

Detention Watch Network Membership Report 2016



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK



A Message from the Co-Directors

Dear Colleagues,

Detention Watch Network (DWN) is nothing but resilient. With a vision for a world without immigration detention, we are forging our path forward regardless of who is in the White House.

Our accomplishments this year reflect our growing impact. Not only are we building our credibility, we are building our grassroots power.



In our investigative reports written in collaboration with DWN members, we laid bare the perverse incentives of the immigration detention system. We exposed the government's complicit role in enriching private prison companies through the immigrant detention quota and sham inspections process at the expense of the well-being and dignity of immigrants in detention.

We are strengthening our grassroots members and partners by launching the Local Capacity and Movement Building Program. We are also working with members to conduct NGO-led inspections of detention centers that expose the truth of what's happening in detention. As these initiatives continue into next year, we are providing not only technical assistance, but also much needed funding support to empower local advocacy.

Our capacity overall has increased and so has our ability to coordinate and support multi-city events like the Day of the Dead National Actions. DWN now has a two-person policy team and a two-person organizing team to support members' advocacy and outreach efforts. Importantly, we also have added staff capacity to support the Network's financial health and sustainability.

We brought together members and allies and created inclusive spaces for strategy, unity and partnerships at DWN's 11th National Member Conference, the ATD Strategy Meeting and the Shadow Prison Strategy Meeting. Creating more of these spaces will be crucial for our movement in the coming year.

We are likely to face formidable challenges in 2017. More than ever, we need to come together to advocate and educate and to build and mobilize our base.

With hope for the New Year,

Ana K. Carrión
Co-Director

Silky Shah
Co-Director



DWN Steering Committee

Abraham Paulos

Families for Freedom, NY

Amanda Lugg

African Services Committee, NY

Christina Fialho and Christina Mansfield

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement, National

Fred Tsao

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, IL

Liz Sweet

DC

Michael Tan

ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, GA

PJ Edwards

Georgia Detention Watch, GA

Quyên Dinh

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, DC

Romy Lerner

University of Miami, School of Law Immigration Clinic, FL

DWN Staff



Gaby Benitez, Organizer



Ana K. Carrión, Co-Director



Danny Cendejas, Organizing Director



Carly Pérez, Membership and Communications Manager



Dawy Rkasnuam, Research and Advocacy Associate



Silky Shah, Co-Director



Mary Small, Policy Director



Angela Vera Webster, Finance and Operations Manager

DWN Organizational Members

ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project
ACLU National Prison Project
ACLU of Arizona
African Services Committee
Alianza Americas
American Friends Service Committee
American Gateways
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Catholic Legal Immigration Network
Center for Constitutional Rights
Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants
in Confinement
Community to Community Development
Conversations with Friends
Cornell Law School, Immigration Appellate
Law Clinic
El Refugio Ministry
Families for Freedom
First Friends of New York and New Jersey
Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
Florida Coastal School of Law Immigrant
Rights Clinic
Florida Immigrant Coalition, Inc.
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Georgia Detention Watch
Grassroots Leadership
HIAS
Human Rights First
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Task Force of Mission Presbytery
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration
Juntos
Just Detention International
Justice Strategies
La Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
Law Offices of Brelje and Associates, P.C.
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Maria Baldini-Potermin & Associates, P.C.
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National
Lawyers Guild
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
New Sanctuary Coalition of NY
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation
Project
Ponce Law Firm, P.C.
Public Counsel
Puente Arizona
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Scott D. Pollock & Associates, P.C.
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern Poverty Law Center
Stanford Law, Immigrants' Rights Clinic
Texans United For Families
United Methodist Women
University of Miami School of Law Immigration
Project
Washington Defender Association Immigration
Project
Women's Refugee Commission

Go-to Source on Immigration Detention

Detention Watch Network (DWN) garnered over 450 media mentions throughout 2016, earning coverage in national outlets like *The Guardian* and repeated coverage and mentions in leading publications like *Fusion*, *The Nation*, *ThinkProgress*, and *La Opinión*.

DWN released three reports this year: *Fatal Neglect: How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention*, *Banking on Detention: 2016 Update* and *A Toxic Relationship: Private Prisons and U.S. Immigration Detention*. In addition to the media coverage around the reports initial releases, journalists referenced the reports as points of factual evidence throughout the year, signaling the impact of DWN's research.



"Rather than defending the status quo, which includes holding thousands of people in dangerous and unaccountable facilities, ICE should be reexamining why so many people are needlessly detained in the first place,"

Mary Small, policy director at Detention Watch Network.



"We have a much stronger chance of building up our power locally. We know ICE and the federal government will be doing all they can to bring localities in line with their plans, but that's where we can fight back,"

Dany Cendejas, organizing director at Detention Watch Network.



"ICE must stop affirming immigration detention as a market-based activity and remove guaranteed minimums from detention center contracts. Congress should follow suit. It must bar the use of local lockup quotas and eliminate from the annual federal appropriations bill the "detention bed quota" that incentivizes the mass incarceration of immigrants. Lockup quotas – and government-sanctioned profiteering off immigration detention – are moral and financial quicksand."

Op-ed by Silky Shah, co-director at Detention Watch Network and Ghita Schwarz, senior staff attorney at Center for Constitutional Rights.

Together We Are Stronger

11th National Member Conference



This year we welcomed over 150 participants from 23 states and Canada to Baltimore, Maryland for DWN's 11th National Member Conference. Happening every two years, the DWN Conference is an opportunity for the DWN community to connect and engage through networking, information sharing, strategy development and skills-building trainings.

The conference program featured a variety of topics and addressed the current moment while creating space to strategize for the future.

A plenary discussion marked the 20th anniversary of the 1996 laws and its devastating impact to date. We highlighted the importance of collaboration across movements for racial justice including Black Lives Matter and fighting Islamophobia. And we heard inspiring and challenging words from our keynote speaker, Harsha Walia, author of *Undoing Border Imperialism* and one of the founders of No One is Illegal in Vancouver. We also united together for a march and rally at the ICE Field Office in Baltimore, calling for an end to the recent raids at the time and detention.

As in years past, the 11th National Member Conference brought fresh perspectives and new energy to our work, strengthening DWN's member community and our shared vision to end immigration detention.

Snapshot of workshops that provoked ideas, strengthened strategy and built capacity:

- Strategizing Together to Permanently End Family Detention
- Freedom of information laws: Using open records laws to support organizing campaigns
- Using ICE contracts, ICE inspections and independent NGO inspections to end abusive detention
- Directly impacted perspectives on immigration detention
- Moving the needle: Using strategic communications to get what you want and need

DWN's commitment to creating an inclusive space:

- We provided simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish
- We offered on-site childcare
- We supported over 45 members to attend with lodging and travel scholarships, many of whom have been directly impacted by the immigration detention system



The Truth Behind Bars

Coordinating NGO-led inspections of detention centers

Despite being rife with inhumane conditions and abuses, detention facilities elude accountability through ineffective official inspections that lack independence, fail to check for policy implementation, and often exclude interviews with detained people. In response to inadequate official inspections, this year DWN began conducting NGO-led inspections alongside stakeholder organizations to uncover the reality of immigration detention facilities.

These inspections allow NGOs to conduct a facility walkthrough and interview people in detention – a critical need as ICE’s inspections process has proven to be a sham. Findings from the inspections are then published in our *Immigrant Detention Inspection Series*, to be used as a tool to support local campaigns to shut detention centers down.



YORK COUNTY PRISON FACILITY
IMMIGRANT DETENTION INSPECTION SERIES

FACILITY PROFILE
Location: York, Pennsylvania
Contract Type: Intergovernmental Service Agreement (ISA)
Population: Around 400 men and women in ICE custody
Standards/Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBD-CO) 2009, PBD-CO 2011, Significant Safeguards and Suicide Prevention and Other Policies
Contractors: PrisonCare (provider), CITL (phone)

METHODOLOGY
Date of inspection: April 14, 2016
Number of inspections: 8
Number of detained people interviewed: 46

ABOUT DETENTION INSPECTIONS
The United States has the largest immigration detention infrastructure in the world, with the ability to detain approximately 50,000 people at any given time. Despite being rife with inhumane conditions and abuse, detention facilities evade accountability through ineffective official inspections that lack independence. But no official, for-profit implementation, and often exclude interviews with detained people. In response to inadequate official inspections, Detention Watch Network (DWN) is conducting NGO-led inspections alongside stakeholder organizations to uncover the reality of immigration detention facilities.

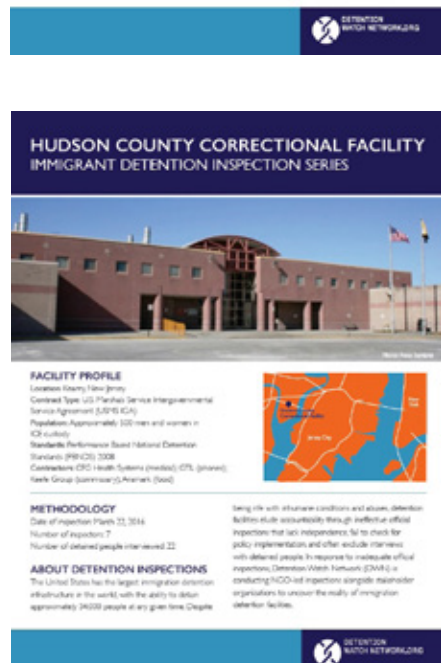
Immigrant Detention Inspection Series:

Key Findings from York County Prison Facility:

- Delays in responding to medical requests and providing medical care, and either inappropriate or inadequate responses to health issues
- Use of solitary confinement for asking questions or raising complaints
- Excessive use of force and interviews of detained people revealing physical and sexual abuse

Key Findings from Hudson County Correctional Facility:

- Delays in medical care, inconsistencies with medical records and subsequent treatment, and inappropriate responses to health needs
- Unaccountable complaints process
- Poor food quality with minimal nutritional value



HUDSON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
IMMIGRANT DETENTION INSPECTION SERIES

FACILITY PROFILE
Location: Jersey, New Jersey
Contract Type: US Marshals Service Intergovernmental Service Agreement (S-019) (ISA)
Population: Approximately 300 men and women in ICE custody
Standards/Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBD-CO) 2009
Contractors: CRC Health Systems (provider), CITL (phone), Korte Group (contractor), Anamark (food)

METHODOLOGY
Date of inspection: March 22, 2016
Number of inspections: 7
Number of detained people interviewed: 22

ABOUT DETENTION INSPECTIONS
The United States has the largest immigration detention infrastructure in the world, with the ability to detain approximately 50,000 people at any given time. Despite being rife with inhumane conditions and abuse, detention facilities evade accountability through ineffective official inspections that lack independence. But no official, for-profit implementation, and often exclude interviews with detained people. In response to inadequate official inspections, Detention Watch Network (DWN) is conducting NGO-led inspections alongside stakeholder organizations to uncover the reality of immigration detention facilities.



Photo: Diane Ovalle of Puente

Local Capacity and Movement Building Program

Building Locally to Shut Down Detention Centers

In August DWN launched the Local Capacity and Movement Building Program, which provides technical assistance and small grants to DWN members engaged in local campaigns against detention centers. By targeting specific facilities, DWN is aiming to advance members' campaign goals to ultimately reduce the number of people in detention. With this initiative, DWN hopes to grow the number of local campaigns we support in years to come.

This year's grantees:

- Shut Down Etowah Campaign
- Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)
- Northwest Detention Center Resistance (NWDCR)

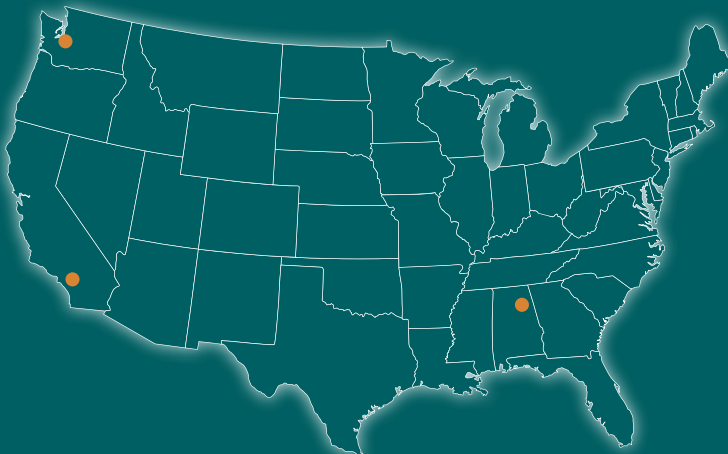


Range of resources offered:

- Up to \$5,000 grant for campaign expenses
- Strategy and organizing support: campaign planning support and power mapping
- Communications: reporter pitching, press material support, op-ed drafting and placement
- Technical assistance research on contracts/inspections, trainings

Facilities we're targeting:

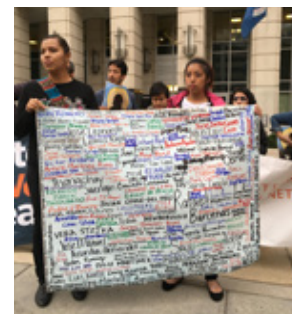
- Etowah Detention Center (AL)
- Theo Lacy Detention Facility (CA)
- Northwest Detention Center (WA)



Detention is Deadly

Uncovering Deaths in Detention

In late February, DWN released *Fatal Neglect: How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention* in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC). The investigative report looked at internal death reviews, which found eight deaths to be negligent between 2010 and 2012. Based on documentation from ICE investigations conducted after each death, which the ACLU received through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the report showed that violations of ICE's medical standards contributed to the deaths. More perniciously, additional research showed that ICE inspections of the detention facilities before and after these deaths failed to acknowledge — or sometimes dismissed — the substandard medical care.



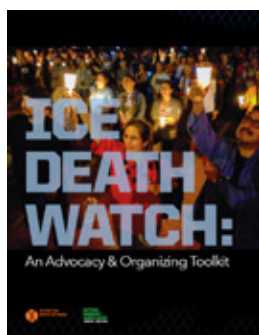
The names of those who have died in ICE custody since 2003 at the DC Day of the Dead Funeral Procession.



After exposing detention center deaths in *Fatal Neglect*, DWN highlighted the findings of the report by connecting it to organizing efforts at the local level. Coinciding with the Latin American Holiday *Día de Muertos*, the Day of the Dead National Actions, which took place from October 26 to November 4, brought awareness to deaths in detention while demanding that immigrant lives are valued, remembered and celebrated. Twelve actions took place nationwide as members and allies constructed altars, held funeral processions, coordinated vigils and more. In addition to organizing efforts on the ground, DWN had 113 people participate in our social media action, yielding a total social media reach of 231,293 people.

As a part of the Day of the Dead National Actions, DWN hosted a Funeral Procession in Washington, D.C. from the White House to ICE Headquarters. The action featured testimonies from individuals who have been directly impacted by the detention system and an altar in memory of the 165 people who have died in ICE custody since 2003.

Member resources on exposing deaths in detention:



- **ICE Death Watch: An Advocacy and Organizing Toolkit**

DWN and the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) created *ICE Death Watch: An Advocacy and Organizing Toolkit* to provide community organizers, advocates, and other stakeholders with the tools to hold ICE and its contractors responsible for the deaths that happen on their watch.

- **Death by Detention Map**

DWN created a *Death by Detention* map to illustrate the deadly impact of immigrant incarceration nationwide and pay tribute to the victims.



A Shadow Prison System

DOJ opens door to end immigrant incarceration in CAR facilities

This year DWN expanded its approach to addressing the mass incarceration of immigrants by working to end “Criminal Alien Requirement” facilities, known as shadow prisons. Shadow prisons are immigrant-only prisons, managed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which are operated entirely by private prison companies.

In August the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced plans to end its use of private prisons, marking the first time that a federal agency has issued a sweeping – and long overdue – rebuke to the private prison industry. Although the announcement will eventually phase out the use of these facilities, BOP continues to extend contracts with private prison companies. Given this, DWN convened a shadow prison strategy meeting in Austin, TX in November.

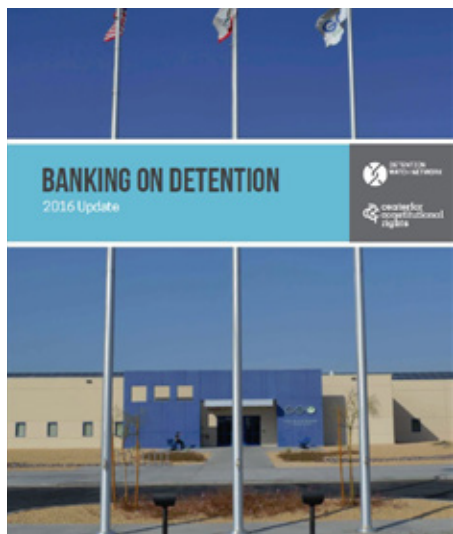
Given the outcome of the election, the meeting was a space to think about what we can anticipate from the incoming administration, how DWN can continue to amplify the DOJ announcement and most importantly, what we can do as a Network to protect the rights of immigrants with criminal convictions.



photo credit: Terri Burke

Ending Perverse Financial Incentives

Exposing local lock up quotas and fighting private prison companies



DWN v. ICE and DHS

DWN's and CCR's ongoing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation with ICE achieved a significant victory this summer. A federal judge ruled that the details of government contracts with private prison corporations are not exempt from public release under FOIA. The ruling made it clear that ICE and private prison contractors may not keep their detention contracts secret.

In the aftermath of the DOJ announcement to end its use of private prisons, the spotlight quickly turned on ICE to do the same. As a result, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson established a review of privatized immigration detention. DWN used this opportunity to present our own findings of privatized immigration detention with the report *A Toxic Relationship: Private Prisons and U.S. Immigration Detention*. Released in November, the report details evidence of private prison companies' rampant record of abuse and mismanagement, as well as, amplifies the experiences of 42 individuals who were or are held in privately run detention centers.

In June DWN and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) released a new report, *Banking on Detention 2016 Update* that revealed for the first time that mothers and their children are jailed under guaranteed minimum bed contracts for local jails. The report showed the extent to which ICE grants financial benefits to private and public entities that detain immigrants through government contracts requiring ICE to pay for a set number of beds at detention facilities, rendering immigrants, including children and families, a source of profit for contractors.

The widespread use of local lockup quotas throughout the immigration detention system was first exposed last year in DWN and CCR's initial report, *Banking on Detention: Local Lockup Quotas and the Immigrant Dagnet*. This year's update shed light on the continued use of local lockup quotas, covering at least 24 detention facility contracts.



photo: Steve Pavey



Stop Locking Up Women and Children

Supporting the fight to end family detention

This year, DWN continued to support member work on family detention as organizing efforts ramped up in an effort to end the policy that locks up immigrant mothers with their children – including babies.

DWN hosts the family detention listserve, currently with 168 subscribers and participates in regular organizing calls. We have provided technical assistance organizing and critical funding support to members in Texas and Pennsylvania, where family detention facilities are located.



photo: Steve Pavey



photo: Steve Pavey



photo: Steve Pavey

Getting People Out of Detention

Understanding the continuum of alternatives to detention

This fall DWN convened a small group of members and allies working on alternatives to detention to strategize and gain knowledge. While alternatives to detention have expanded, this has not led to a reduction in the number of people in detention. ICE has also used the language of alternatives to promote alternative *forms* of detention, such as electronic monitoring.

DWN worked with members and allies to understand the continuum of alternatives to detention, which range from the supportive, such as comprehensive case management and legal counsel to the punitive and restrictive, such as exorbitant bond and home check-ins. We consulted on DWN's role within alternatives to detention advocacy and provided resources to support members in their work to understand the wide range of mechanisms used by ICE.

To Our Members, Allies, Supporters and Friends

Your support makes it possible for the Network to advocate at the national level and to support our members working on the frontlines at the regional, state and local levels.

Thank you for your commitment to a more just world where human dignity is valued and the rights of all persons are respected.



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK

Donate today

www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/donate

Detention Watch Network
1419 V Street NW
Washington, DC 20009