pal list. If you would like your name and address to appear or want our news letter, please write: Jimmie Gordon, 46567, H3B, 6900 W Millen, 88242.

Mailing list additions and address changes should go into effect within two months from their postmarked date. Our goal is to answer requests for referrals and other correspondence within six weeks. Letters intended for publication must say "Do Print." If requesting responses, state if you can receive mail directly from those imprisoned. The Coalition makes information available on resources and services for prisoners. We strongly urge readers to keep copies of all papers, especially legal papers, sent to those offering assistance, and be careful about sending money. In most cases we do not have direct experience with the quality or reliability of the services provided by the groups mentioned. NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Beeville TX

July 21, 2006

The correct address to contact Texas State Senator John Whitmire is: State Capitol, 1400 Congress Ave, PMB 12068, Austin TX 78711-2068.

DEFRAUDED

Green Bay WI

July 22, 2006

Any prisoner defrauded of money by Prisonsnet, out of Omaha NE, needs to file a complaint with: State of Nebraska, Office of Attorney General, 211 S State Capitol Building, Lincoln NE 68509-8920.

RESOURCES

Walla Walla WA

For those who have access to the Internet from outside supporters, ask them to download (it's free) from www.naljor.com a 28-page prisoner resource list, which includes free books, pen pals, religious organizations and legal resources.

9/06

MISCONDUCT

Houtzdale PA

August 2, 2006

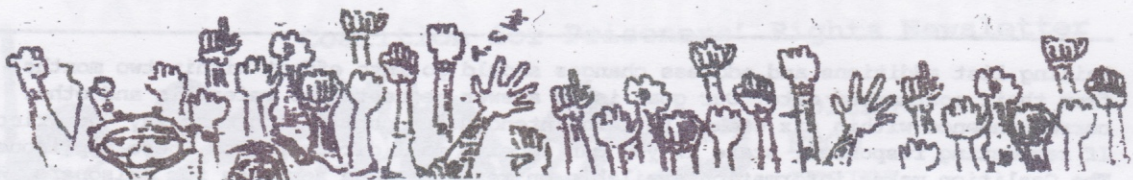
Any former and/or current prisoners of SCI-Houtzdale who experienced a misconduct incident that involved "csi's", please forward all relevant copies of documentaion to State Representative Harold James, Rm 107 Irvis Building, Harrisburg PA 17120. This is in support of a full scale investigation into the facility's security officials use of tainted and fabricated hearsay statements in exchange for personal rewards and other privileges.

ACCESS DENIED

Tehachapi CA

August 7, 2006

On April 14, 2006, on D Facility at Lancaster State Prison in California, 20 Muslim inmates were pepper sprayed and beaten with batons by prison guards for holding an Islamic service in the yard. Access to the chapel had been denied, only to the Muslims, for over a month. Harassment of the Muslims involved in this incident is ongoing. Advocates for Muslims or Human Rights in general, please voice your displeasure to: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Building, First Floor, Sacramento CA 95814; (916) 445-2841.



MAILROOMS

Mansfield OH

August 8, 2006

Re problems with the mailroom at Richland Correctional Institution, I am in the process of filing a sec. 1983 Civil Action. The Administration here says there is no US Postal Service policy that mandates how much time a third aptry can hold mail before delivery. The state policies all say 24 hours, but the Aministration says that's unrealistic. Anyone with similar problems or information that would help, especially a USPS time policy, please contact me: Aden Fogel, 451-382, RCI, PO Box 8107, Mansfield OH 44901. I can receive prisoner mail.

FORMALITY

Navasota TX

August 9, 2006

Instead of the grievance system to file on nurses or physicians Assistants, write the Texas Board of Medical Examiners, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-46 The sameforms and office work for both T.T.U. and U.T.M.B.

SEEKING EVIDENCE

Green Bay WI

August 9, 2006

I am appealing conviction and am looking for anyone who may have seen me at Milwaukee's Hamilton High School graduation ceremony in 2000 --or has photos or a video of the ceremony which may have caught me in the background. I am allowed to receive mail from other inmates, so please write to: José Soto, 307830, GBCI, POB 19033, Green Bay WI 54307.

PRICE INCREASE

Forence AZ

August 11, 2006

Keefe Commissary Network sales prices are too high. The excuse is rising fuel costs. File a complaint with: Office of the Arizona Attorney General, Consumer Information & Complaints, c/o Diana Himelic, 400 W. Congress, South Building, Suite 315, Tucson AZ 85701.

FUNDING

Kincheloe MI

August 15, 2006

Prisoner Legal Servicres of Michigan (PLSM) is, again, attempting to obtain funding from our Prisoner Benefit Funds (PBFs). If you agree that the spending on the Cain case was wasted and are tired of hearing your prisoner reps tell you there's no money in your PBF for items like law library materials and recreation equipment, then please see that your prisoner reps vote against funding PLSM. Questions may be directed to: Rand W. Gould, 187131, KCF, 16770, Watertower Dr, Kincheloe MI 49788.



VOICES IN SOLIDARITY

FIRST ANNUAL TASTE OF JUSTICE FAIR

Will be held at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library in downtown Washington DC on Saturday, September 30, 2006 from 10 am to 5 pm. Many organizations will be on hand to talk about and showcase their work. Thousands of visitors are expected. The event is the result of a year of planning by The Sentencing Project, FAMM, ACLU-NPP, CSOSA, Grace Episcopal Church, First Trinity Lutheran Church, Prison Reform International, DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project and Prisons Foundation. Low cost exhibit space is available to organizations. Contact: Dennis Sobin, Frisons Foundation, 1718 M St #151, Washington DC 20036, 202-393-1511, www.TasteOfJustice.org

FEDERAL PAROLE

Federal prisons are being overcrowded with thousands of non-violent first timers. The prisoners aren't being paroled because the federal system no longer has parole. State leaders are currently reforming their sentencing guidelines, street drug and parole policies. Federal leaders are urged to do the same. Help! Our federal prison system urgently needs reform! Together our voices count. Your support is very important. Sign the: Reviving Federal Parole Petition at www.PetitionOnline.com

PRISONER INFORMATION NETWORK (PIN)

PIN is an organization which has actively worked for the last 12 years to effect positive policy changes within the UT-DOC and to assist inmates, their families and supporters. It is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for individuals incarcerated in Utah only. PIN distributes personal hygiene kits for recently released Utah individuals in need. The kits include: a razor, shaving cream, toothbrush, comb, soap, shampoo, washcloth, deodorant, and a resource list. Their quarterly newsletter is *Behind the Wire*, \$5/yr for prisoners. Contact: PO Box 165171, Salt Lake City UT 84116.

HIV/AIDS TREATMENT STUDY FINDS YEARS OF LIFE SAVED SO FAR

estimated that at least 3,000,000 years of life have been saved in the US so far, compared to no treatment. Go to: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/JID/journal/issues/v194n1/35845/35845.html>

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aka Crimetoppers

discovered, Halliburton refused to investigate, saying that no Halliburton employees had been exposed. On the average, 9.1% of U.S. soldiers in Iraq suffer from diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems. One Halliburton spokesman suggested that this should be blamed on the handles of portable toilets, and not on the contaminated water. Several Halliburton employees were so disgusted that they testified publicly about the problem and were fired for their efforts.

The contract that Halliburton has allows them to make 3% profit on all that they *spend*. So Halliburton will be paid for the contaminated water *and* will be paid again to fix the problem. Our Crime of the Month is this continuing criminal enterprise.

When the contamination was



90/6

Address
Service
Requested

Coalition for Prisoners' Rights/
Prison Project of Santa Fe
Post Office Box 1911
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1911