

## Second People's Tribunal against the Immigration System and

### The Northwest Detention Center

On February 26, 2017, a tribunal, sitting in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma Washington, heard testimony pertaining to the detention and deportation process, conditions of the detention center, and treatment of the detainees.

#### **I. INTRODUCTION.**

People's Tribunals have a long history of being used anytime legal or political systems do not provide adequate remedy for harm in cases of abuse or injustice. The testimony today demonstrated the importance of using the People's Tribunal, because our systems are clearly failing.

Based upon the testimony of the detainees, the Tribunal submits these written Findings of fact:

#### **II. FINDINGS OF FACT.**

##### *General Findings:*

- A. The immigration and detention system is a part of a broader dehumanization of migrants.
- B. There is no distinction between good and bad immigrant we are all human and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.
- C. All migrants are Economic, political, and/or social refugees of some kind.
- D. Trade agreements allow for the free flow of capital and products, but not human beings.
- E. The tribunal finds on all evidence presented before it that the United States Government, including DHS – ICE/CBP, Trump Administration, State of Washington, City of Tacoma and all counties and cities and GEO Group and all contracted agencies are responsible for gross, widespread, and systematic violations of human dignity and human rights.
- F. The immigration and criminal system are one in the same and directly target people of color, immigrant communities and indigenous communities of this land whose bodies are used for labor and profit.

##### *As it concerns to the United States Immigration and Customs Service (hereinafter "ICE") and GEO Group, City of Tacoma and the State of Washington:*

- A. The two organizations (ICE and The GEO Group) passing the responsibility for inmate safety makes accountability more difficult to achieve;
- B. There are currently inadequate food/calories provided during meals;
- C. There is no access to soap and clothing
- D. Medical care is atrocious and people have died in detention and after they are released or deported because of it.
- E. The use of retaliatory solitary confinement is a common practice;
- F. The Subcontracting of phone and commissary services is at exorbitant rates for a captive population.
- G. There is no adequate complaint system

*As it Concerns only ICE:*

- A. Wages of \$1 a day for “voluntary work” is an ongoing practice.
- B. Toxic Environmental Impacts: the Tacoma Northwest Detention Center is located on a superfund site (abandoned drums) in an industrially polluted zone, where the administrative detainees are drinking the tap water without the knowledge of the long term effects of this exposure. They are also breathing in the toxic fumes of wet paint and floor wax because they cannot move to a different location when those tasks are completed.

*As it concerns the United States Customs and Border Protection (hereinafter “CPB”)*

- A. CBP continues to engage and encourage racial profiling.
- B. CBP depends upon sowing fear in immigrant communities as a community policing strategy.

*As it concerns Local Law Enforcement Agencies in Washington State*

- A. Many Local Law Enforcement Agencies continue to engage in cooperating with CBP and ICE to provide a constant stream of bodies regardless of individual circumstance to GEO group.
- B. Joint task force raids are conducted in the name of the “war on drugs,” however most of Washington’s drug trade is organized by white supremacist gangs (i.e. 8854) that include prison guards and officers.

### **III. JUDGMENT/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRIBUNAL.**

*Based upon the Testimony taken herein and the Findings of Fact, this Tribunal makes the following recommendations:*

1. **Executive orders/federal new policies/guidelines**
2. **0 cooperation with ICE**
3. **End of detention of immigrants**
4. **End of all contracts and agreements with ICE**
5. **Immediate release of people back into communities**
6. **Reparations to those that have been detained, are currently detained and to those that have been deported**
7. **End racial profiling and human rights abuses by ICE**
8. **Retroactively support people who have been deported to return**
9. **Remedies**

#### **A. To the United States Immigration and Customs Service:**

1. **End Immigrant Detention.**
2. **Cease all detention contracts and agreements**
3. **End all bed guarantees.**
4. **Provide legal representation and interpretation at no cost to people currently facing deportation.**

- B. To the GEO Group and the United States Immigration and Customers Service:**
1. Shut down the Northwest Detention facility, and Cease using this facility FOR ANYTHING to do with people.
  2. Release detainees immediately.
  3. Provide for reparations in the form of medical care, for both physical and emotional needs, for survivors of detention and their families and communities as well as for lost wages, lost homes, etc.
  4. Add complaints process with no risk of retaliation
- C. To the Trump Administration**
1. Rescind all executive orders and stop promoting hate against immigrants
  2. End 287g, SCOMM and CAP and the hyper-enforcement of immigration laws
- D. To the Federal Immigration Authorities include ICE and the CBP:**
1. Provide for an immediate moratorium on deportations.
- E. To the City Council of Tacoma and the Mayor of Tacoma:**
1. Take immediate action to rescind any land use permits and do everything in their power to contribute to this facility shutting down.
- F. Washington, counties and cities**
1. no cooperation with ICE
- G. To the United State Congress:**
1. Amnesty for all people currently in the US without documentation and if there is gridlock providing relief
  2. Expand the number of refugees the US will take
  3. Decriminalize immigration, including entry, reentry and the targeting of those providing safe houses
  4. End Expedited Removal and ensure due process
- H. Defund ICE and allow funds to be reclaimed by communities**
1. remedies

**We, The Tribunal, indict the capitalist, economic model that incentivizes and privatizes this inhuman facility and others like it.**

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**February 26, 2017**