

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE

This article is about the growth of the Latino population of the United States. The 2020 U.S. census cites a U.S. Latino population of 62 million people. That is about 18.7% of the U.S. population, with an admitted undercount of about 3 million people, and not counting the 3.2 million people who live in Puerto Rico. This is about one in every five people in the country – about 70 million in all. That is about one in every five people in the entire country.

In terms of the future, the number of young Latino people is considerably higher. In California, which as a whole is about 40% Latino, the public schools are 54% Latino today. The public schools of Texas are 52% Latino today (que descansen en paz los niños de Uvalde). The public schools of Arizona are 45% Latino today. In Georgia, the Latino population is 10%, but that of the public schools is 16% Latino. In North Carolina, it's 18%.

Latin America was the start of the U.S. empire – the site of the first overseas U.S. colonies. It's where the United States constantly intervened with military forces and where major multinational companies began to grow (ex.: United Fruit Company).

Since the end of World War II the U.S. has been in the same position as the French are in regard to North Africans, the British in India, Pakistan and Jamaica and the Germans in parts of the Middle East. All of these former colonial powers are now having to deal with the fact that so many people from their former colonies have and are coming their/our metropolises.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

With all the on-going changes of prison addresses and book-mailing addresses, we have less confidence than ever in whether people are actually receiving the books we send out.

To improve this situation, please:

- 1) Try to check for the proper address that books should be sent to. Tell us what it is and the date you confirmed it
- 2) Let us know the date when you received the books from us, as well as the books' titles.
- 3) Spread the word. Help us get more books out!

Thanks so much!

What is happening in the United States is striking. Again, from the 2020 census: There are 62 million Latinos in the U.S. about 18.7% of the population. The Census Bureau acknowledges that that figure is actually an undercount of about 3 million. Also, there are 33.2 million people in Puerto Rico. These additional figures bring the total number of those of Latin American descent under the U.S. flag to about 70 million people –one of us in every five!

The worst, unacknowledged part of this reality is that, in 1998, two-thirds of all arrests by federal government agencies in the U.S. were of U.S. citizens. However, in 2018, two thirds of all the arrests by federal agencies were of non-citizens. In 2018, the federal government arrested more Mexicans than it did U.S. citizens. The U.S. in fiscal year 2021, spent \$26 billion in immigration enforcement. As Juan Gonzalez says: "So the entire federal government apparatus has been turned, over the last 10, 15 years, into an apparatus hunting down, deporting, locking up immigrants...there is a repression and deportation machine that has developed at the federal level against mostly people from Latin America." In the budgets of ICE and of customs and border enforcement, \$26 billion. It is truly amazing – and inhumane – what we have money for and what we do not have money for in this country.

Between 2010 and 2017, the U.S. deported 1.5 million people. Of those, 93% came from only four countries: Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. This is even though they represented only about a third of all the non-citizens in the U.S. "The entire apparatus is geared to kicking out Latin Americans..." Our being a "good neighbor" has of course, also included appropriating a substantial part of the territory of Mexico itself... (current information from Juan González' newly revised edition of his 2000 book "Harvest Of Empire: A History of the Latinos in America" as featured in May on Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now" radio and tv program.)

El Departamento de Justicia de EEUU

El Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos ha iniciado una investigación sobre posibles violaciones de los derechos civiles cometido por la Policía Estatal de Luisiana después de una serie de arrestos violentos de hombres negros. La indagación se centra en oficiales blancos de la unidad de la Policía Estatal de Luisiana conocida como "Tropa F", una unidad tristemente célebre del noreste de Luisiana cuyos oficiales han etiquetado incorrectamente videos de cámara corporales, apagado sus cámaras durante los arrestos e intentado ocultar evidencia a los investigadores. En 2019, Ronald Greene, un hombre negro, murió mientras estaba bajo custodia de la Tropa F después de que los agentes lo estrangularan, lo golpearan y lo electrocutaran repetidas veces con una pistola paralizante. Esa misma unidad policial también realizó arrestos violentos de otros tres hombres negros: uno de ellos fue golpeado recibió descargas con una pistola paralizante y fue puesto de pie jalándole el pelo; otro fue agredido físicamente mientras estaba esposado; y otro fue golpeado 18 veces con una linterna.

THE LEAST READ PART OF THE NEWSLETTER

To receive the CPR Newsletter by postal mail monthly, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope for each month's issue you are requesting separately. Five pages (= 1 ounce, and can be sent for one Forever stamp. Ten pages (= 2 ounces) and can be sent for a 20 cent stamp more.

Please continue to send us your address changes, including both your old and new addresses.

NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS. Letters sent to us marked "Legal Mail" are NOT going to a lawyer. PLEASE DO NOT MARK YOUR MAIL "LEGAL MAIL"! NO MATTER HOW DESPERATELY YOU NEED LEGAL ADVICE/ ASSISTANCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY.

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons project which posts our Newsletter on-line, monthly, for free downloading and distribution. All issues since 2009 are on its great site: realcostofprisons.org

Duckworth Communications Act of 2021

In March of 2022, this bill (S. 1541) was passed out of the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. It would restore the FCC's authority, changed by a federal court decision in 2017, to regulate ALL prison and jail and would keep prison-telecom corporations from charging incarcerated people the predatory rates so common now.

BRIEFS

> We can only hope it is more than a change of fashion: In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that only the "rare, irredeemable juvenile" should be sentenced to life in prison. Over the past decade, most of the 39 defendants in federal cases who received that sentence are doing far fewer years. Also, more than 60 "legal experts and scholars" have asked the feds to cap sentences of juveniles at 30 years and create a committee to review life sentences in the future. Statistics show that the median sentence for adults convicted of murder in the federal system is 20 years – nearly half the median for juveniles. The percentage of arrested youth referred to adult courts dropped from 8% in 2010 to 2% in 2018. Currently, three states continue to prosecute every 17 year old in adult courts: Georgia, Texas and Wisconsin.

> In the last 10 years the National Registry of Exonerations has reported over 3,000 people being released from prison in the U.S. before their sentences were completed., dating back to 1989. The 2021 annual report, released this April, includes 161 people exonerated in 2021, just under half of whom had been convicted of homicide. On average, the exonerated defendants spent 11.5 years imprisoned for crimes they did not commit.

>Not only France: That country's current prison population of 71,053 has not been so high since the end of World War II. In Germany and in the Netherlands, the number of those imprisoned is falling. In France, more than 105 people per 100,000 inhabitants are imprisoned, – there are 76 in Germany and 58 in the Netherlands. In the spring of 2020, because of the Covid pandemic, the number of prisoners in France went down by 13,000.

>Meanwhile, back in the U.S. a federal judge in a case first filed in 2014, ordered the Alabama prison system to remedy unconstitutional mental health services. There will be monitoring by an external team of experts.

>"As long as Alabama avoids addressing underlying societal issue that contribute to incarceration by over-incarcerating its population, Alabama must provide constitutionally adequate care for the human beings in its prisons... People cannot simply be warehoused without providing for their basic needs."

>To expose and oppose the use of solitary in U.S. prisons, submissions by those with personal experience wanted. They have a free quarterly newsletter for prisoners: Solitary Watch, P.O. Box 11374, Washington DC 20008s