



September 5... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The Department of Justice (DOJ) [announced](#) that it will instruct the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to phase out private prison contracts. DOJ's decision to cut ties with private prisons followed a damning Office of Inspector General [report](#) that showed, amongst other things, that private prisons contracted by the BOP had higher rates of assaults, both on prisoners and staff, that private prisons improperly put prisoners into solitary confinement, and that private prison contracts did not save significant amounts of money. The DOJ decision prompted the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Sec. Jeh Johnson to order a review of for-profit immigration detention contracts to be completed by an advisory committee by November 30th. (Grassroots Leadership)

We are deeply troubled by xenophobic rhetoric and merciless policies that harm refugees. Refugees are people – mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children – who have fled war and persecution to save their lives. They cannot safely return home. Yet, they are finding borders closed, resources scarce, hatred abundant, and allies few and far between. People of conscience must stand together in support of refugees. The world has been gripped by heart-wrenching images of refugees – many of them children – risking their lives in overcrowded rubber dinghies to find safe haven in Europe. Too many have died on this perilous route. We must spur world leaders to act in the face of the largest refugee crisis the world has seen since World War II. Later this month, world leaders will gather in New York City for a UN Summit that could have been a turning point for refugee protection. But pre-summit negotiations among the states failed, and a hoped-for Global Compact on refugees won't happen for at least two years. Please stand with us on the right side of history and advocate for refugees. (Adapted from Amnesty International)

Action One: Prayer

On this Labor Day, when we rest from our usual labors, loving Father, we pray for all who shoulder the tasks of human labor – in the marketplace, in factories and offices, in the professions, and in family living. We thank you, Lord, for the gift and opportunity of work; may our efforts always be pure of heart, for the good of others and the glory of your name. We lift up to you all who long for just employment and those who work to defend the rights and needs of workers everywhere, including migrants. May our working and our resting all give praise to you until the day we share together in eternal rest with our departed in your Kingdom as you live and reign Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Adapted from Prayer for Labor Day; Source: Archdiocese of Detroit)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Stand with Syrians: <https://secure2.oxfamamerica.org/page/speakout/withsyria>

Send an Electronic Postcard in Support of Refugees:

[http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/issues/alert/?alertid=73598626&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/issues/alert/?alertid=73598626&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

Put an End to Abusive Private Prisons: [https://action.aclu.org/secure/ICE-private-](https://action.aclu.org/secure/ICE-private-prisons?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissue=massincarcereation_immigrantrights&emtype=petition&ms=eml_160822)

[prisons?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissue=massincarcereation_immigrantrights&emtype=petition&ms=eml_160822](https://action.aclu.org/secure/ICE-private-prisons?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissue=massincarcereation_immigrantrights&emtype=petition&ms=eml_160822)
[massincarcereation_immigrantrights_ICEprisons&_af=query_string_encrypted](https://action.aclu.org/secure/ICE-private-prisons?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissue=massincarcereation_immigrantrights&emtype=petition&ms=eml_160822)

Sign Petition Urging US to Ensure Adequate Funding for Refugee Assistance: http://cqrengage.com/jesuit/app/take-action?engagementId=238013&ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlciAxACJzTsNu0wh5rrtgTyVvWfw7zQQhSFKljRPBtngfOT7DQq2a1pZIMtCHv9PvsXdCwMZsuDH3q_jFa_p1Z48Pd-pHJjk3PRI-CgilOZ8Pj3E&lp=0

Tell DHS to Cut its Private Prison Contracts – Like the DOJ: <https://action.mijente.net/petitions/tell-the-dept-of-homeland-security-to-cut-its-private-prison-contracts-too>

Put an End to Abusive Private Prisons:

https://action.aclu.org/secure/stopCARprisons1?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissu=massincarcereation_immigrantright_s&emtype=petition&ms=eml_160817_massincarcereation_immigrantrights_CARprisonskicker&_af=query_string_encrypted

Tell the FCC: Families Shouldn't Have to Go into Debt to Communicate with their Incarcerated Loved Ones: <http://act.demandprogress.org/sign/tell-fcc-reverse-call-rate-cap-hike-now/?source=demandprogress&t=1&akid=4388.2561280.HtximM>

Sign Post Card to Pres. Obama to Raise Your Voice for Refugees: <http://bit.ly/refugeepostcard>

Call ICE to Demand that Hilda & Her Son Stay: [210-283-4711](tel:210-283-4711)

Sample Script: "Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling to ask ICE to stop the deportation of Hilda Ramirez, A # 202072764 and her son Ivan, A# 202072765. Hilda is a Guatemalan woman and an asylum seeker who fled for her life and has lived in the U.S. for 2 years. She is currently in sanctuary at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, where she has many friends that support her and where her son, Ivan, is attending school. She is anxious to be able to live outside of the church without fear of being deported. She very much wants to provide a good home for her son in the U.S. Please allow Hilda and her son, Ivan, to stay."

Sign Petition – All Refugee Children Deserve an Education: https://act.one.org/sign/education_refugees_us

Action Three: Education

DHS to Revisit For-Profit Immigration Detention Contracts: <http://grassrootsleadership.org/releases/2016/08/breaking-department-homeland-security-revisit-profit-immigration-detention>

Texas Still Trying to Block Refugees From Entering State: <http://www.houstonpress.com/news/texas-is-still-trying-to-block-refugees-from-entering-the-state-8676450>

Friends who Live in Fear – The Life of the Undocumented: <http://news.stpublicradio.org/post/2-st-louis-friends-fear-deportation-means-fear-losing-family#stream/0>

Action Four: Events/Resources

Report: Community Cages: Profitizing Community Corrections & Alternatives to Incarceration: <https://grassrootsleadership.ourpowerbase.net/sites/all/modules/civCRM/extern/url.php?u=6266&qid=598798>

Toolkit to Combat Prison Privatization: <http://www.acluohio.org/issue-information/prisons-for-profit-a-toolkit-for-film-screenings-and-discussion>

Diapers in Detention Toolkit to End Family Detention: <https://cliniclegal.org/DiapersInDetention>

See Where Your Senate Candidates Stand on Immigration: <https://networklobby.org/election2016/sidebysides>

Action Five: Social Media

Sample Tweet: [@TheJusticeDept](#) will stop using for-profit prisons! @DHSgov still gives \$\$ to lock up immigrants. @POTUS, do better http://d.shpg.org/224985208t?referring_akid=1493.498104.n7Mnc5

Thank you for your efforts!