

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

Vol. 41-xx, No. 3

PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504

March 2016

Separate & Unequal

They are called "Criminal Alien Requirement" (CAR) facilities and are contracted for by the federal government with for-profit companies to hold only immigrant men. Although they are, on paper, required to provide medical care, they don't have to meet the same basic standards as federally run prisons are supposed to. There are also lower standards required for mental health care. Those housed there are considered to be low-security. Of those being held in them, 40% are arrested under federal charges simply for crossing the border, others have been convicted of federal crimes. In 2013, the peak year, 91,000 people were prosecuted criminally for illegal entry or illegal reentry.

There have been more than 100 deaths at these private, for-profit, immigrant only prisons since 1998, and were first proposed by the Clinton administration. The people held in them will later be transferred to immigration authorities and deported. The for-profit facilities described here are not the immigrant detention facilities run by ICE.

The companies receiving these lucrative contracts and the GEO Group, Corrections Corporation of America and Management and Training Corporation.

ANGELA DAVIS SAYS

"Capitalism was built on slavery. Racism is intertwined with economic oppression...young organizers are taking on the intersectionality of strugglescreating a sense of international solidarity....G4S is the third-largest private corporation in the world. It's a private security corporation...engaged in the ownership and operation of private prisons, private policing and many other activities related to policing and surveillance and imprisonment....If one looks at that corporation, all of the issues we are addressing can be seen."

--see her new book: *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*

More Limits on JLWOP?

Twenty-one states currently ban the sentence of Juvenile Life Without the Possibility of Parole (JLWOP) entirely or in most cases. Among them are Utah, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada, West Virginia, Delaware, Hawaii, Vermont, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Texas. Many of these bans have been instituted in the past decade. Just nine states account for 82% of all JLWOP sentences: California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

Two states with youth sentencing policies considered to be models are: West Virginia and Delaware. West Virginia has abolished JLWOP, grants parole review within 15 years and does a sentence review every 1 to 3 years. Delaware performs a sentence review for all children, applies retroactivity consideration for JLWOP sentenced youth and holds sentence reviews generally every 5 years.

Two cases with petitions for *certiorari* currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, *Houston v. Utah* and *Jacobs v. Louisiana* deal with invalidating JLWOP in all cases.

Among the tragedies of this sentence is that youth who who receive it are 10 (yes, 10) times more likely to be Black than they are to be "white." There are a total of approximately 2,500 people in the United States who have received a JLWOP sentence--for a conviction for a crime committed when they were under 18.

Resource:

The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth
1319 F Street NW, Suite 303,
Washington DC 20004; 202-289-4677.

* * * BLACK LIVES MATTER * * *

INTERESTED IN ART?

Receive the launch issue of a free zine with art and photography exercises, reading, and illustrations. To request a copy, write to: Yola Monakhov Stockton, Brown Fine Arts Center, 22 Elm Street, Northampton MA 01063.

The Sam Johnson Essay Award

Sponsored by The Wing of Friendship,
LifeLines Quarterly Newsletter

Enter essays of up to 500 words, on any subject. Original work only, not published elsewhere; limit of 3 entries per person.

The competition is open to all U.S. prisoners who are or have been on death row. First prize is \$35, second is \$25, and third is \$15.

Please send your work to:
Iona Teague, Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PN, U.K. (Note: current international postage required is \$1.20 for the first 5 pp./1 oz.)

DEADLINE: by Monday, July 4, 2016.

Are you an American Indian?

The American Cherokee Confederacy, Inc. is accepting members with Indian Heritage. You don't have to be Cherokee to be accepted in the nation.

For more information contact:
The American Cherokee Confederacy, Inc., Principal Chief William "Rattlesnake" Jackson, 619 Pine Cone Road, Albany GA 31705, 229-787-5722.

To receive a Newsletter by postal mail monthly, 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 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 any envelopes sent to us as "Legal Mail."

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for making our Newsletter available on-line for free 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!

Sindicato de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza apoya a Trump

Por su parte, Donald Trump, el candidato republicano que lleva la delantera en las primarias de su partido, se reunió en Washington D.C. con líderes del Comité Nacional Republicano en medio de la creciente tensión entre los líderes del partido Republicano y Trump. El candidato afronta fuertes reacciones en Wisconsin antes de las primarias. Las encuestas más recientes indican que su rival, el senador de Texas Ted Cruz, lleva una ventaja sobre Trump.

Mientras tanto, Trump ha recibido el apoyo el 30 de marzo del Concejo Nacional de la Patrulla Fronteriza. Se trata de la primera vez que el sindicato de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza brinda su apoyo a un candidato en las elecciones primarias. Donald Trump prometió construir un muro a lo largo de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México y obligar a México a pagar su construcción algo que según expertos no sería viable.

SOME NUMBERS

I. Total Number of Federal Prisoners

As of January 28, 2016: 195,893
In Bureau of Prisons custody: 160,265
In for-profit prisons: 22,422
In "other types of facilities": 13,206
Percentages by "Ethnicity/Race":
Hispanic: 34%
Black: 38%
"white": 59%

II. Number of Federal Prisoners Commuted

As of March 30, 2016: 61 with street drug convictions, more than a third doing life sentences, set to be released July 28. This brings the total number of prisoners whose sentences have been commuted by the president to: 248.

III. Number of "Angola 3" Released: 3rd

On February 19, 2016, Albert Woodfox, the remaining imprisoned of the "Angola 3" was freed on his 69th birthday after a record of 43 years of being held in solitary confinement, much of it in a 6x9 cell for 23 hours a day in a Louisiana prison.

Woodfox's comment on how he, Herman Wallace and Robert King survived: "We knew that if we had any chance of maintaining our sanity, and, you know, not allowing the prison system to break us, we had to keep our focus on society and not become institutionalized where we were only concerned with the things that were going on in the prison....Reading was one of the tools we used to remain focused and to stay connected to the outside world...."