

The Fire Inside

4400 Market St., Oakland, Ca. 94608 www.womenprisoners.org

No To DOUBLE PUNISHMENT

Credit: ICE Out of Dublin



By Ana Alvarenga
ICE Detention,
Aurora CO

I want to share my experience in hopes this can be helpful for someone else.

I was supposed to be released from CIW on Jan. 10, 2024. That same day my counselor and I were notified that ICE had 48 hours to pick me up. The next day ICE picked me up. I have been detained in a GEO detention center in Aurora, CO, for a year and a half now. CCWP has been a great support to me. To this day they continue to be present for me in court via video conference.

If you are transferred from CDCr to ICE detention, it is important for you to be aware of your immigration status, whether you have received a prior order for deportation or not. Do not sign any deportation document! You CAN refuse to sign it. Start looking for an immigration attorney. There are few pro bono resources, but if you have a private atty, notify them ASAP upon arrival at ICE. If you are seeking asylum, you can start now by writing your testimony letter. This is similar to an insight letter, adding what happened to you in your country of origin, why you can't go back, your real fears. Look

for news, documents, any evidence of the people/ organizations that are the cause of dangers you may face and fears to your life. Examples of evidence include: support letters, witnesses, medical/ psychological reports, certificates of rehabilitation, articles documenting violence, corruption and illegal activities reported by police.

The difference between CDCr and ICE detention is huge. In ICE you don't program at all, 24 hours with nothing to do. Commissary is expensive, the food isn't good, you're sharing a block (room) with a lot of people and only two tablets to share between all of us. There are books to read, but not in our languages.

Gov. Newsom transferring people to ICE is punishing people for a second time. Most of us prisoners learn how to use healthy and successful life skills that can be a huge benefit to this country. If 'rehabilitation' is the goal of criminal justice, why can't immigrants also have a second chance in life to reunify with our families and loved ones? I think double punishment should not be allowed. Gov. Newsom, please do not continue this punishment. This destroys families. We are human too. We all deserve a second shot at life. •

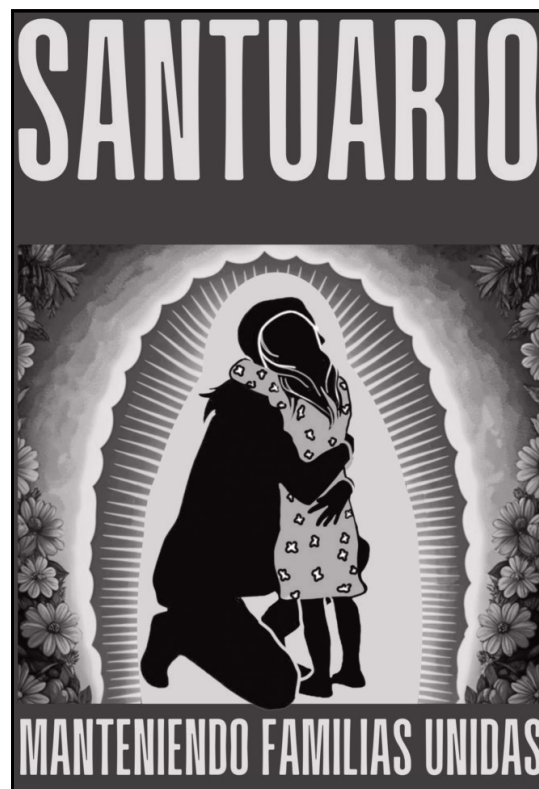
¡Ningún ser humano es ilegal!

Los ataques contra las comunidades de refugiados e inmigrantes afectan directamente la esencia de la CCWP. Casi el 10% de la población carcelaria estatal de California es vulnerable a una detención por parte del ICE solo por haber nacido fuera de Estados Unidos. Esto significa que hay casi 9000 personas en las cárceles de hombres y casi 400 en las de mujeres. ¡Y eso sin incluir a las personas que el CDCr ha identificado erróneamente como inmigrantes indocumentados para ser deportadas, a pesar de haber nacido aquí o ser ciudadanos naturalizados!

CCWP se une a defensores de CA y E.U. para apoyar a los miembros de nuestra comunidad que luchan por el asilo y contra la deportación, ya sea desde prisiones estatales, centros de detención de ICE o en nuestras comunidades. Acompañamos a las personas a sus citas con ICE, comparecencias ante el tribunal y en la preparación para luchar por los derechos humanos de la manera que mejor les convenga. Y nos unimos a la oposición a la reconversión de prisiones cerradas en nuevos centros de detención de ICE (ver pág.11).

Los juzgados, las iglesias y las escuelas son lugares donde el ICE NO puede operar con impunidad, al menos en estados santuario como California. Sin embargo, agentes federales armados y enmascarados, sin uniforme ni identificación, están deteniendo a personas en juzgados, lugares de trabajo, programas de reingreso, iglesias y escuelas. Esta es una cruel escalada de las deportaciones masivas aceleradas de inmigrantes y refugiados por parte del régimen de Trump. Estos arrestos han ocurrido en Los Ángeles, Phoenix, Seattle, San Diego, San Francisco, Wisconsin, Nueva Jersey y Nueva York. Agentes del ICE están agrediendo y arrestando a

Credit: Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity



jueces, representantes del Congreso y senadores de costa a costa por intentar proteger los derechos legales de sus electores, los inmigrantes. La administración Trump niega descaradamente el derecho al debido proceso y separa a las personas de sus familias. Como escribe JJ Lopez-Roldan, miembro de la comunidad y actualmente detenido por el ICE en Eloy, Arizona: «...el mayor temor a la deportación es la separación de nuestros seres queridos» (ver pág.8).

Los defensores afirman que los abogados del gobierno están desestimando repentinamente los casos de asilo porque esto permite a ICE deportar a alguien de forma acelerada bajo la política de "expulsión acelerada" de la agencia. Los inmigrantes bajo este programa pueden ser deportados sin siquiera tener una audiencia ante un juez. Esto le ocurrió a Nataly Marinero, miembro del CCWP, en abril de 2025. A Nataly le faltaban solo seis meses para completar su libertad condicional en enero de 2025 cuando agentes de ICE lo detuvieron de su programa de reingreso. Pasó cuatro meses siendo trasladado de un centro de detención de ICE a otro, sin ver a un juez de inmigración hasta que fue deportado a El Salvador.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS), que supervisa al ICE, también declara deportable a los extranjeros únicamente por sus publicaciones pro-palestina en redes sociales y por ejercer su derecho a la libertad de expresión, al hablar, escribir o participar en protestas públicas en apoyo de los derechos humanos palestinos. Mahmoud Khalil, estudiante palestino de PhD en la Univ. de Columbia en Nueva York, fue detenido ilegalmente por el ICE durante tres meses por protestar contra el genocidio en Gaza, y es solo uno de muchos.

Continuada en la p.14

The Fire Inside

No Human Being is Illegal!

Credit: Tina Marie Silva



The attacks against refugee and immigrant communities strike at the heart of CCWP. Almost 10% of the CA state prison population is vulnerable to having an ICE hold solely because they were born outside the US. That means almost 9000 people in the men's prisons and almost 400 people in the women's prisons. And that is not including the people that CDCr has wrongly ID'd as undocumented immigrants to be deported even though they were born here or are naturalized citizens!

CCWP joins advocates throughout California and the US in supporting our community members fighting for asylum and against deportation, whether from state prison, ICE detention, or in our communities outside. We accompany people to their ICE appointments, court dates and in preparing to fight for human rights in whatever way is best for them. And we join

in opposing the "repurposing" of closed prisons into new ICE detention centers (see pg.11).

Courthouses, churches, and schools are places where ICE is NOT allowed to operate with impunity, at least in sanctuary states like California. But federal agents armed and masked, not in uniform and wearing no identification, are seizing people in courthouses, at worksites, re-entry programs, churches and schools. This is a cruel escalation of the Trump regime's fast-tracking mass deportations of immigrants and refugees. These arrests have happened in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Seattle, San Diego, San Francisco, Wisconsin, New Jersey and New York. ICE agents are assaulting & arresting judges, Congressional reps and Senators coast to coast for trying to protect their constituents'-immigrants'- legal rights. The Trump administration is shamelessly denying the right to due process and ripping people away from their families. As community member JJ Lopez-Roldan, now in ICE detention in Eloy, AZ writes, "...the biggest fear of deportation means separation from our loved ones (see pg.8)."

Advocates say government lawyers are suddenly dropping asylum cases because this allows ICE to speed-deport somebody under the agency's "expedited removal" policy. *Immigrants in expedited removal can be deported without ever having a hearing before a judge.* This happened to CCWP member Nataly Marinero

in April 2025. Nataly was only 6 months away from completing his parole in Jan. 2025 when ICE agents seized him from his reentry program. He spent 4 months being moved from one ICE detention center to another, never seeing an Immigration Judge until he was deported to El Salvador.

The Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), which oversees ICE, is also declaring non-citizens deportable solely on the basis of their pro-Palestinian social media posts and exercising their right to free speech by speaking, writing about or joining public protests in support of Palestinian human rights. Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian PhD student at Columbia Univ. in New York was illegally detained by ICE for 3 months for protesting against the genocide in Gaza, and he is but one of many.

Immigrants are criminalized for being in certain places, for wearing certain clothing, for tattoos, for speaking another language, for looking *nonwhite*, for speaking out for human rights. The US has a very long, cruel history of racist attacks on immigrants and refugees- the very people relied upon for building the railroads, the agricultural & industrial infrastructures, for building and maintaining the key ports coast to coast (see pg. 7).

CCWP STANDS STRONGLY With so many others asserting, No Human Being is Illegal, Across ANY Bars or Borders. •

California Coalition for Women Prisoners

Know Your Rights

Conoce Tus Derechos

..... Tear Here — Romper Aquí

- I wish to remain silent
- I will not sign or show you any documents
- I do not allow you entry to my private property without a valid judicial warrant
- I will call my attorney before answering any of your questions

My attorney's phone number: _____

..... Tear Here — Romper Aquí

TODOS TENEMOS DERECHOS CONSTITUCIONALES

- Tiene el derecho a decir, "I wish to remain silent"
- Tiene el derecho de no contestar preguntas
- Tiene el derecho de NO abrir a la puerta en propiedad privada
- Muestra esta tarjeta si tiene contacto con un agente

Número de mi abogado: _____



FREEDOM
FOR IMMIGRANTS

Project Keep Away El Proyecto Keep Away

Project Keep Away (PKA) is a new program from Freedom For Immigrants offering information, resources and advocacy for people incarcerated at CCWF and CIW who face ICE holds. Many incarcerated people may not know they are at risk of transfer to ICE upon their scheduled release date from prison. PKA's educational programming and resource helpline will equip people with the knowledge needed to navigate their cases.

Monday - Thursday, 10 AM- 8PM
CALL 209-757-3733

Contact FFI: 440 N Barranca Ave #6382,
Covina, CA 91723

Email: hotline@freedomforimmigrants.org
www.freedomforimmigrants.org/

El Proyecto Keep Away (PKA) es un nuevo programa de Freedom For Immigrants que ofrece información, recursos y apoyo para personas encarceladas en CCWF y CIW que enfrentan detenciones de ICE. Muchas personas encarceladas podrían desconocer que corren el riesgo de ser transferidas a ICE en su fecha de liberación programada. La línea de ayuda de PKA, con programas educativos y recursos, brindará a las personas los conocimientos necesarios para gestionar sus casos.

Lunes a Jueves, de 10 AM a 8PM
LLAME AL 209-757-3733

Contacto FFI: 440 N Barranca Ave #6382,
Covina, CA 91723

Correo electrónico:
hotline@freedomforimmigrants.org
www.freedomforimmigrants.org/

..... Tear Here — Romper Aquí

CALIFORNIA RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINES REDES DE RESPUESTA RÁPIDA LÍNEAS DE EMERGENCIA

Rapid Response Networks offer emergency assistance to people on the day that ICE arrests them, led by volunteers and community-based organizations. You or an advocate should call the Rapid Response Network located nearest to where ICE arrests you.

Las Redes de Respuesta Rápida ofrecen asistencia de emergencia a las personas el día que ICE las arresta, lideradas por voluntarios y organizaciones comunitarias. Usted o un defensor deben llamar a la Red de Respuesta Rápida más cercana al lugar donde ICE lo arresta.

To Find your Local Network — Para Encontrar su Red Local
www.ccijustice.org/CARRN



Credit: Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN)

WHAT?
What happened to you? If you had to return to your country, what do you think would happen to you?

WHO?
Who hurt you? Does he/she belong to a group? How do you know them?

WHY?
Why did they threaten or hurt you specifically? Why you and not another person?

POLICE?
Was it the police? If no, why? If it was the police, what did they do?

ANOTHER PLACE?
Is it possible to be safe in another part in your country? Why?

..... Tear Here — Romper Aquí

¿QUÉ?

¿Qué le pasó? Si tuviera que regresar a su país, ¿qué cree que le pasaría a usted?

¿QUIÉN?

¿Quién le hizo daño?
¿Pertenecen a un grupo?
¿Cómo les conoce?

¿POR QUÉ?

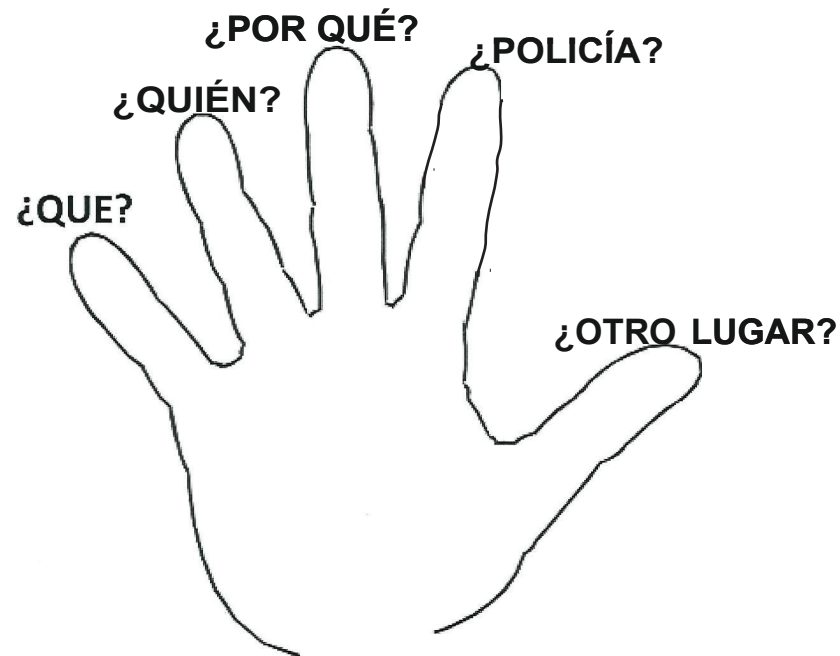
¿Por qué le amenazaron o dañaron específicamente a usted? Por qué a usted y no a otra persona?

¿POLICÍA?

¿Fue a la policía? Si no, ¿por qué? Si fue con la policía, ¿qué hicieron?

¿OTRO LUGAR?

¿Es posible estar seguro en otro parte de su país? ¿Por qué?



Credito: Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN)

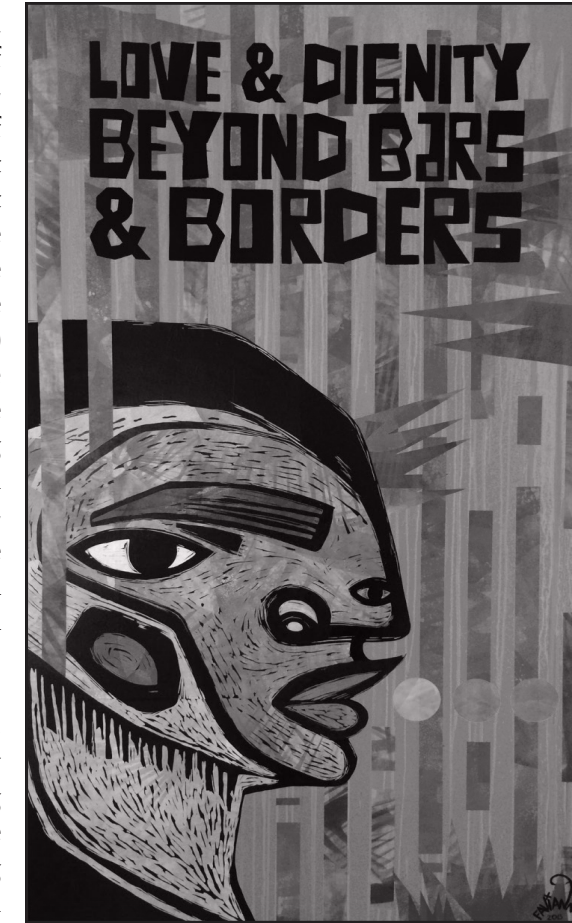
THE HISTORY OF US CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRANTS

The U.S. has a long and shameful history of criminalizing non-citizens, especially people of color. The first anti-immigrant laws enacted were against Chinese people during the 1800s. Congress passed the Anti-Coolie Act (1862) and the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) to first limit, then ban Chinese worker migration into the U.S. Further expanding the ban in 1924 to block all Asian migration, this anti-Asian racism established the country's first immigration enforcers and deportation process.

That same year, the U.S. established the Border Patrol, focusing almost exclusively on arresting and deporting Mexican workers along the southern border. During the 1950s, the Border Patrol apprehended hundreds of thousands of Mexican immigrants each year. In 1954 the US launched the racist "Operation Wetback." The Border Patrol conducted mass sweeps across the Southwest and deported over one million people.

The U.S. Border Patrol revamped immigration control as 'crime' control, further dehumanizing immigrants and refugees. Migrants from Latin America, then and now, are overwhelmingly people looking for economic opportunity and survival, fleeing conditions of poverty, violence, and climate disaster—conditions often caused or exacerbated by U.S. policies. The Border Patrol began to use language such as "criminal alien" to fear-monger about immigrant communities.

The War on Drugs escalated the criminalization and imprisonment of immigrants. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 expanded which felonies would trigger deportation, including shoplifting and drug possession. This felony-to-deportation pipeline grew again in the 1990s to include the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act which categorized any conviction that carried a minimum one-year sentence as a deportable offense.



Credit: Favianna Rodriguez

As historian Kelly Lytle Hernandez wrote, "Over 60 percent of all deportations from the United States are triggered by criminal convictions, mostly traffic offenses, nonviolent drug crimes, and immigration-related violations."

California's 1994 Prop 187 restricted access to healthcare and education for undocumented people and directed healthcare professionals and teachers to report "suspected" undocumented people to federal authorities and the CA Attorney General. The vagueness of the bill fanned racist profiling and targeting of nonwhite communities.

Like the War on Drugs, the "War on Terror" brought another racist wave of criminalizing immigrants.

There was a huge uptick in detention and deportation of Arab and Muslim people, particularly men, many of whom were profiled based on assumed religion and ethnicity.

Although many view Trump as the ultimate deporter, Pres. Barack Obama was given the nickname "Deporter in Chief" by many advocates for the number of people he deported- 3 million! Obama's presidency pushed the public discourse around immigration towards the "good" vs. "bad" immigrant. People who came as children and obtained Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) were seen as "good" immigrants worthy of documentation, while their parents and others were deemed unworthy "illegals." This categorization of immigrants in relation to law and policy, as opposed to humanity and community well-being, has led us to where we are today.

From the Chinese Exclusion Act of the 1800s to now, the U.S. targets people who the state deems undesirable, which is often determined by race, language, religion, and nationality. Now more than ever, we have to fight the idea that people are disposable. No one is illegal. •

"HEAR OUR

JJ Roldan-Lopez, ICE Detention, Eloy, AZ



I've been in Eloy, Arizona ICE Detention Center for a little over 4 months. I've heard many sto-

viewed by the same judge, prosecutor and translator who spoke "proper/correct" Spanish. The problem is you don't only have Mexicans, you have Central and South Americans and other Spanish speaking countries. Some words I found difficult to understand, but not once did anyone say that they didn't understand or ask if a question could be rephrased. I assist some women in filling out asylum packets as

there are no resources or personnel to help. Something as simple as requesting bond or more time in court, is a battle for most people. We could introduce the idea of an app to translate Spanish to English. The ideal would be to have a counselor or even ICE agents to work with us. We need the means to do our own case research. Not being represented by a lawyer really hurts the chances of winning an asylum case.



Illustration by Leti Montoya

ries, some of happiness but mostly sadness and full of sorrow from women of different cultures, religions and ethnicities who struggled getting to the U.S. Now they are facing deportation back to the setbacks and fears they ran from. Some came alone, some with their children; others began a family here. Now they are facing their biggest fear-deportation -which means separation from their loved ones. And for most, like myself, getting sent back to a country that is foreign to me. With little knowledge of what to expect in court, and fear of speaking up for themselves, many fail to ask questions and leave the court lost, confused and scared.

My first court proceeding there was a group of about 12 to 15 men and women, all of us being re-

As a transgender male I have continually felt discriminated against for the lack of knowledge and training and have had to educate ICE staff of my needs. From boxer shorts to medication and even housing needs that aren't being accommodated. The living conditions are worse than prison. I did my time in CDCR for my convictions and I shouldn't feel punished, but I do. Core Civic [the private company running ELOY] staff also lack knowledge about court proceedings or forms. (Continued on p. 9)

VOICES"



I'm grateful for the support from family, friends, a pro bono lawyer & the greatest supporters- CCWP, HOMEBOYS, TRANSLATIN@ COALITION and an amazing girlfriend who is my hands, ears, voice and feet. All my support and I still get stone-walled. The system was rigged before we got here to make sure we fail at our defense by draining us emotionally and mentally. We sit here and make the best of what's

provided for us. We are 50 women in a pod with 3 TVs, 5 wall phones, 1 ps4 video game system, some board games and 9 tablets that need to be shared amongst one another every 30 minutes. If Gov. Newsom can't stop assisting ICE, at least keep us in CDCR until we are done fighting our cases or fight that we get better treatment, useful resources, and a better system that is not broken in ICE.

Tien-Hsiang Mo, CCWF



respect- fully and urgently ask you to take a moral and public stand to say: No More ICE Transfers from CDCR.

I came to the United States legally when I was just 3 years old. I have most of my life here- California is my home. I was a lawful permanent resident until I was arrested at 18. I have worked hard to grow, to take responsibility and to change. I have never denied my past, but I also cannot deny my fu-

I am writing to you from within the CDCR system. I speak not only for myself, but for so many others who live in fear because of CDCR's continued collaboration with ICE. Governor, I

ture-which belongs here. I was born in Hong Kong, but I have no ties there. I do not know a single person in that place. The only home I have ever known is in the United States. The only community I have ever had is here.

Despite all this, I live with the terrifying possibility that I could be transferred to ICE, separated from everything and everyone I know, and exiled to a country that is completely foreign to me. This is not justice. It is double punishment- a shadow sentence that undermines every effort we each make to rehabilitate, to reunite with our families, and to rejoin society with dignity.

Governor Newsom, you have the power to stop this. We are not asking for special treatment- we are asking for fairness, consistency, and humanity. California claims to be a sanctuary state, but how can it be when CDCR continues to funnel immigrants and refugees like myself into custody? *Please hear our voices.*

Aimee Gana, CIW

President Trump launched Project Homecoming providing people a chance to self-deport. Is voluntary deportation an option for people currently serving prison sentences? Some who have

ICE holds do not want to be deported as they don't have resources or support needed to start their lives over again. Others feel they would be persecuted and shamed for their crime. Some would choose to self-deport. (Continued on p. 10)

Aimee Gana, CIW (continued)

Nora Bonnaudet, a 68-year-old Filipino citizen sentenced to LWOP in 2001. Nora entered the U.S. legally, but her visa expired while in prison. She wrote to President Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, asking to self-deport. She has not heard back but remains hopeful she will be deported. Jimena Barreto has been incarcerated for 21 years. Her green card expired a long time ago and she wants to be deported to her home country, Colombia, where her whole family lives. She does not family ties here in the U.S.

Korina Sanchez is an immigrant with an 80-year-to-life sentence. Prior to her prison term, she fought to do her time in Mexico, but doesn't qualify because she has to be six months to the gate. With her sentence, she will not die in her own country. If Korina gets deported, she can have visits with her entire family who lives in Mexico. Lisa Tseng has been a U.S. citizen for more than 20 years prior to her incarceration. Because she was born in China, an ICE hold was incorrectly placed on her file. Lisa said that with Trump's anti-immigrant sentiment, she would be happy to be deported back to her birth country if she had a choice between deportation or completing her life sentence.

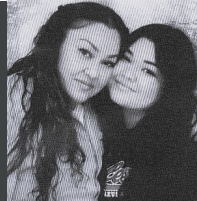
I moved to California from the Philippines when I was in my late 30s. I have to prepare two sets of parole plans for BPH- one for each country. During these 14+ years of incarceration, I kept ties with family and friends in my native country and they are part of my support system. Allowing me to self-deport would strengthen my ties with them.

Yet I Rise

By Leticia Montoya

From mud and mire I transpire
Trauma and addiction always my infliction.
Guilt and shame always to blame...
Yet I Rise
I rise far beyond the razor wore
A prison yard cannot
Contain my Rise.

NOTE: Leti was approved by BPH in July 2025. We are looking forward to welcoming our sister home soon! (Pictured here with her daughter Heaven)



Write to our community members in ICE detention

Writing to our family and community members in ICE detention helps break the isolation and lets ICE know there is a large community outside supporting them. Each of these people completed their state prison sentence. Instead of being allowed to return to their families and communities and meet the conditions of their parole, California Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCr) enforced a racist double-punishment on them, handing them over to ICE. Send them a card and let them know they are in our hearts and minds!



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Aurora ICE Detention Ctr.
3130 N. Oakland Ave.
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Zarahi JJ Lopez- Roldan
A#095-293-383
Eloy Detention Ctr.
1705 East Hanna Rd.
Eloy, AZ 85131

Demanding the End of the ICE Age

As part of its racist campaign against immigrants and refugees, the Trump regime continues to expand detention centers nationwide. It recently established a facility in Florida dubbed “Alligator Alca-traz” (on stolen Miccosukee and Seminole land), where people are reporting inhu-mane conditions such as bug infes-tations, limited wa-ter, and no access to lawyers. Califor-nia is facing similar fights against the caging of immi-grants.



Like vultures, ICE is eyeing FCI Dublin, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), and California City Correctional Facility (CCCF) for immigrant detention. FCI Dub-lin was shut down in 2024 after CCWP launched a lawsuit exposing the facility’s horrendous history of sexual abuse—particularly COs predation of non-US citizens. CVSP was deactivated in November 2024 following years of community organizing. CCCF was placed in “warm shutdown” that same year. These hard-fought advances are now threatened by the an-ti-immigrant machine. Private prison and detention

contractor CoreCivic recently signed an agreement with ICE to convert CCCF—a 2,560-bed facility—into the state’s largest detention center.

We find hope in the growing grassroots resistance and movement-building across CA and the U.S. Over 400 people gath-ered at FCI Dublin in July, calling for the permanent clo-sure of FCI Dublin and connecting the current wave of de-tentions to the mass detention of people of Japanese descent during World War II. Gov. Newsom signed AB 137 in

July, a bill that defines how closed prisons are used, including making them more difficult to use for any future detention. It is another important tool, thanks to Californians submitting 10,000 letters demanding the state close California prisons and halt the expan-sion of ICE. *Not Here, Not Anywhere. Stop ICE De-tention Center Expansion!*

Pictured: April 17 Faith Community Demonstration
Credit: ICE Out of Dublin Coalition

Prop 57 Update

On July 28, 2025 the CA Court of Appeals issued a ruling in the injunction against Prop. 57. *The Good News:* The Court affirmed that CDCR does have the authority under Prop 57 to continue awarding addi-tional credits to people serving determinate sentenc-es, which can advance their Earliest Possible Release Dates (EPRDs).

The Bad News: The Court also held that Prop 57 does not give CDCR the authority to apply its en-hanced credit-earning regulations to advance Mini-mum Eligible Parole Dates (MEPDs) for most peo-ple with indeterminate life sentences—particularly those convicted of murder or serving Three Strikes

sentences—unless the governing statutes already al-lowed for MEPD reductions with credits. For lifers who have been granted parole, they are not being re-leased until their MEPD.

It isn’t totally clear what BPH will do, whether they will continue to schedule parole hearings based on Prop 57 MEPDs for people impacted by this rul-ing. So we wait to see how State Atty Genl. Rob Bon-ta will interpret and apply the current court decision. It’s likely that both CDCR and the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation (CJLF) will ask for a review and perhaps more court action.

WELCOME HOMES



Debbie Lowe
(R) *with friend*
Jamie Harrison (L)



Laquisha McFarland
Released from BOP
Victorville, CA on May 12



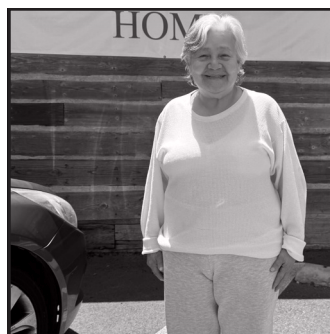
Kim LaBore
(C) with Kelly &
Jornay Savage Rodriguez



Charity Hennig-
May 2025 Free!
Charity (R) Mrs Soto (L)



Mrs. Gladis Soto
Free, May 21!
Mrs Soto (L) Charity (R)



Naomi Acuri
Released May 23



Anabel Valenzuela
Dublin Survivor, Com-
muted & released May 28



Lateefah Sulaiman
June 23, 2025



Theresa Chabot
Dublin Survivor Free!
*Theresa (R) with friend
Trisha Petersen (L)*



April Benitez
Free June 30
April (R) with CCWP
member Ciel Fraher (L)



Illustration by Leti Montoya

Women's Prison Closure Campaign Updates

Community member Stephanie Lazarus, incarcerated at CIW, did an amazing survey of the CIW community to note the health impacts of incarceration on our elders (people age 50 and above) in Fall 2024. We want to continue and amplify Stephanie's work and be able to use the information and the stories to push for release for elders as one step in our #Closure Is Possible #Freedom is Necessary campaign. We deeply believe that putting a face on the real harm of incarceration – to everyone- and its particular impact on elders, is important for pushing legislators and government staff to agree with releasing elders.

The #Closure Campaign is working with the Policy Advocacy Clinic of UC Berkeley's Law School to prepare a public report on incarceration of elders in CIW & CCWF as part of our work to document The #Closure Campaign is working with the Policy Advocacy Clinic of UC Berkeley's Law School to prepare a public report on incarceration of elders in CIW & CCWF as part of our work to document current conditions and work toward release of elders from prison.



If you are age 50 and above and would like to add your story and daily health struggles to be part of this campaign (you do NOT need to use your name), please send suggested info below to our CCWP Oakland office:

- Your age now
- Age at Incarceration
- Race/Ethnicity
- Illnesses whether chronic or acute
- Accessibility modifications (like grab bars /devices used (walkers, wheelchairs, hearing aids)
- Any helpful changes to living conditions and any hopes for the future

Please send to: CCWP, ATTN: Elder Health, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608

¡Ningún ser humano es ilegal! Continuación de la p. 2

Los inmigrantes son criminalizados por estar en ciertos lugares, por usar cierta ropa, por tener tatuajes, por hablar otro idioma, por no parecer blancos, por defender los derechos humanos. Los E.U. tiene una larga y cruel historia de ataques racistas contra inmigrantes y refugiados, las mismas personas de las

que dependía la construcción de ferrocarriles, infraestructuras agrícolas e industriales, y la construcción y el mantenimiento de puertos clave de costa a costa (ver pág. 7). El CCWP se mantiene firme. Con tantos otros afirmando, ningún ser humano es ilegal, a través de ninguna barrera o frontera. •

Update on CIW Lawsuit

CCWP is the organizational plaintiff in a class action lawsuit filed in Feb. 2025 in federal court against Dr. Scott Lee, an abusive gynecologist at CIW, and CDCr officials (see FI #75, pg. 5). If you were at CIW from 2016-2023 and saw Dr. Lee, or deprived yourself of gynecology care because of what you heard about him, contact our legal team to join the lawsuit. Our legal team is not involved with any advertisements, so beware of any ads that falsely suggest they are the lawyers who filed this lawsuit.

For more info, please write to:
Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai, Attn: Alex Villegas
128 N Fair Oaks Ave Suite 204
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 585-9600 (if you want a family member or friend to call on your behalf)

KNOW YOUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS BOOKLET AVAILABLE

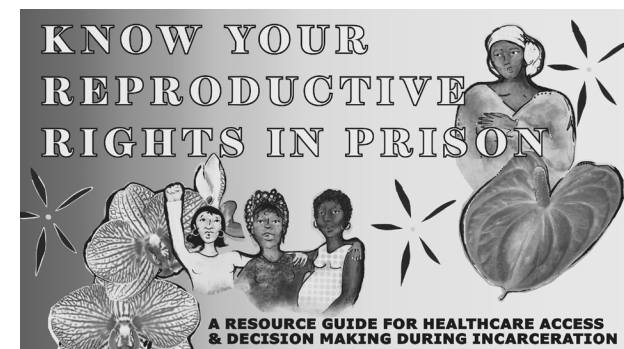
Know Your Reproductive Rights in Prison is an essential guide for incarcerated women and trans folks and a powerful tool for advocacy, empowerment, and resistance across prison walls. This booklet offers accessible information about patient rights along with how to ask questions, self-advocate, and make informed healthcare decisions while in prison. Rooted in abolitionist and reproductive justice values, and collectively written and produced by currently and formerly incarcerated survivors and activists, clinicians, researchers, and attorneys, Know Your Reproductive Rights confronts and exposes how the carceral system uses neglect, coercion, and punitive practices to harm reproductive health.

Art by Sâhi Velasco

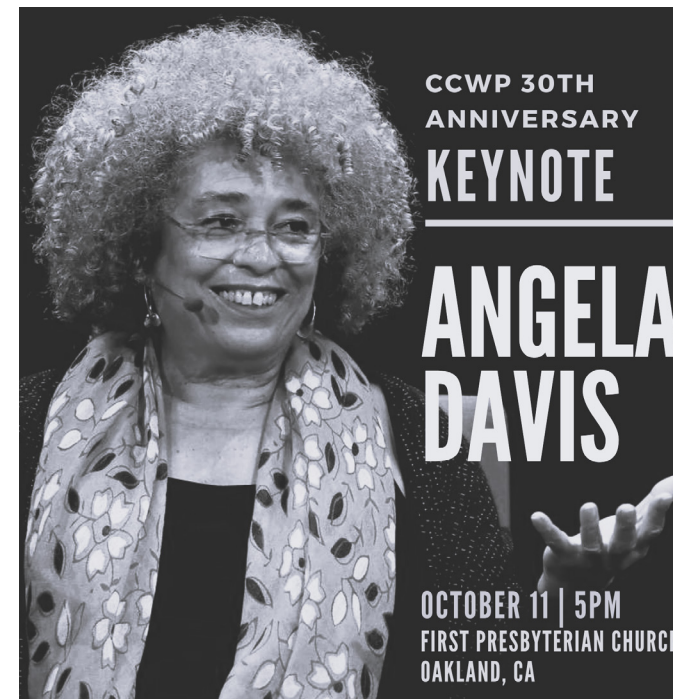
FREE TO PEOPLE IN WOMEN'S PRISONS.

To request your copy in English or Spanish, write to:

CCWP - Attn: Know Your Rights
4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608



CCWP TURNS 30 THIS YEAR



Next Fire Inside Issue

The next issue of *The Fire Inside* (FI#77) will be the last issue of 2025. We will cover news of the CCWP 30th Anniversary event, and the poetry, graphic art and writings from people in the women's prisons.

If you want your name to appear with your work:

Name

Address

☐ Permission to use my name

The Fire Inside is FREE to everyone in prison. If you want to support people in CA women's prisons:

☐ Enclosed is my \$ _____ contribution to help send the newsletter inside.

You can make checks payable and mail to:
CCWP, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608
OR you can donate on our webpage: www.womenprisoners.org

**Network on Women in Prison
California Coalition for Women
Prisoners**

4400 Market St.
Oakland, CA 94608

COME WORK WITH US!

Use this contact info to connect
with the Bay Area & L.A. chapters
and CCWP Hubs all over CA.

4400 Market St.
Oakland, CA 94608
(415) 255-7036 x4
www.womenprisoners.org
info@womenprisoners.org

CCWP MISSION

CCWP is a grassroots abolitionist
organization, with members inside
and outside prison, that challenges
the institutional violence imposed
on women, transgender people and
communities of color by the prison
industrial complex (PIC). We see
the struggle for racial and gender
justice as central to dismantling
the PIC, and we prioritize the
leadership of the people, families
and communities most impacted
in building this movement

FUNDED IN PART BY:

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