

July 2016 - June 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement

CIVIC
end **i**solation

www.endisolation.org

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Dear Friends of CIVIC,

We are winning the fight to abolish immigration detention in the United States! In California--a state that detains a quarter of all immigrants each year--CIVIC drafted and helped pass the first law in the country to outlaw immigration detention expansion for 10 years!

Still, there is much work to do. The Trump administration has taken many steps to expand the imprisonment of mothers, fathers, children, and our friends in immigration detention. Federal data shows that 61% of immigrants given Notices to Appear in court under Trump have been detained, compared to 27% under Obama. Once they are detained, the Trump administration rarely releases asylum seekers on parole and has ended the policy of ICE bonds. What this means is that not only are more people being detained, but once they are detained, less people are being released.

In detention, we have documented widespread sexual assaults, often committed by federal officers, contracted facility guards, and even medical professionals. We also have documented how substandard medical care is contributing to the death of people in immigration detention. In fact, more people have died in immigration detention this year so far than in the same time period under the Obama administration. Other abuses include physical assaults, unlawful strip searches, forced labor, religious freedom violations, and unfortunately so much more. And we are all paying for this!

Only when we educate the hearts and minds of Americans about the brutality of this industry that profits from the imprisonment of children, their parents, and our community members will we be able to put an end to this immoral system. Five years ago, we founded CIVIC to do just that through building and expanding community visitation programs, conducting independent investigations, filing federal civil rights complaints, and lifting up the voices of people impacted by detention.

Due to the generosity of our committed partners and volunteers, this year has been a huge success despite an unfortunate political climate for immigrants. In this coming year, and with the help of our supporters, we will build a country that craves dignity not detention.

Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to abolish U.S. immigration detention, while ending the isolation of people currently suffering in this profit-driven system.

Yours in the struggle for justice,



Christina Fialho



Christina Mansfield

Join Us!



385-21-CIVIC



10701 Sampson Ave.
Lynwood, CA 90262



info@endisolation.org



facebook.com/endisolation

OUR GOAL

CIVIC's goal is to abolish U.S. immigration detention, while ending the isolation of people currently suffering in this profit-driven system.



1. We visit and monitor 43 of the largest immigration detention facilities, and we are working to start new visitation programs at 22 facilities!

2. We run the largest national immigration detention hotline, receiving over 14,000 calls from people in immigration detention per month.

3. Through these windows into the system, we gather data and stories to combat injustice at the individual level and push wide-scale systemic change.

We filed federal civil rights complaints, highlighting abuse in immigration detention.



In May 2017, CIVIC released a joint 103-page report with Human Rights Watch, documenting substandard medical care that contributed to the death of people in immigration detention.



In May 2017, CIVIC sent a letter to DHS on behalf of 115 organizations, 23 legal representatives, and 69 faith leaders and other advocates documenting 805 cases at 37 immigration detention facilities of individuals who have been arbitrarily denied parole or bond since January 20, 2017. CIVIC is working with various civil liberties organizations around the country to consider legal challenges on this issue.



In March 2017, CIVIC documented access denials and restrictions in violation of federal policy at 14 facilities in 7 states. CIVIC won a written commitment from ICE for continued visitation access. Within 24 hours of the filing of CIVIC's complaint, acting ICE Director Thomas Homan responded, indicating that "ICE appreciates the work of CIVIC and other community-based visitation programs" and that ICE has a "strong desire to continue to facilitate" CIVIC's access to immigration detention facilities.



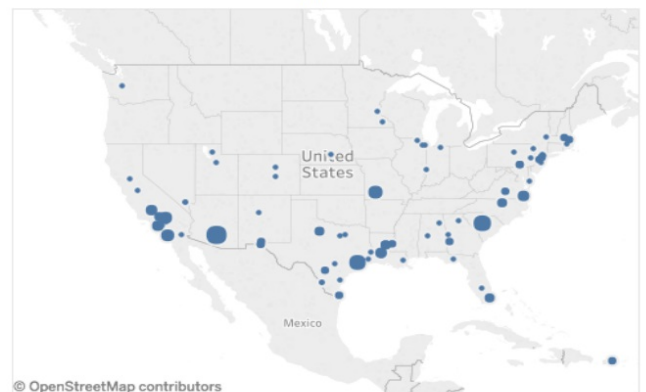
In April 2017, CIVIC documented over 33,000 complaints of sexual assault against DHS component agencies in the last 6 years. Shockingly, the government only investigated less than 1 percent of these complaints. CIVIC is working with Congressman Grijalva of Arizona and other representatives to push for a policy change that will hold ICE accountable.

OUR WORK

Deaths in ICE Custody

October 1, 2003 - April 24, 2017

Learn more at EndIsolation.org/DetentionDeaths



Our early 2016 civil rights complaint at Hudson County Correctional Facility resulted in a county resolution to create the first medical oversight committee in the immigration detention system comprised of advocates.



Our late 2015 civil rights complaint at Theo Lacy Facility contributed to a federal investigation in 2016 that improved food quality and eliminated an unlawful form of de facto solitary confinement.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS



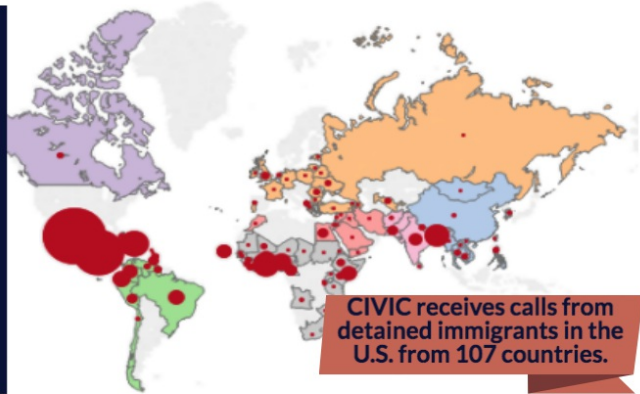
CIVIC's co-founder Christina Fialho was awarded a 2016 Ashoka Fellowship!

CIVIC is the only detention visitation network in the country monitoring the human rights abuses faced by thousands of immigrants held by ICE.

-Ashoka, October 2016

CIVIC's National Immigration Detention Hotline

"Detainees who call a hotline run by the advocacy group CIVIC complain about medical care more than any other issue. John Rubel, who was employed in the immigration detention system as a clinical psychologist, said the stories about inadequate care are true." -Elise Foley, Huffington Post



CIVIC conducted its first Congressional briefing in D.C. on LGBTQI immigrants!



CIVIC marched for black lives matter, women's rights, and an end to mass incarceration.



CIVIC was featured in actress Diane Guerrero's autobiography!



Maria Cortez with her children. CIVIC visited her at the West County Detention Facility.

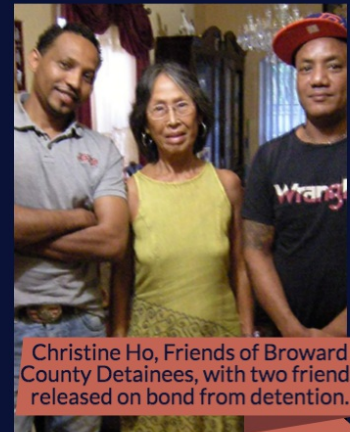
CIVIC's Network Achieved:

- 54,000 Detention Visits
- 13,000 People Visited in Detention
- 43 Visitation Programs
- 1,500 Visitor Volunteers

\$24,000 raised to bond out 9 people and give 35 families emergency grants

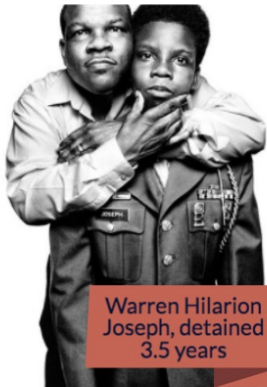
150+ media mentions, including in the New York Times, the Guardian, & the AP

CIVIC raises funds to free people from detention! For example, we raised \$5,000 to free Maria Cortez. She wept upon learning that she would be released after a brutal year and a half in detention where she was sexually assaulted. She was released on her birthday! She is so excited to be home in Salinas with her children.



Christine Ho, Friends of Broward County Detainees, with two friends released on bond from detention.

STORYTELLING WITH A PURPOSE



Warren Hilarion Joseph, detained 3.5 years

CIVIC partnered with NYU Law School to file an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case, Jennings v. Rodriguez

In the United States today, people are detained for months and even years without getting their day in court. In Jennings v. Rodriguez, the Supreme Court has the opportunity to end this practice. Our annotated brief underscores the devastating impact of long-term detention on immigrants and their families.

www.prolongeddetentionstories.org

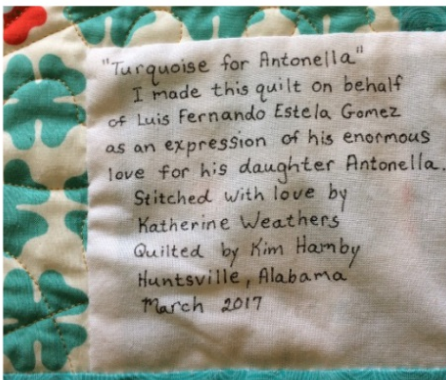


Astrid Morataya, detained 2.5 years



CIVIC launched IMM Print, the first blog to feature the voices and artwork of people in immigration detention.

CIVIC's Soros Justice Fellow Tina Shull analyzed media coverage of immigration detention over the last 8 years, finding that immigration detention is three times more visible today than in 2009. However, the complex realities of the detention system remain hidden from public view and there remains a dearth of first-hand migrant accounts. CIVIC is changing this reality!



"Turquoise for Antonella"
I made this quilt on behalf of Luis Fernando Estela Gomez as an expression of his enormous love for his daughter Antonella. Stitched with love by Katherine Weathers. Quilted by Kim Hamby. Huntsville, Alabama. March 2017

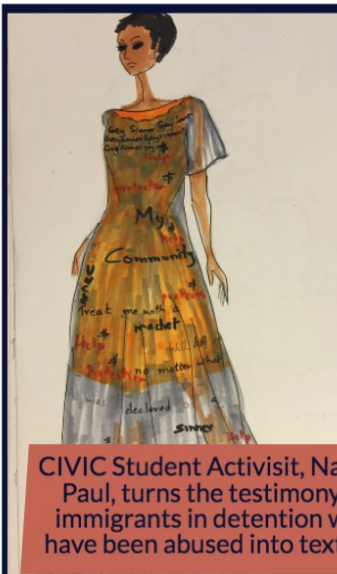
Katherine Weathers of the Etowah Visitation Program makes quilts for the children of people she visits in detention.



Immigrant fashion designer detained at the Otay Detention Facility makes clutches for volunteers out of Top Ramen wrapping and CFI worksheets.



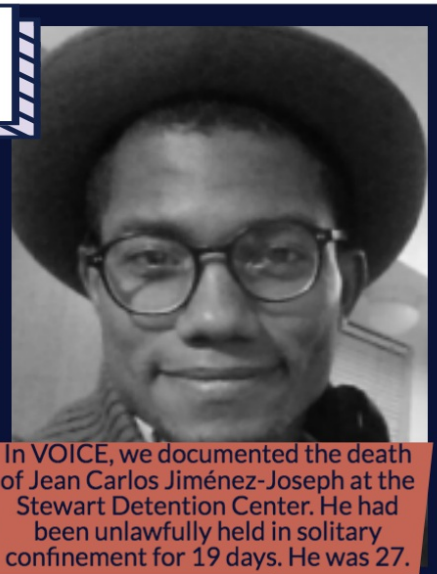
Kamal Hachem at Theo Lacy Facility says, "When I am drawing, I am not in here. I can be alone, with myself."



CIVIC Student Activist, Namita Paul, turns the testimony of immigrants in detention who have been abused into textiles.

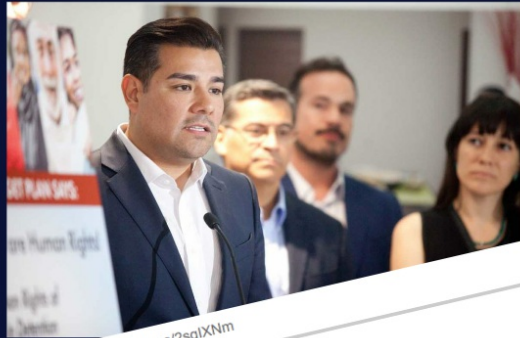
VOICE: Victims of ICE
CIVIC's weekly spotlight on crimes committed by ICE

In response to the Trump administration's creation of its agency VOICE (Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement) and its weekly "list" of crimes committed by immigrants, CIVIC began running a weekly column called VOICE (Victims Of ICE) listing human and civil rights violations committed by ICE.



In VOICE, we documented the death of Jean Carlos Jiménez-Joseph at the Stewart Detention Center. He had been unlawfully held in solitary confinement for 19 days. He was 27.

POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS



"I want to say to the folks at CIVIC and to all the people who are benefitting from the work CIVIC does day in and day out to give people respect: Don't stop. We hope to join you, and we want you to know that we got your back."

- CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra, June 16, 2017, Press Conference for AB 103

The New York Times | <https://nyti.ms/2sqIXNm>

u.s. California Aims to Quash Immigration Detention Growth

"Christina Fialho, co-founder and co-executive director of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), which helped draft the measure, said the provision is going to add much needed oversight to conditions inside detention centers while stunting their growth."

BuzzFeedNEWS

FUSION
Ban on Immigration Detention Centers Sneaks into California State Budget and Gets Approved

CIVIC drafted and helped pass the first law in the country to outlaw immigration detention expansion!

California's budget bill, AB 103, gave the Attorney General of California the power to monitor all California immigration detention facilities—both private and public. California also appropriated \$1 million dollars per year for the next 10 years for the Attorney General to oversee immigration detention facility conditions.

In addition, the state of California implemented a moratorium on all new contracts between California municipalities and the federal government for immigration detention facilities. This includes contracts for both adult and child detention facilities. About a quarter of people in immigration detention per year are detained in California.

No Detention Expansion



CIVIC established a right to in person visitation in California through AB 103!

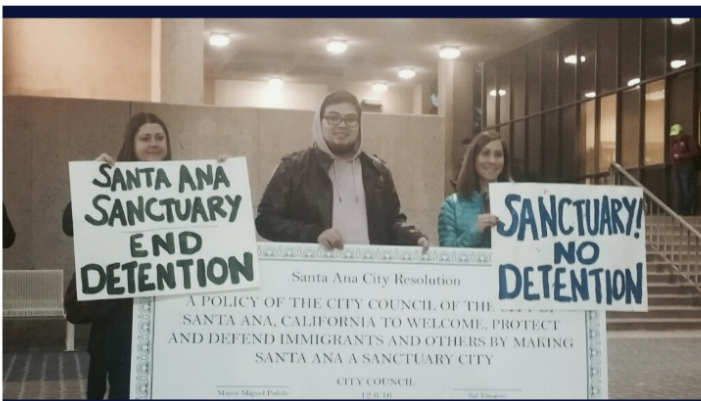


CIVIC continues to fight for the Dignity Not Detention Act, which passed the CA Senate!

JUSTICE IS NOT FOR SALE ACT

- Bans government contracts with **private prisons & private detention centers**
- Closes **family detention centers**
- Ends ICE's **34,000 detention quota**
- Reinstates the **federal parole system** to alleviate prison over-capacity
- Increases oversight to **protect detainees**

CIVIC officially endorsed Senator Bernie Sanders' Justice is Not for Sale Act!



CIVIC shut down the Santa Ana City Jail and helped the City become the first sanctuary city in Orange County

At the time of the termination, there were 94 people in immigration detention at the Santa Ana City Jail, including 35 transgender women. We worked with our partners to conduct intakes and provide direct legal support to all of the trans women plus 17 cisgender immigrants. We helped ensure the release of all but 10 people before the facility was shut down!

OUR PLANS

Over the next year, CIVIC will:

- 1) Build & support immigration detention visitation programs, visiting 20,000 people in detention;
- 2) Monitor facilities & file federal civil rights complaints to seek justice for immigrants;
- 3) Expand access to our National Hotline, connecting people to their families & our support;
- 4) Collaborate with traditional & new media journalists to expand detention coverage;
- 5) Conduct a study on alternatives to detention and jail reuse for the City of Santa Ana (CA);
- 6) Work with the CA Attorney General to implement AB 103's monitoring provisions; and
- 7) Work with state and federal legislators to continue to curb immigration detention expansion.



CIVIC's Team is Growing!

Christina Mansfield, Co-Executive Director

Christina Fialho, Co-Executive Director

Rebecca Merton, Independent Monitor/
National Visitation Coordinator

Cynthia Galaz, National Hotline Coordinator

Jan Meslin, Social Change Director

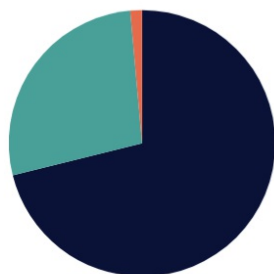
Tina Shull, Soros Justice Fellow

Eldaah Arango, Legal Associate

Gene Lockett, IT Associate

We are hiring for a full-time Communications Director & our first Regional Visitation Coordinator!

YOUR SUPPORT



■ Grants (71.11%) ■ Individuals (27.47%)
■ Churches/Companies (1.42%)

This year, we raised \$592,500, a 130% increase from last year! CIVIC thanks the many donors, volunteers, and champions whose support has been integral to our growth and progress. These committed supporters are essential partners in our work to improve the lives of people in immigration detention and their families:

Ashoka, Open Society Foundations, J.M. Kaplan Fund, Y&H Soda Foundation, Trinity Walls Street Church, Firedoll Foundation, Herb Block Foundation, Orange County Opportunity Fund, Weiss Family Foundation, Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation, Anonymous Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation

In this political climate hostile to immigrants, it is now even more important that we provide accompaniment to our friends and neighbors in immigration detention. We hope you will consider joining us and making your most generous tax-deductible donation to support our mission. Together, we will achieve dignity not detention.