

VIOLATIONS OF OUR RIGHTS
La Palma Correctional Center

Monday, May 18, 2020

We are a group of citizens from different places who are in the immigration process, currently detained at:

LA PALMA CORRECTIONAL CENTER
5501. NORTH. LA PALMA ROAD
ELOY. AZ. 85131

We are fleeing the dictatorships in our countries, and came to this country seeking Political Asylum and what we have received is the deprivation of our freedom and the violation of our rights, which we want to report and make public through this document.

We the detainees make the public complaint of physical and psychological abuses, human rights abuses, prolonged detentions, abuses of power, bad nutrition.

We are asking for your help because the situation worsens every day in this place, being the only tank at this moment that is free of coronavirus, Mohave Bravo, according to what Creekmore the building manager informed us.

We're begging that any person from the public or judicial, from the television media or radio, civil and human rights organizations, be able to speak for us to obtain a remedy, because the propagation of coronavirus in La Palma Correctional Center is eminent, and our immigration cases are actually currently suspended.

Our families and sponsors are extremely worried because of the speed of propagation of the Coronavirus within the La Palma Correctional Center where we are immigrants in Asylum processes, who came here seeking protection, for fear of being in our countries, here in Mohave Bravo there are Venezuelans, Cubans, Nicaraguans, Central Americans, Africans, Brazilians Mexicans, Peruvians, Ecuadoreans, Bangladeshis, and Indians.

- (1) 85 % of those detained in this tank have been detained here for longer than 6 months, there are several that have been here 8, 10, 15, and even 18 months in this process that is actually suspended without courts.
- (2) There are detainees in this correctional center who have been here over 180 days and have only had two hearings.
- (3) There are detainees with final court hearing dates, that have been postponed on more than one occasion without reasons.
- (4) A great quantity of the detained requested Asylum through the Nogales, Arizona port, where they were accepted and then sent directly before a judge, and for some reason they were not given a credible fear interview, resulting in the denial of their parole requests.

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- (5) We are locked up like criminals 4 times a day in order to get counted, on occasions the count time is violated.
- (6) We have been locked up at times for periods of three days without being able to shower or communicate with our families.
- (7) The guards continue to come in and out of the tank and they are not wearing basic protective equipment necessary for prevention.
- (8) In the tanks we are separated in groups of 120 detainees.
- (9) Detainees all share the same phones, the cells continue to have 2 detainees in them with the toilet inside of them and minimal hygiene.
- (10) Cleanliness up to now is minimal and basic, cleaning products continue to be basic and, on the weekends, we don't have any, for example on Saturdays and Sundays we do not have toilet paper.
- (11) No measures for social distancing to be possible have been implemented or any others that keep us safe and prevent the spread, for example they make us stand in line in order to receive our meals and other hygienic products in a way that there is no social distancing.
- (12) Since the beginning of the pandemic 4 months ago, we were given 2 disposable masks of very poor quality in the month of April, after begging for them. On May 12 we received 2 cloth masks.
- (13) On the date April 2 around 11:00am the manager Creekmore offended all of the detainees on the cleaning crew with bad words and also threw the garbage can to the floor so that they would proceed to pick it up and clean, the corresponding complaint was made, but nothing else was done. Everything that happened was recorded. This happened in the Mohave Bravo tank.
- (14) On April 17 all of the court procedures were suspended and they were reactivated on the 27th and 28 of April, on the 29th of April the courts were suspended again at 9:45 am by taking everyone out of the building and they continue suspended up to today May 12 and after asking the administration official Marine and manager Creekmore they don't know when they will reopen.
- (15) They continued using the detainees as workers in the kitchen knowing it was the place where the Coronavirus started spreading and it got to the point of verbal threats, indefinite lock ins, until May 15 when the kitchen was suspended.

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- (16) Our meals are of very bad quality and are getting worse, for example on Monday May 4 2020, for dinner we were given two slice of rotten ham and two portions of bread, we protested and all 98 of the detainees returned our meals and that day there was no dinner even though we showed them the rotted ham. Starting on May 15 until today all three meals are sandwiches in a carboard box, which says consume within 4 hours on them and from what the kitchen workers tell us, those boxes are sometimes stored for more than 15 days. In addition to eating the same thing every day, it is becoming impossible for us to continue eating this food.
- (17) At La Palma Correctional Center there are 8 buildings that hold detainees in them, there are 24 tanks and 23 of those tanks are in quarantine due to infection with coronavirus, Mohave Bravo being the only tank that isn't infected in the entire correctional facility or so the tank manager Creekmore told us on Friday may 15, 2020, and not the tank has entered into quarantine for our protection and to prevent infection. The building holds three tanks all interconnected by air conditioning ventilation, and non-hermetic doors and if one tank gets infected it is only a matter of time before more fall, on top of the fact that the guards from the infected tanks enter the non-infected areas without taking any precautions.
- (18) On Wednesday May 13 the tank Mohave Alpha started quarantine after 4 detainees had coronavirus symptoms, after the infection was confirmed in the tank Mohave Charlie, on that same day, the safety protocol where the guards who work in infected tanks have to wear a special suit was initiated, but officer Marine entered more than 15 times without a suit and no security measures, using only a face mask, on that same day he entered Mohave Bravo in an attack against our security.
- (19) An officer in conversation with two detainees in Mohave Bravo mentioned that ICE has a million-dollar contract with CORECIVIC and that they have to respond for it, that is why they cannot release the detainees, this leads us to believe that we are the merchandise and the object for negotiation.
- (20) This place is a concentration camp in which we can only wait for the worst, since according the ICE website regarding coronavirus there are 56 registered cases, that information was published more than 10 days ago, we believe there are actually more than 70.
- (21) In Mohave Bravo on Sunday May 3 they took a detainee out who was possibly infected, on Wednesday the 6th they returned him to the tank saying he was negative and 30 minutes later they took him along with all of his belongings and after that they took someone else who also wasn't feeling well.

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- (22) Here in the tank there are detainees who are derivatives of their spouses or parents who already won Asylum a long while back and they are still not being released, similarly there are also people who won Withholding of Removal and they have not been released.
- (23) There are detained who were separated from their underage children and they have not been given communication with them for a period of 8 months.
- (24) On Friday May 8 no one wanted to go to the kitchen to work so then Officer Marine came in threatening and offending the detainees with bad words, as a consequence of those threats, some of the detainees protested against these actions and they were punished and sent to the hole in the Zuni building, which caused intimidation and fear in everyone else.
- (25) Informing as well that it has been over 30 days that ICE does not physically come to the tanks, instead only through phone calls, once a week because of the virus, protecting themselves from it.
- (26) On May 16 officer Noriega was guarding the tank Mohave Alpha entered at 8:00pm and afterward at 10:00pm with the same gear worn in the contaminated tank entered ours once again risking our lives.

A report from the 2 Ecuadorean who work in Medical 3.

May 6

We were called through the officers radio to go clean the floors and the desks and we were told to do it quickly so that we could go clean medical 1 but then we were told to do it another day, after 5 days which means it was on May 12 we were called at 12:30am and we returned around 2:30 am that night I was told clean the floors and this is close to the sick people and also take out the trash from the nurses offices.

The next night which was May 13 I was called again but this time at 6:30pm which was a Thursday, when we got to medical 3 the officer said things to me in English and I didn't understand anything except the gestures he was making with his hands that he wanted me to clean the door to a cell and in there they have a detainee with psychiatric problems with a mattress on the floor which is the only type of cover he has because there aren't even any sheets and inside that cell the walls are covered in the feces of that person and a very bad smell comes out of the slit in the door of that cell, I was not given gloves to clean with which I requested for myself and my coworker but they didn't give them to us and they wanted us to clean that door with paper towels but I grabbed the broom instead when I first saw the door I thought they were grease stains because it was a dark color but when I sprayed it the mess started dripping and I

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was able to clean it with the broom it smelled so bad and for doing the job well they gave me 8 pieces of bread and 4 milks.

Another person in a different cell told me that the other detainee hadn't showered in a month, to me, that is torture having a person in that state in those conditions.

May 15:

The same routine as usual I was called to take out the trash, clean the desks, and when I was done the officer went to ask the detainee with psychiatric problems for his mattress to change it out, but he didn't want to give it to him and he began insulting the officer and he kept telling the officer he wouldn't give it to him because the doctor had given him the mattress, then the officer opened the door a little bit and he got up and grabbed his feces and started throwing it out, we were scared as we were watching this situation, my head started to hurt and I went back to my tank and 20 minutes later they called me back again over the radio and told me to go clean the floors and all of the mess that the detained with psychiatric problems has made and the officer insisted that we go and I told them that I didn't want to go because my head was hurting.

Were begging you for help because this is a life or death situation.

Our criminal records are clear, the only crime we have committed is coming to this free country in search of refuge and protection.

Attached is the information of the detainees who join onto this report of the violation of our human rights.