

Winter 2016 U.S. Immigration Alert!
A Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network
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Immigrant, Peace and Civil Right Activists NEED United To Fight Back Against Trump!

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11/22: Trump Has Not 'Softened' His War On Immigrants

We should anticipate that his administration will unleash a deportation regime unprecedented in recent U.S. history

Bob Libal and Judy Greene – Huffington Post

Last week's "60 Minute" interview with president elect Donald Trump prompted headlines suggesting that he might be "softening" his immigration stance, compared to his extreme campaign proposal to deport 11 million undocumented immigrants. The media have it wrong.

Those of us who have worked to promote sensible and humane policies for decades are bracing for what may very well be an all-out war on immigrants of unprecedented scope and intensity.

Some news reports have offered an unjustifiably charitable interpretation of Mr. Trump's recent statement to suggest that he is becoming more "targeted." This view was based on a few short statements where he described vague plans to immediately deport or incarcerate those with "criminal records — gang members, drug dealers, probably 2 million, it could even be 3 million" that are "here illegally." Mr. Trump's numbers are wrong, and his vision is anything but "soft." In fact, it is terrifying.

To realize these numbers during a four-year term, to say nothing of a shorter "immediate" timeframe, would require deportation rates never before experienced in this country. This, despite the fact that migration levels to the United States are relatively low and that the current administration already broke the record for removal of immigrants, earning President Obama the title of "deporter in chief" in some circles. It took the Obama administration eight years to deport 2.5 million immigrants, while Mr. Trump apparently aims to hit those numbers in four years or less. Unlike Presidents Bush and Obama, both of whom used deportations as a political pawn in failed efforts to secure immigration reforms, the President Elect has never envisioned a path to citizenship for our nation's immigrants.

The population as described by Mr. Trump simply does not exist. Trump's depiction of 2-3 million immigrants as "illegal," criminal and dangerous is a myth, rooted in poor math and biased fear-mongering. The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) has pointed out that the likely source for the numbers is a 2012 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) estimate of 1.9 million "removable criminal aliens." But more than half of this group are legally living and working in the United States. In typical Trumpian exaggeration, the President-Elect seems to have ignored that fact, and then tacked on an additional million to the DHS estimate to arrive at the fabricated 3 million.

Though Mr. Trump invokes stereotypes and fears of "dangerous illegal immigrants," all those who've had a run in with the law are threatened, even those who are living and working with proper documentation, with families and no memories of a different home.

Research shows that immigrants, including those without proper documentation, are overwhelmingly law-abiding. MPI estimates that just 820,000 of the 1.9 million "criminal aliens," are undocumented ("illegal" in Trump's view) immigrants with criminal convictions, and just 300,000 of them are likely to have a felony conviction. But if Trump recognizes a distinction between undocumented people and those with legal authorization to reside and work in the U.S., it will not stop him from sweeping them all into his "criminal alien" dragnet.

To reach his target of 2-3 million in two to four years, Mr. Trump would have to significantly broaden the net of who is imprisoned or removed, and the mechanisms for doing so—at astronomical cost to families, communities, and taxpayers.

Kris Kobach, Kansas secretary of state and leading architect of Draconian anti-immigrant laws such as Arizona's notorious "papers please" SB1070 law used to profile and harass suspected immigrants, is Donald Trump's chief immigration enforcement guru. Instead of deporting only those convicted, Kobach proposes to instead scrap due process protections and deport immigrants who are arrested on suspicion of crimes or gang affiliation. In this model, local law enforcement becomes prosecutor, judge, and immigration officer.

Kobach also advocates using local police officers and jailers as the "eyes and ears of the federal government," turning arrestees directly over to ICE for deportation. This will likely entail a rapid expansion of "287g," a federal provision that "cross-designates" local law enforcement to serve as immigration enforcement agents, commissioning them to identify, process, and detain people suspected of being undocumented.

Hard-liners are calling for resurrection of Secure Communities, a dragnet program that put warrantless "detainers" on those suspected of being undocumented in county jails and state prisons, so that they could be held beyond their lawful release date and taken into custody by ICE. By the time the program had been implemented in more than a thousand state and local jurisdictions, it was clear that it produced widespread racial profiling, at huge local costs since no federal funding was provided for implementation. And program data indicated that the great majority of people flagged by ICE for detention were charged with non-serious, low-level drug and property offenses.

Resistance to Secure Communities quickly grew, and by 2015 DHS had replaced it with a "Priority Enforcement Program," which purported to provide stricter guidelines to prioritize only people convicted of serious crimes. Recent data from PEP, however, indicates that few ICE officials in the field are following the new guidelines, with most detainers being issued for people with no criminal conviction. The most frequent offenses were drunk driving, miscellaneous assaults, and selling marijuana. Clearly, PEP's minimal prioritization efforts will quickly crumble in the face of the colossal "deportation force" envisioned by Trump and Kobach.

The nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions as Attorney General raises a critical danger for those who find themselves ensnared in the U.S. immigration enforcement dragnet. Sessions is the most prominent immigration hard-liner in the Senate. His placement at the top of the Department of Justice will inevitably lead to a further surge in an already substantial number of individuals who have convictions not for any serious crime, but instead due to the criminalization of immigration itself.

As recently as last year, Sessions proposed increased mandatory sentences for re-entry, which could increase the federal prison system by 30 percent. Increased immigrant prosecution and incarceration for entry and re-entry are a driving force in the federal justice system, making up half of the entire federal prosecution docket in 2015. The federal prison population is now made of 23 percent non-citizens.

Despite the enormous costs and the wasted lives, research has not found criminalization to be an effective deterrent to migration, which is more strongly influenced by family ties and economic circumstances.

But a majority in our nation opposes Mr. Trump's extreme and hateful vision for immigrants. Surveys of Trump supporters, including exit polls, show that the majority support pathways to citizenship, which are not in Mr. Trump's plans. Universities and colleges are declaring themselves sanctuary campuses. Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck will not use local police to check papers or turn low-level offenders over to federal agents. Cities like New York, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia,

Nashville, and others plan to fight Trump's immigration agenda, with Mayor de Blasio vowing to destroy municipal identification records for immigrants rather than hand them over to immigration enforcement authorities. Churches across the country are declaring themselves sanctuaries to defend against pending deportations.

We should take Trump at his word, and anticipate that his administration will unleash a deportation regime unprecedented in recent U.S. history. We also must resist that regime at many levels by uniting with our immigrant friends, neighbors, loved ones, coworkers, and classmates in the fight for policies and programs that keep families and communities intact.

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12/10: If You Are For Peace You Are A Russian Agent

Paul Craig Roberts

Speaking of fake news, the latest issue of the National Enquirer at the supermarket checkout is giving the mainstream prostitute media a run for the money: "Castro's Deathbed Confession: I Killed JFK. How I framed Oswald."

That's almost as good as the fake news going around the prostitute media, such as the TV stations, the Washington Post, New York Times, and Guardian—yes, even the former leftwing British newspaper has joined the ranks of the press prostitutes—that the CIA has concluded that "Russian operatives covertly interfered in the election campaign in an attempt to ensure the Republican candidate's victory." <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/dec/10/cia-concludes-russia-interfered-to-help-trump-win-election-report>

If the CIA is actually stupid enough to believe this, the US is without a competent intelligence agency. Of course, the CIA didn't say and doesn't believe any such thing. The fake news stories in the prostitute media are all sourced to unnamed officials. Former British ambassador Craig Murray described the reports accurately: "bullshit."

So who is making the stories up, another anonymous group tied to Hillary such as PropOrNot, the secret, hidden organization that released a list of 200 websites that are Russian agents?

Fake news is the prostitute's product. Throughout the presidential primaries and presidential campaign it was completely clear that the mainstream print and TV media were producing endless fake news designed to damage Trump and to boost Hillary. We all saw it. We all lived through it. What is this pretense that Russia is the source of fake news?

We have had nothing but fake news from the prostitutes since the Klinton regime. Fake news was used against Yugoslavia and Serbia in order to cloak the Clinton's war crimes.

Fake news was used against Osama bin Laden, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia in order to cloak the Bush regime's war crimes.

Fake news was used against Libya and Syria in order to cloak the Obama regime's war crimes.

Without fake news these three blood-drenched presidencies would have been hauled before the War Crimes Commission, tried, and convicted.

Can anyone produce any truthful statement from the prostitute media about anything of importance? MH-17? Crimea? Ukraine?

Ironic, isn't it, that it is those who purport to be liberal and progressive who are responsible for the revival of McCarthyism in America. Moreover, the liberal progressives are institutionalizing McCarthyism in the US government. There is clearly a concerted effort being made to define truth as fake news and to define lies as truth.

Ironic, isn't it, that it is the war criminal Hillary, responsible for the destruction of Libya and the near destruction of Syria until the Russians intervened, that the liberal progressive forces are desperate to have as president. Not only did the liberal progressive forces attempt to elect a war criminal president of the US, they are doing their best to delegitimize the president-elect who opposes the orchestrated conflict with Russia.

Ironic, isn't it, that the liberal progressive bloc refuse to give peace a chance.

The faked news report from the imbeciles at PropOrNot, which was hyped by the fake news sheet, WaPo, claiming that I was a Russian agent was supposed to do my credibility harm. Instead, the 200 List told everyone where they could get good

information, and my readership went up. Moreover, I almost got a Russian passport out of it. But before sending it along, Putin checked with Russian intelligence and was informed that I am not on their roster.

The rumor is that if the House intelligence bill passes with Title V intact, those of us on the PropOrNot list could be called before congressional hearings in a replay of McCarthyism. If they waterboard me, I might breakdown and implicate Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Jim Baker, David Stockman, and all the rest. The evidence against us is pretty strong. Trump is suspect because he wants peace with Russia, and so did Reagan. From the standpoint of the Hillary forces and the prostitutes, anyone who wants peace with Russia is bound to be a Russian agent.

The way the prostitutes have framed the issue, there are no legitimate reasons to be for peace.

If Putin and those of us on the 200 List are the ones who actually got Trump elected, shouldn't Putin or The List be Time magazine's person of the year and not Trump? After all, if Putin and I did the work, shouldn't we get the recognition? Why give the credit to the stooge we put in office?

Why is Time magazine shoving those of us responsible off into the background?

Eureka! Time magazine is also a Russian agent and is covering up for us by giving Trump credit for our work. Whew! I won't be waterboarded after all.

This is your site. Support it.

12/3: Trump's Win Gives Stocks in Private Prison Companies a Reprieve

Jeff Sommer – New York Times

As terrific as Donald J. Trump has been for the stock market, he has been absolutely spectacular for a troubled niche: companies that run for-profit prisons and immigration detention centers for states and the federal government.

In the market rally on the day after the election, the stock with the best performance was Corrections Corporation of America, the nation's biggest prison company. It soared 43 percent that day. Shares of the GEO Group, its main competitor, rose 21 percent.

These two big private prison companies have had a rough time until recently: In August, after the Justice Department put out a monitoring report that found safety and security problems at their facilities, the Obama administration said it would start to phase out the use of private prisons.

So Mr. Trump's surprise victory represented a radical change in fortunes for them — a boon for investors and a potential nightmare for critics. "It's an extreme case of politics affecting the stock market," said Ryan Meliker, a senior analyst with Canaccord Genuity. "Politics drove down the shares of the companies over the summer — and now the situation is reversed."

These two companies, both real estate investment trusts, are not household names. In fact, on Nov. 10, Corrections Corporation of America changed its trading name to CoreCivic. According to Jonathan Burns, a company spokesman, the move was part of a long-planned rebranding that emphasizes diversification into areas like inmate transportation and residential re-entry programs for former inmates.

On its website, CoreCivic, which is based in Nashville, says it houses nearly 70,000 inmates, which makes it "the fifth-largest corrections system in the nation, behind only the federal government and three states."

The GEO Group, which is based in Boca Raton, Fla., and operates internationally — in Britain, Australia and South Africa — is close behind. The nonprofit Hamilton Project estimates that the two companies account for 85 percent of the private prison market in the United States.

But that market had appeared to be shrinking. Investors shunned the two companies over the summer when the Obama administration signaled its displeasure. A Justice Department memo concluded that privately operated prisons were inferior to those operated directly by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in three critical areas: They do not provide comparable services, do not save substantially on costs and do not maintain "the same level of safety and security."

In July, there was a measles outbreak at an immigrant detention center in Arizona run by Corrections Corporation of America for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency. State officials found fault with the way the institution handled it.

Private prisons began a resurgence in the United States in the 1980s with the law-and-order, privatization and anti-union campaigns of the Reagan revolution. They helped ease overcrowding in state and then federal prisons as inmate populations swelled, while budgets were constrained.

But in 2013 the prison population began to decline, a trend that seemed likely to continue, with the help of changes in sentencing laws, the rise of alternatives to imprisonment and a softening in parole policies.

On Aug. 18, Sally Q. Yates, the deputy attorney general, said in that Justice Department memo that the Federal Bureau of Prisons was “beginning the process of reducing — and ultimately ending — our use of privately operated prisons.” The memo was a bombshell: In one day, shares of CoreCivic (then Corrections Corporation of America) fell 35.5 percent. GEO dropped 40 percent.

From a purely financial standpoint, that horrendous market decline may have been an overreaction.

The Yates memo referred only to phasing out or reducing contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Those contracts amounted to less than 16 percent of the two companies’ revenue, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Far more money — 44 percent of CoreCivic’s 2015 revenue, said Terry Dwyer, an analyst with KDP Investment Advisors — flowed from contracts for detention centers run on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Marshals Service. On Thursday, a Homeland Security panel recommended that those agencies keep using private prisons.

Even as the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced that it was ending a contract with CoreCivic to house inmates in Cibola County, N.M., CoreCivic promptly got a new contract to run the same center on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Obama administration’s approach is “an inconsistent revolving door policy,” Carl Takei, staff attorney for the national prison project of the American Civil Liberties Union, said. The A.C.L.U. objects to private prisons as a matter of principle, he said, adding that they engage in “profiteering.”

“These companies by their nature depend on and profit from mass incarceration,” Mr. Takei said.

Pablo Paez, a spokesman for GEO, said in an email: “We do not believe in cost-cutting for profit sake as critics like the A.C.L.U. contend, instead we believe in running an efficient operation that provides adequate staffing and relies on state of the art technology for monitoring, communication and health care.”

Mr. Burns of CoreCivic said in an interview, “We have played a pivotal role in improving the conditions and environment for many inmates in many states, and we continue to do that.”

Oliver Hart, the Harvard professor who is one of this year’s Nobel laureates in economic science, has problems with for-profit prisons for other reasons. The difficulty is not just that the companies’ profit incentives don’t entirely align with civic interests, he said in an interview.

“There is a problem in contracts that we call residual control,” he said. While it’s relatively easy to shift a public service like garbage collection to private companies, he said, it’s not reasonable to do so for some government functions, like decision-making in foreign policy.

“You don’t want private contractors to have ultimate control over use of violence,” Professor Hart said.

“Prisons are somewhere in the middle” between garbage collecting and decision-making on war and peace, he added. “It’s generally better not to privatize prisons.”

But the market has concluded that the business may have its best days ahead of it.

“The outlook for the companies really changed overnight with the election of Mr. Trump,” Mr. Dwyer of KDP Investment Advisors said.

The new administration’s policies are not clear, but Mr. Trump’s statements have been starkly different from those of President Obama — and Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, who each called for the end of private prisons.

In March, for example, Mr. Trump called the bulk of the nation's prisons "a disaster" but added: "I do think we can do a lot of privatizations and private prisons. It seems to work a lot better." And in an interview with "60 Minutes," he said that up to three million undocumented immigrants were "criminals": "We are getting them out of our country or we are going to incarcerate."

The claim that there are three million undocumented immigrants in America who have criminal records is not supported by the facts, Mr. Takei of the A.C.L.U. said.

Still, because most detained immigrants are housed by private companies at a cost to the government of about \$127 a day, any increases in incarceration of immigrants would swell the companies' coffers.

Incarceration on the state level may well decline. California and Oklahoma approved referendums last month that may reduce the number of people in custody. The prison companies are compensating with "things like halfway houses with electronic monitoring and ankle bracelets," Mr. Meliker, the Canaccord Genuity analyst, said.

The implications for investors are clear, he added: "There is a big upside for these companies."

12/7: Dignity Not Detention Act Re-Introduced in CA!!

It is with great excitement that we announce that Senator Ricardo Lara has re-introduced the Dignity Not Detention Act today in California. Please see our press release below and feel free to share it on social media here. We are confident that the legislature and the Governor will make dignity not detention the law of the land this coming year!

Christina Fialho
Co-Founder/Executive Director
Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)

Under Trump's Impending Expansion of Immigration Detention, Senator Lara Re-Introduces Dignity Not Detention Act to End For-Profit Immigration Detention in California

Today, as part of a broader #Fight4CA legislative package, Senator Lara (D-Bell Gardens) re-introduced the Dignity Not Detention Act, co-sponsored by Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) and the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). This bill is in line with the Department of Homeland Security's vote on December 1 to phase out the use of private contracting in its immigration detention operations.

The Dignity Not Detention Act directly addresses the findings of Homeland Security's recent investigation of for-profit facilities. Homeland Security found the mistreatment of immigrants in confinement to be systemic and especially stark in for-profit facilities. And DHS voted to shift away from for-profit facilities.

In effect, the Dignity Not Detention Act will prohibit local cities and counties from entering into new contracts with private, for-profit companies to operate immigration detention facilities in California. It also will require all detention facilities to uphold national humane treatment standards.

This bill is especially timely during the transition to the incoming Trump administration. President-elect Trump has promised to expand the United States' immigration enforcement apparatus as part of his initiative in his first 100 days to target 2-3 million immigrants he has inaccurately labelled "criminals."

"Now more than ever, we must safeguard human rights in immigration detention," said Christina Fialho, a California attorney and the co-executive director of CIVIC. "We are confident that the legislature and the Governor will make dignity not detention the law of the land this coming year."

ICE currently contracts with private companies to run immigration detention facilities. People in detention include undocumented people, asylum-seekers, long-time green card holders, and others who are awaiting their immigration hearings. In California, there are 10 immigration detention facilities. Four are privately-run and hold approximately 85 percent of detained immigrants statewide. Approximately 100,000 people were detained in California's detention facilities last year, that is about a quarter of the total detained immigrant population nationwide.

There have been consistent reports of human rights abuses in detention facilities, including physical and sexual abuse, poor access to healthcare, little access to legal counsel, and overuse of solitary confinement, and even death. LGBTQ immigrants have reported facing discrimination, harassment, and abuse due to their sexual orientation. In many of these instances, even the Department of Homeland Security has found these deaths were preventable. Tragically, the incidents often go

unaddressed and victims have no recourse.

Private, for-profit immigration detention facilities present a host of problems. The facilities are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and operate with little to no oversight. Many also operate under contract incentives where they are guaranteed a minimum number of immigrants in their facility at all times, ensuring their billion-dollar profits.

Currently, ICE has a set of Performance-Based National Detention Standards in place, but they lack any real enforcement mechanism. The Dignity Not Detention Act would be the first state-level bill to codify these standards into law, and provide redress for immigrants whose rights have been violated.

Individuals who have been detained speak out in support of the Dignity Not Detention Act:

“Immigration detention in the United States has become a financial market where people’s lives are being treated as profit. This bill is a clear step in the right direction,” said Sylvester Owino, an asylum seeker from Kenya who spent 9 years in immigration detention, primarily in California.

“While in detention, my religious freedoms were often violated. As a Muslim, my religion calls me to prayer at certain times of the day. Many times, officers forced me to choose between having breakfast or lunch and practicing my faith. I would always choose prayer, but this meant that many days I went hungry,” said Mohammed Kamal Deen Ilias, an asylum seeker from Ghana, who was detained at Adelanto Detention Facility from April 17, 2015, to February 5, 2016.

“Taking your dignity and pride is one thing, but taking away your dreams, what’s after that? In immigration detention, you feel helpless. You feel impotent to the system. You don’t know what’s going to happen next. Psychologically, you start deteriorating,” said Carlos Hidalgo, a father and grandfather of U.S. citizens, who was held at Adelanto Detention Facility for over a year.

“In the beginning, the Department of Homeland Security sent me together with my daughter to James Musick Facility. After two weeks, DHS separated me from my daughter. I was sent to the CCA facility in San Diego and then to the GEO facility in Adelanto. They didn’t tell me about my rights and made arbitrary decisions. They put me into segregation, abused and tortured me and compromised my physical integrity to a point that I was in need of a wheelchair,” said Petra Albrecht, a mother originally from Germany who was held in immigration detention for over 1 year.

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About National Immigrant Solidarity Network

NISN is a coalition of community, immigrant, labor, human rights and student activist groups, founded in 2002 in response to the urgent needs for the national coalition to fight immigrant bashing, support immigrant rights, no to the sweatshops exploitation and end to the racism on the community. Please visit our website: <http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

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2017 China Delegation

Projects of National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN) and Action LA Network Fiscal sponsorships of Alliance for Global Justice

<http://www.ChinaDelegation.org>

China has a rich and dynamic cultural, political and revolutionary history. Unfortunately, most Americans know very little beyond what they hear and read in corporate-controlled media. This is mainly due to the ongoing Cold War, and the absence of information on China in U.S. educational curricula. During the 2016 presidential election both Trump and Clinton were highly critical of China. It seems likely that U.S.-China relations will greatly suffer. Can American activists see beyond the finger pointing of the politicians and the American elites?

We hope that you will join our upcoming delegation Beijing and Shanghai. Organized by major U.S.-based activist organization we will explore historic, cultural, social, political and economic aspects of China. Our goal is to help promote a deeper understanding and to realize the importance of U.S.-China relations to the US and the world. We will explore Chinese history including the Opium Wars, anti-imperialist struggles, WWII, and the Chinese Revolution led by the Communist Party. We will be visiting revolutionary museums and meeting with a wide variety of people, including middle-class Chinese, expatriates, NGO workers, officials, activists, workers, farmers, students, scholars, and others. We will be learning about Chinese society, history, culture, economics, and politics.

China: Understand Chinese Society, History, Culture, Economic and Politics (10 Days) INFO Registration And Payments

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