

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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July 2010

MORE SHORT TAKES

STANDARDS TO END PRISONER RAPE

In 2003, Congress unanimously passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to address the serious crisis of sexual violence in detention. One of PREA's key provisions was the development and put into operation national standards for the prevention, detection, response, and monitoring of sexual abuse behind bars.

On June 23, 2009, the bipartisan National Prison Rape Elimination Commission submitted its recommended standards to the US Attorney General. PREA requires Attorney General Holder to promulgate binding standards within one year of receiving the Commission's recommendations. More than one year later, and seven years after Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act, these vitally important national standards have yet to be enacted.

For more information, contact: *Just Detention International*, 3325 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 340, Los Angeles CA 90010.B

IMPRISONMENT OF CHILDREN

As we know, the juvenile justice system treats youth of color more severely than it does whites. Since the 1990's, the detention rate for youth has increased by 35% and transfers to adult court have increased by 208%. Nearly 100% of cases transferred to adult court are youth of color. They are over-represented at every stage of the police, court and penal system

As the Deputy Director of the St Paul MN Juvenile Detention Center testified recently before congress stated: "We have two justice systems, one for whites and one for kids of color. The one for kids of color is more intrusive, harsher, and longer. The one for whites is more supportive."

See also David Chura's new book "I Don't Wish Nobody to Have a Life Like Mine: Tales of Kids in Adult Lockup."

For more information, contact: *The Sentencing Project*, 1705 DeSales St NW, 8th Floor, Washington DC 20036.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CHANGES

The number of prisoners in solitary confinement grew 40% from 1995 to 2000--when there were 80,870 such segregated prisoners, a study by The Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons found. The overall imprisoned population increased 28% during that time. Such isolation is often twice as expensive as holding someone in "general population." For example, it costs over \$90,000 per year to keep a person locked up at the Tamms IL maximum security prison.

Prisoners have been moved out of solitary in Mississippi (from more than 1,000 to about 150), in Texas (from 9,343 in 2007 to 8,627 this year), and to a smaller extent in Illinois (from 2,347 to 2,266). Other states which have reduced the number of those held in solitary confinement include Oregon and New York.

On the other hand, in Colorado, with deep budget cuts to education and social services, the state opened up 300 additional solitary confinement cells.

For more information, contact: *Solitary Watch*, c/o James Ridgeway, PO Box 11374, Washington DC 20008.

TOBACCO-FREE PRISONS

The 25 state prison systems that ban tobacco for both prison staff and prisoners as of March 210 are: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. Many other states have banned tobacco for prisoners, but allow the staff to smoke in designated areas.

FORMER POLICE COMMANDER CONVICTED

Former Chicago police cmdr. Jon Burge, accused of torture against suspects for decades, was convicted in June 2010 on all counts of an indictment charging him with perjury and obstruction of justice.

Decision de la Corte Suprema de los EEUU Defiende los Derechos de Inmigrantes

En marzo de 2010, la Corte Suprema defendio los derechos de inmigrantes en el sistema de justicia criminal en la decision *Padilla v. Kentucky*. Esta decision se giro alrededor del caso de Jose Padilla, un veterano de la Guerra Vietnam, poseedor de permiso de residencia y antiguo residente de los EEUU quien era enfrentado con deportacion despues de declarar culpable para una carga de drogas.

La decision manda un mensaje claro rasgos de inmigracion no pueden ser ignorados en la representacion de defendientes no ciudadanos. Esta decision asegura mas que abogados defensores consideran las consecuencias de un caso criminal para alguien no ciudadano.

La decision de la Corte Suprema en este caso reconoce que a causa de las leyes de inmigracion de 1969, hasta ofensas bajas--como hurto en tiendas una vez o posesion de marijuana--pueden resultar en deportacion para inmigrantes, incluyendo poseidos de permisos de residencia. En muchos casos, jueces de inmigracion ni son permitidos considerar cuanto tiempo inmigrantes han estado en el pais, parejas o hijos quien son ciudadanos de los EEUU, u otros valores.

Para mas informacion contacta:
Immigrant Legal Resource Center, 1663
Mission Street, Suite 602, San Francisco
CA 94103, 415-255-9499, www.ilrc.org

This two page paper version of the CPR monthly newsletter will be included in ALL correspondence we send out. Others who would like to receive it must send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope (no more than 12 envelopes at one time) for every issue they would like to get.

Please continue to send us address change updates and renewal requests in order to stay on our mailing list and to receive the year-end holiday card/new calendar. Our only address is: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504.

MANY thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for making the newsletter available on-line at: <http://www.realcostofprisons.org/coalition.html> Download it and send it inside!

We remain debt free, but continue to need your financial contributions to meet our operating expenses. Thank you for your ongoing support!

VOICES FROM INSIDE

KEEFE - I.

Monticello FL

May 24, 2010

Wal-mart won the bidding on the Florida prison system, but since they said they would not give FDOC a kickback like Keefe does, FDOC kept Keefe instead. They are charging us 50 cents for every money order sent, then tax, then 1 cent on every \$1 spent per week.

KEEFE - II.

Milton FL

April 13, 2010

Keefe was kicked out a few years ago for their outrageous prices. Thereafter, Wal-Mart came in with pretty fair prices although all of their products are generic brand. Nevertheless, in just only three or four years, Wal-Mart has managed to surpass Keefe in raising their prices to outrageous levels. I have heard that some states have already filed successful law suits and gotten rid of them. I would like to do this in Florida. If anyone has information, please send it to me: Edward Maynor, 792972, S.R.C.I., 5850 E Milton Road, Milton FL 32583.

NO LUNCH, NO WAY

Plainfield IN

February 3, 2010

IDOC said it was giving us no lunch. We fellow convicts wrote many letters to many organizations. Then, all of a sudden, the meals went back to normal. This is so other prisoners will know we can accomplish a lot if we stick together.

PRISONER ABUSE

Ely NV

May 24, 2010

The prisoner abuse in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison outraged Americans everywhere. Yet the most under reported incidents and abuses of that national story were, 1] The Army National guardsmen who committed those abuses were made up of primarily of those who were prison guards as their full time jobs back here in the United States. 2] Many of the men who comprised that Army National Guard unit during the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib returned to work in state penal systems. What standard do we as Americans hold ourselves to if not our most fundamental and core morals and values as in the U S constitution?

College Guild, the non-profit that provides free correspondence courses to prisoners, is no longer able to accept students into its program, and at the present time is unable to add any new names to the waiting list.
collegeguild@gmail.com
or PO Box 6448, Brunswick ME 04011