

Anabella Mayorga

From: matt souza <mattsouza4@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 6:04 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support HB-5724

Dear House Committee on Judiciary,

I'm writing in favor of HB-5724, an act banning ICE contracts in Rhode Island. The Wyatt fails to provide access to communication with the outside world. Detainees have reported "Everything we need in this facility costs money, from phone calls, food, facetime and essentials." Prison administrators ridicule detainees in a racist and anti-immigrant manner. Detainees report being treated like animals. They are arbitrarily prevented from access to the legal program. So many of those migrating today are seeking refuge from violence, domestic or in their communities but, we detain them. What is the origin of the violence in the communities from which these immigrants hope to escape? As Amy Goodman explained on the March 30, 2021

episode of the "Democracy Now!" news program, these countries have been destabilized from "decades of the U.S.- backed military repression in places like Guatemala, where over 150,000 mainly Indigenous people were killed; in El Salvador... tens of thousands of Salvadorans killed, (by the) U.S.- backed military death squads and government; and in Honduras, the staging ground for the U.S. for the war against the Contras in Nicaragua." Migrants face a very dangerous route to the United States. An example is given on the March 15, 2021 episode of "Democracy Now!" when they covered that in January of that year migrants were "massacred while crossing Mexico as they attempted to reach the U.S.... 19 bodies were found shot and charred inside a pickup truck in the northern state of Tamaulipas, near the U.S.-Mexico border. A dozen Mexican police officers were arrested in connection to the killings." Rodolfo Jimenez, "the father of one of the victims" said "It hurts to lose a child. He went to look for a better life. He wanted to build his house, help his family, his siblings. That was his goal. But, unfortunately, he was killed in the Tamaulipas massacre." ICE detention represents systemic fascism and is a continuation of decades long trauma by the U.S. against people from Central America.

There is a gross history of medical neglect and unsanitary conditions at the Wyatt. In 2008 Hiu Lui "Jason" Ng died from medical neglect at the Wyatt. Medical neglect continued to be abundant during the Covid pandemic and detainees were retaliated against for speaking out.

Detainees recently reported “There are many who have waited two months without changing the bed sheets” and others have had problems with blood sugar gone unaddressed in a timely manner. There are several medical concerns in AMOR’s report.

They do not have enough to eat.

In 2019 a guard drove his truck into protesters.

The Wyatt does nothing positive for the community of Central Falls. It is a financial burden to the City of Central Falls. And what is it like being a guard for the Wyatt? As a former Correctional Officer employee reviewed them on indeed.com on February 3, 2019, “If you are a good person, stay clear.” In Rhode Island, like all other state’s of conscience, we must Abolish our prison contracts with ICE!

I support HB-5724.

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