

The top half of the image features a dark, moody illustration of several people, including children and adults, standing behind a chain-link fence. The scene is dimly lit, with a purple and blue color palette, suggesting a somber or restrictive environment.

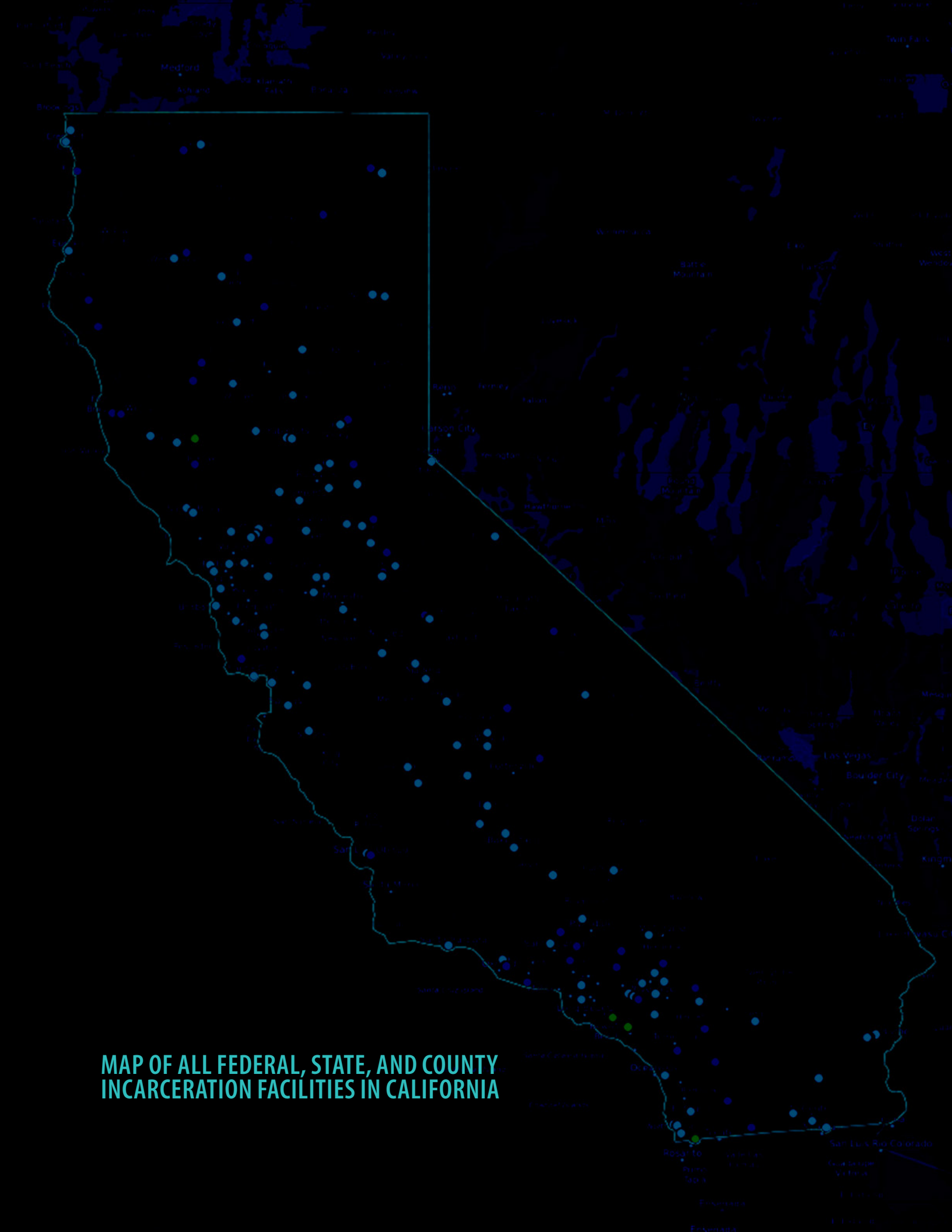
for a Pilgrimage Better Future

From the Heartbreak of Immigrant Detention to
Thriving Communities



Resource Guide
for Learning,
Reflection and
Action

MAP OF ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY INCARCERATION FACILITIES IN CALIFORNIA



ABOUT THE PILGRIMAGE

The Pilgrimage for a Better Future: From the Heartbreak of Immigrant Detention to Thriving Communities is an interfaith, spiritual pilgrimage to bear witness to the preventable human suffering caused by immigrant detention in California. This pilgrimage is a prayer for the closure of these immigrant detention facilities, for the safe releases of those on the inside, and for the transformation and thriving of local communities in our state.

From May 28th, 2022 – June 1st, 2022, a group of about 40 pilgrimage participants, composed of community members who have been detained, faith leaders, and leaders in the movement to transform carceral systems, will gather together to undertake this journey. We will stop to gather in reflection, prayer and action at the seven remaining ICE detention centers in the state and other significant sites along the way. These facilities detain thousands of immigrants in California each year, separating families and loved ones from their communities. Immigration detention does not need to exist and local communities are in dire need of different kinds of investments for a thriving and sustainable future.

The Pilgrimage For a Better Future is organized by Interfaith Movement For Human Integrity, the Dignity Not Detention coalition, local community coalitions Free Them All San Diego, Kern Rapid Response Network, Imperial Liberation Network, Shut Down Adelanto, and Yuba Liberation, and the co-collaboration of each participant who joins us on the bus and at each of the stops.

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource guide is provided so individuals, school groups, faith congregations and others can join in on the Pilgrimage journey from wherever they are, learn about immigrant detention in California and how it can be stopped, and reflect and take action for the better future that is possible.



ABOUT INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN INTEGRITY (IM4HI)

IM4HI is a California based faith-rooted organization working with congregations, faith leaders and those directly impacted for the dignity and full inclusion of immigrants and people impacted by incarceration. We bring a multi-faith voice and leadership to justice-centered movements that transform people and institutional structures to ensure the full humanity of every individual and the holistic well-being of our communities. We believe that every person is sacred across bars and borders.

<https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/>



ABOUT THE DIGNITY NOT DETENTION COALITION

The Dignity Not Detention (DND) coalition is a partnership of over 17 California organizations composed of organizers, communications experts, attorneys, and formerly incarcerated leaders, formed in 2015 to fight immigrant detention at the state level. Our collective mission is to end detention in California so that we may help pave the path to end detention nationwide.

www.facebook.com/DignityNotDetentionCA

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Manzanar Internment Camp Photo by Alexander

HISTORY OF INCARCERATION IN CALIFORNIA

Impact on Black, Indigenous and People of Color

The state of California as we now know it was built on stolen land and the genocide of Indigenous people. Spanish colonizers, including Franciscan missionaries and the Spanish military, imprisoned Indigenous people and forced them into labor in California as a key part of their strategy to take control of California's land and resources.

Prisons, jails, and other systems of incarceration have been used to control targeted groups of people, especially Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) throughout the history of the United States. In early California, Spanish settlers imprisoned indigenous people and forced them to work in missions, which were early prisons. The formal prison system, begun around the same time, was designed to control people and reinforce the norms of white settler culture. Over time, prisons and detention have been used to control Black men and women during and after the end of slavery and into the present, to control Chinese and Japanese immigrants and their children, and to threaten and control long-term residents or those trying to immigrate to the United States from Muslim, African, Central and South America nations. These systems have shaped the United States - they have been used to consolidate land, create profit for those with power, reinforce racial inequity, and suppress Black, Indigenous and people of color populations.

In California, the Immigration Station on Angel Island (1910-1940) was established to control mostly Chinese migration into the United States through a brutal and dehumanizing processes. To enforce Chinese exclusion laws, around 100,000 Chinese migrants were detained trying to enter the US. Japanese, South Asian, Korean, Russian, Jewish, Filipino, and African immigrants were also detained here, and faced various levels of hardship based on race, class, and gender.

During World War II, 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, including US citizens, were forcibly relocated into improvised government assembly centers at fairgrounds surrounded by barbed wire. All of California's residents who were of Japanese descent were rounded up in 12 assembly centers in California and 10 permanent immigration prison camps in remote areas across the country for the duration of the war.

California Department of Corrections

Since the 1970's California has led the country in a prison boom. California constructed 22 prisons between 1984 and 2013. This was accompanied by an explosion in the numbers

of people incarcerated —especially Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income folks— being sentenced for longer and longer periods of time. Today there are 34 prisons in California. Black and Brown people represent over 70% of the prison population and make up 2/3rds of those serving life sentences. The People's Plan for Prison Closure (PPPC) (<https://curbprisonspending.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Peoples-Plan-for-Prison-Closure.pdf>) has identified 10 prisons, based on the overcrowding, unsafe conditions, homicides and deaths, and inaccessibility to visitors, they are advocating to close by 2025.

For Profit Prisons

For profit companies like CoreCivic (founded in 1983) and GEO (founded in 1984) operate prisons for local, state and federal governments, including Immigration detention. Maximization of profit and the structure of their contracts, provide a per-person fee which encourages them to keep as many beds full as possible and keep their costs as low as possible. It incentivizes them to spend millions of dollars lobbying for legislation that leads to increased incarceration and immigration enforcement. CoreCivic and GEO recently converted to Real Estate Investment Trust business structures, which allows them to largely avoid taxes and provide larger dividends to investors.

In 2020, the state of California's Department of Corrections ended its final three contracts with private, for-profit prisons. Two of those, the Desert View Facility (Adelanto) & Golden State Facility (MacFarland), both run by the GEO corporation, have since re-opened as new immigration detention facilities with federal contracts to imprison immigrants for ICE.

Reflection Questions to Consider:

(Consider journaling, making art, or discussing in small groups.)

- 1) If you are not Indigenous to the land you live on, do you know whose Indigenous lands you are living on? (If not, try native-land.ca.) Are there local calls to action from Indigenous communities you can support, such as protecting sacred sites or giving land back?
- 2) How have you or your family been impacted by incarceration in California?
- 3) What does your commitment to healing the harms of incarceration look like? What is the better future you dream of?

Timeline of Immigration Policies

Immigration policies in the United States have changed and shifted over time in response to political and social pressures. This infographic created by Freedom For Immigrants presents a short history of immigrant detention.



(Infographic: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a33042eb078691c386e7bce/t/5a8c9121ec212de919d366e8/1519161665581/Short_history_of_detention.png)

Basic Facts About Immigrant Detention

Immigration detention is the government practice of incarcerating human beings while they wait for a decision on their immigration case or potential deportation. The US government runs the largest immigration detention system in the world with 200 immigration prisons or jails. 80% of adults in immigration detention are held in private prison companies such as GEO, CoreCivic, and MTC. Immigration detention in California is largely privately run, with the exception of Yuba county jail, which is the only remaining state agency to hold a contract with ICE. Private prison companies profit and local governments pad their shrinking budgets through lucrative federal contracts.

Immigrants in detention in California can be undocumented or documented immigrants, including people whose immigration status is not current, is expired or is under review. It can include people seeking asylum and legal protection at our borders. It can include visa holders who arrive at our border or an airport. It can include people who have lived here for years and decades, who may have a US citizen spouse, children or business. It can include refugees or people with a green card who have been granted the permanent right to live in the U.S. who because of a past conviction can be held in immigration detention, even after they complete their time in jail or prison and have rehabilitated or earned release.

In the US context, immigration detention is better described as immigration prison or jail as most are run by private prison companies or county jails that contract with ICE. There are only a handful of government-run facilities, but they also look and feel like a prison. Inside immigration detention, people are stripped of their wallets, documents, clothing, phones, electronics and other belongings. In immigration detention they have very limited access to a phone. They are denied access to a court appointed attorney and access to immigration attorneys is limited. There is no sentence or conviction. They do not know how long they will be detained, and there are little to no requirements that they be informed. They could be there for months or years. Sometimes authorities can detain a person for the entire time it takes to process their migration application, asylum claim, or other legal process and the person is granted the right to stay or is deported.

From Detention Watch Network: "It doesn't have to be this way. Immigration detention is not necessary or humane. People navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their loved ones and in community, not behind bars in immigration detention. They are better able to navigate their case and access legal resources outside of detention. The majority of people in detention have been living in the U.S. for

years, have families here, and are established members of their communities. People seeking asylum often have strong community ties with loved ones waiting to welcome them to the United States. And for those that need support, they can access it through community-based groups that offer services to help people navigate their immigration proceedings.”

Sources

Detention Watch Network (www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/)

Freedom For Immigrants (www.freedomforimmigrants.org/)

International Detention Coalition (idcoalition.org/)

Further resources to learn more:

Book: Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, 2015.

Book: Alexander, Michelle, and Cornel West. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, 2020.

Rematriation Resource Guide by Sogorea Te' Land Trust

The Campaign To Close All Prisons in California

Timeline on Incarceration and Immigration by Interfaith Movement For Human Integrity

Detention Statistics from Freedom For Immigrants

Detention 101 from Detention Watch Network

Just Closures

As a community, we are asking for the Just Closure of each immigrant detention facility in California and nationwide. What does Just Closures mean?

Just Closure means that each center should close and every person inside should be released to their loved ones.

Just Closure means that every center is closed and will not be repurposed as a jail, prison, or other form of detention.

Just Closure means that we create economies where people can have good jobs that contribute to the wellbeing of our communities and environments.

Just Closures can be an opportunity to transform local communities for the better by supporting community reinvestment and job development in creative and generative ways.

“**Just Closure** is the act of closing jails, prisons, and detention centers with the release of all those who are incarcerated in them, as opposed to transferring to other cages. It means completely closing them, and closing them justly.

Just closures means understanding that the prison industrial complex is the cause for all this suffering, and immigrant detention is merely an arm of it.

It means divesting from these harmful cages and investing in community-based solutions like housing and healthcare. Just Closures shifts power away from carceral actors and empower locals to reimagine public safety, health, and their community’s wellness.”

Further Resources on Just Closures:

[JustClosureGuide](#)

[Lessons From The ICE Detention Termination in Contra Costa County](#)

[Abolitionist Steps vs Reformist Reforms](#)

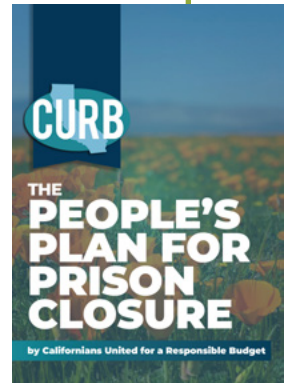
From CURB:

But don't prisons create jobs for rural local economies?

“Actually, when a new prison is opened, the vast majority of new full-time jobs go to veteran correctional personnel from other jurisdictions, not community residents. In fact, local residents of prison towns are often ineligible for prison jobs because they lack the necessary skills and/ or are unable to compete for prison jobs because of the seniority of prison job classifications....

Most of the money from prison contracts flows into large national retailers, and out of the local economy, ravaging local businesses and employing very few local residents. Prisons typically don't have to follow state environmental standards. This has led to water quality and quantity issues in California, like the prison towns of Avenal and Tehachapi, that have significantly disincentivized other businesses or economic ventures from taking root in these communities.”

(<https://curbprisonspending.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Peoples-Plan-for-Prison-Closure.pdf>)



Victories

Together, the Dignity not Detention Coalition has made progress to curb and reduce immigration detention in California and support the dignity and health of all of our community members. Here are some of our recent victories. With your help, we can build on this momentum to close ALL detention centers in California and nationally!

victory!

- ✦ Five detention facilities in California have been closed.
- ✦ In 2017, the Santa Ana Jail Contract ends!
- ✦ In 2018, Sacramento County Cancels the Rio Cosumnes Contract & the West County Contract in Contra Costa is terminated.
- ✦ In 2019, James Musick facility in Irvine and Theo Lacy facility in Orange contracts end.

victory!

- ✦ Together we have passed legislation in California to curb detention which have become models for detention reform nationwide.
- ✦ In 2017, we passed AB103 which mandated an annual state-funded review of detention centers and prohibited criminal jails from engaging in new contracts to hold immigrants for ICE.
- ✦ In 2017, we passed SB 29 which prohibited cities or counties from entering into new, or modifying existing, detention contracts with private prison companies. In 2019, the coalition helped pass AB 32, the first bill of its kind to phase out and ban for profit prisons and detention centers in California. Following a bad decision at the Ninth Circuit by a largely Trump-appointed panel, the state will have an opportunity to defend this crucial law anew during an en banc hearing on June 21st. The bill also served as a vehicle for DND to expand on the abolitionist praxis of the times, growing our base of supporters statewide.

victory!

- ✦ #ReleaseNotTransfer & #FreeThemAll
- ✦ Through community and legal coordination, thousands of people in California were released amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite ICE seeking to add three new detention facilities and increase the overall bed count, we have organized to reduce detention center numbers overall throughout the state. The #HomeNotHeartbreak campaign over the holidays, helping amplify release efforts across the state—many of which are released!

FRAMEWORK FOR PILGRIMAGE

(Acknowledgment for this framework from Dr. Joanne Doi, M.M. & Rev. Deborah Lee - PANA Pilgrimages to Manzanar and the Sacramento River Delta)

Pilgrimage is an ancient spiritual practice in many traditions and pilgrimages have evolved into modern journeys that evoke layers of meaning, collective memory, healing and ongoing commitment for justice. This pilgrimage is part of a tradition of postcolonial Pilgrimages which revisit shadowed ground, sacred traces of suffering and hope. It is a spiritual journey in which we enter in to the experience, not remain on the outside as a spectator or tourist. It is about reconnection with each other, with our ancestors, with mystery and the depth of life. It is regaining awareness of our deep connections and a return to the pivotal events in our own history or embedded narratives in the land itself.

Pilgrimage is a collective experience; a practice of remembering as resistance, reparations through memory, and emotional catharsis for compassionate action. We remember in order to heal, to recover memory, to decolonize ourselves, to restore our deeper souls. We journey together, experiencing together more than we could alone.

If you are joining from home, we invite you to reflect with us through these stages of pilgrimage.



May 28-May 31st: Watch the livestream video of our different pilgrimage stops at <https://www.facebook.com/im4humanintegrity>.)

Stage 1

MOTIVATION & LONGING (prior to departure of pilgrimage)

What is calling you to go? What do you seek to learn?

What do you seek to heal or to love? What or who are you carrying with you?

How is your life story connected to the story of people in detention?

Stage 2

PREPARATION AND DEPARTURE (Beginning of Pilgrimage- May 28th)

Shedding. Openness to the new. We cross a threshold and enter an unknown landscape. We often rely on a guide, teachers who have been there before.

We rely on each other, for it is always a new journey.

Stage 3

JOURNEY – THE WAY (May 28-May 31st: Watch the livestream video of our different pilgrimage stops at <https://www.facebook.com/im4humanintegrity>.)

All the senses.

The Encounter.

Communion with the land and the people.

Communion with the ancestors.

Community (united with)

Stage 4

RETURN AND PROMISE We are changed. (Reflections for after the end of the Pilgrimage)

How are we changed?

What do we bring back to our community?

What new commitments or promises do we make so that this experience lives on?

THE PILGRIMAGE ROUTE AND CALLS TO ACTION



Day 1 of Pilgrimage

San Quentin State Prison

Quick Facts

- **2021 Budget:** \$226,625,753
- **Population:** 3,165 (as of May 4, 2022), though the designed capacity is 3,084
- **History:** San Quentin is the oldest prison in California, built in 1852. San Quentin imprisons all men on death row in the state and has been the sole site in California for all state-sanctioned executions since 1938.
- **COVID-19 Stats:** Since March 2020, San Quentin has had 2,846 confirmed cases of COVID. Twenty-eight of those cases resulted in death.

What You Need To Know

- San Quentin is not an immigration detention facility, but it is one of the 34 correctional facilities in California that feed the “prison-to-deportation pipeline”, meaning that immigrants are handed over to ICE for detention and/or deportation following their release from jail or prison.
- San Quentin is the site of what was called the “worst epidemiological disaster in California correctional history” creating the biggest coronavirus prison outbreak in the nation. At the height of the outbreak, 75% of the prison population was infected and 29 people died of the virus.
- San Quentin houses the largest death row in the U.S. There has not been an execution since 2006 and the state has had an execution moratorium since 2019. However the death penalty is still legal, meaning hundreds of people are sitting in death row, often in solitary confinement. As of April 12, 2022, there are 689 people on death row.

Resistance: During the pandemic, organizing amplified under the leadership of advocacy, direct-service, legal, and faith communities, calling for the release of community members, to stop ICE transfers, and to honor lives lost. **Chanthon Bun** was released from San Quentin in July 2020, after serving 23 years in prison and earning parole. Chanthon was given sanctuary by a local church while he recovered from COVID, seeking protection from ICE. Chanthon is one example of how directly impacted community members are leading the ongoing resistance. **Danny Thongsy** is another directly impacted community leader who, after serving time in prison and being transferred to ICE custody, has been advocating for the release of others and organizing for policy change.



Vigil at San Quentin honoring the lives lost during the pandemic, July 2020.
Original photo by Joyce Xi, @joycexiphotography

How you can take action

- 🕒 Help us pass the VISION Act (AB 937) and stop ICE transfers: bit.ly/VISIONAct
- 🕒 Advocate for the release of community members who have earned release from San Quentin and other prisons:
 - Phoeun You (Transferred from San Quentin to Mesa Verde ICE Detention Facility)
 - Lee Yang (Approaching parole date from San Quentin, facing an ICE transfer)
 - Binh Vo (Transferred from San Quentin to Mesa Verde ICE Detention Facility)
 - Sheila Sikat (Approaching parole date from Central California Women's Facility, facing an ICE transfer)
- 🕒 Join the efforts to Stop San Quentin Outbreak: <https://stopsqoutbreak.org/>
- 🕒 Join the Campaign to Close the Top 10 Prisons in CA in the next 5 years: <https://curbprisonspending.org/>

Who to contact if you want to be involved

Gala King, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity gking@im4humanintegrity.org
 Hien Nguyen, Asian Prisoner Support Committee hien@asianprisonersupport.org
 Chanthon Bun, Asian Law Caucus chanthonb@advancingjustice-alc.org
 Isabella Borgeson, Ella Baker Center isabella@ellabakercenter.org

Links to further reading and viewing

Learn about who's impacted by ICE transfers:

"Her murder conviction was overturned. US Immigration still wants to deport here"
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/02/conviction-overturned-deport-sandra-castaneda-immigration-california>

Learn about the outbreak:

#StopSanQuentinOutbreak Coalition Video by Adamu Chan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScScUU0gktA>

Hear from voices inside San Quentin about the outbreak: <https://stopsqoutbreak.org/testimonials/>

Learn about how to apply and advocate for a clemency for family and directly impacted persons:

<http://bit.ly/clemencyguide22>

Yuba County Jail (YCJ), Marysville, CA

Quick Facts

- **Contract Parties:** ICE and Yuba County Board of Supervisors
- **Contract dates:** 2004-2099
- **Terms:** Government pays for 150 beds/day guaranteed. The facility is paid more than \$8.66 million per year whether there are 0 or 150 people imprisoned. As of May 2022, there are 4 people detained. Yuba is the last county in California to have a contract with ICE to detain immigrants in one of its jails.

What You Need To Know

- The jail has been under the mandatory supervision of a federal court since 1979. Yet for over 40 years, the jail still has not met constitutionally minimum standards and conditions.
- Those inside have actively engaged in numerous hunger strikes around horrific conditions, insufficient time out of cells, retaliation, and inappropriate use of solitary confinement that has unfortunately led to many deaths.
- There have been many suicide attempts and medical emergencies. In a span of two years, there were at least 41 suicide attempts, the most recent death by suicide at YCJ occurred on December 1, 2021.

Personal Stories

Carlos Saucedo is a formerly detained leader of the Yuba Liberation Coalition. He was detained at Yuba County Jail (YCJ) for over two years where despite enduring psychological, emotional and physical abuse, he staged hunger strikes to protest the horrible conditions and treatment. Carlos and other detained leaders were instrumental in the liberation of incarcerated immigrants from (YCJ), the jail went from 127 detainees in May 2020 to zero in late 2021. Even though ICE began repopulating YCJ in December of 2021, Carlos has been fighting tirelessly along with his wife for the liberation of the 4 men currently detained and the termination of the contract.

www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/I-ve-done-time-in-12-California-prisons-Yuba-16804293.php



How you can take action

The Yuba Board of Supervisors can terminate the contract at any time. Contact the Board of Supervisors to call on them to break ties with ICE.

Who to contact if you want to be involved:

eunice@pangealegal.org

Links to further reading

“It’s the last county jail used by ICE. And he’s the only immigrant detainee inside it”
San Francisco Chronicle, Nov 20, 2021

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/It-s-the-last-California-jail-used-by-ICE-And-16635713.php>





March 22, 2022. The Yuba Liberation Coalition and supporters calling on the Board of Supervisors to terminate the contract with ICE and for the liberation of the four men in ICE custody.

Day 2 of Pilgrimage

Mesa Verde / Golden State Annex

Quick Facts

- **Contract parties:** between ICE and GEO Group Inc. One contract technically governs three facilities including Mesa Verde ICE processing Center, Golden State MCCF, and a third unpopulated facilitated, Central Valley MCCF.
- **ICE contract terms:** After AB 32 was passed outlawing private prisons in California, a 5 year contract between ICE and GEO was signed in December 2019. The contract stipulates two 5 year extensions, but the legality of the contract is questionable. The guaranteed minimums are 320 (Mesa Verde), 560 (Golden State); the minimum for Central Valley is currently unavailable. Mesa Verde first opened for immigration in 2015, Golden State opened 2020, and Central Valley is permitted but not yet populated. GEO previously contracted with California to use Golden State and Central Valley as state prisons, and the land and facilities are privately owned by GEO.
- **Total capacity is:** 1,800 (Mesa Verde 400, Golden State 700, Central Valley 700)
- As of April 2022, there are a total of 880 people at these facilities (Mesa Verde 320, Golden State 128, and 0 at Central Valley).

What You Need To Know

- **Medical Neglect:** Medical neglect of all forms, including mental health is a serious problem at Mesa Verde. Several nonprofits demanded an investigation into the death of Mr. Choung Woong Ahn, who died by suicide on May 17, 2020 after being placed in an isolation cell in conditions akin to solitary confinement and possibly in violation of several state and federal medical standards.
- **Unsanitary conditions:** Contributing to the spread of COVID-19, Mesa Verde living conditions are unequivocally unsafe. People report that many toilets don't work and dozens of people are often forced to share 2 toilets and 1 urinal. Bathroom floors are covered in dirty, standing water filled with bugs.
- **COVID-19 Failures:** People detained at Mesa Verde reported a serious lack of COVID-19 protocols and care, having to resort to hunger strikes for better care. Early in the pandemic a judge stated that ICE had "avoided widespread testing of staff and [detained people] at the facility, not for lack of tests but for fear that positive test results would require them to implement safety measures."

Personal Stories

Video: Detention into Death Sentence, video by IM4HI uplifting voices of detained fathers, son, brothers, and grandfathers inside Mesa Verde
The Survivor, Stories of People Released from ICE Detention During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Original photo by Peg Hunter

Links to further reading

DRC and Advocates File Complaint Responding to Death at Mesa Verde Detention Facility, Calling for federal and state investigation into the suicide at the ICE facility, <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/press-release/drc-and-advocates-file-complaint-responding-to-death-at-mesa-verde-detention-facility>

Day 3 of Pilgrimage

Otay Mesa Detention Center, San Diego, CA (OMDC)

Quick Facts

- **Contract Parties:** between ICE and CoreCivic, also between Federal Marshalls and CoreCivic
- **ICE contract dates:** 2019-2024
- **ICE contract terms:** After AB 32 was passed outlawing private prisons in California, a 5 year contract between ICE and CoreCivic was signed in December 2019. The contract stipulates two 5 year extensions, but the legality of the contract is questionable. Guaranteed minimum beds is 750. The current facility opened in 2010, taking over from San Diego Contract Facility that opened in 1977. The land the facility is on is privately owned by CoreCivic.
- **Total capacity:** 896
- As of April 2022, there are 751 persons at OMDC.

What You Need To Know

- **Medical neglect:** People detained at OMDC report that they have difficulty accessing adequate medical care. They report problems accessing medications and medical equipment consistently; routinely being offered over the counter pain management for serious conditions, rather than appropriate tests and treatments; and difficulty making appointments with specialists.
- **COVID-19 failures:** CoreCivic utterly failed to respond appropriately for most of the pandemic, failing to provide adequate PPE, limiting testing, and neglecting proper quarantine protocols. They released dozens of medically vulnerable detainees only when forced, due to an ACLU lawsuit. As a result, hundreds of people in custody at OMDC became sick and one person – Carlos Escobar Meijia – died.
- **Federal Marshall's custody:** In addition to detaining asylum seekers and people fighting their deportations, OMDC is also used by the Federal Marshalls to detain people being charged with an immigration related federal offense, such as illegal re-entry. The number of people being held under Marshall's custody, as well as their conditions is not always included in information about OMDC. They are an invisible population.

Personal Stories

YouTube video of Leticia Sierra

Published testimonies on the Detention Resistance web site

Detention Resistance podcast

Free Them All San Diego political education event “Testimonies of Migration, Detention, and Solidarity”

How you can take action

Call to demand medical care for Hever

If you are a healthcare professional or medical student, apply for Detention Resistance’s Medical Advocacy Summer Fellowship

Volunteer for one of our coalition members, providing direct support to detained and recently released people. For example, Detention Resistance is seeking hotline volunteers, post-release temporary housing, drivers to transport released people, letter writers/pen pals, and more.

Who to contact if you want to be involved

freethemallsandiego@gmail.com

[@FreeThemAllSD](#)

Links to further reading

Compounding Suffering During a Pandemic: A Case Study in ICE’s Detention Failures

<https://www.afsc.org/story/compounding-suffering-during-pandemic>

America’s Immigration System is a COVID Spreader <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/americas-immigration-system-is-a-covid-superspreader/>

Testimony from Leticia Sierra formally detained at Otay Mesa Detention Center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOcNSeszCwM>



Leticia Sierra. Photo AFSC

Day 4 of Pilgrimage

Imperial Regional Detention Facility in Calexico, CA

Quick Facts

- **Contract Parties:** between ICE and Management and Training Corporation (MTC)
- **Contract dates:** 2014 - Unknown
- **Terms:** Government pays for 640 beds/day guaranteed.
- The land is owned by “Imperial Valley Gateway Center.”
- MTC is paid \$45 million per year whether there are 100 or 600 people imprisoned.
- As of April 2022, the average daily population is 508 people.

What You Need To Know

- There is a lengthy history of retaliatory solitary confinement being weaponized by MTC against detained organizers at Imperial. In October 2021, following California’s passage of the Accountability in Detention Act, MTC was the first private prison company to be sued for damages in the state. Carlos Murillo, who grew up in Imperial County, was held in solitary confinement at Imperial for more than a year.
- Earlier this year, nine organizers inside Imperial filed a civil rights complaint regarding the ongoing and hazardous air, dust, mold, and drinking water contamination. People inside are subjected to uniquely dangerous detention conditions due to a combination of poor ventilation and air filtration at the facility, as well as the toxic environmental pollution in Imperial County, which includes high levels of deadly air pollutants like ozone and particulate matter.
- MTC, the private prison company that operates Imperial, bills itself as the more “caring” or “humane” private incarcerator to CoreCivic/CCA or GEO. MTC’s motto, posted around Imperial’s walls and on staff uniform pins, is “BIONIC,” which stands for “Believe It Or Not, I Care.” MTC also has strong relationships with governments and organizations with power and influence around the area through an established “Community Council”. However, MTC has its own lengthy track records of abuse and impunity, both in Imperial as well as many other notorious ICE detention facilities across the country.

Personal Stories

Donald Varela Fernandez, a Costa Rican immigrant whose dream is to live a safe life as a gay man, recently experienced a brutal and torturous experience at the intersection of the medical industrial complex and ICE/MTC detention. Last month, Donald was able to advocate for an urgently needed back surgery, due to injuries sustained before he fled home. However, during his time at the hospital, despite the on-site physician directing that he be allowed to get up and stretch, ICE and contracted Spectrum Security guards kept him chained to his bed for two weeks, even though he was desperate to move his body in order to be able to heal. Donald was also deprived of phone access the entire time, and thus deprived of access to counsel. ICE stonewalled his pro bono legal team & refused to disclose where he was until a legal assistant went to their office at Imperial. His Deportation Officer continues to engage in inappropriate and harmful behavior such as mocking his situation and expressing pride in their plans to deport him back to danger. Despite the risk of further retaliation for his advocacy, Donald intends to keep speaking out and working with others toward liberation.

At the beginning of this month, **Ramon Dominguez**, who has been detained at Imperial for over 3 years, worked with others inside to launch a campaign to demand sunscreen and weather-appropriate clothing and hats, especially for all the detained workers on detail outdoors. Despite the fact that it is well-known that there is a “very high risk of harm from unprotected sun exposure” in the area, a MTC employee told detained organizers that the only way they would ever receive any free sunscreen is if they showed up at the medical unit “very badly sunburnt.” Recently, the campaign has succeeded in getting MTC to offer some mini-tarps for shade and sunscreen provided outside.

How you can take action

Pages Not Cages book drive

bit.ly/pagesnotcages to donate a book to an individual

bit.ly/pagesnotcagesdonate to donate to the library of IRDF

Whom to contact if you want to be involved: (optional)

rmerton@freedomforimmigrants

Links to further reading (optional)

The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity by Jessica Ordaz. Bounded by desert and mountains, El Centro, California, is isolated and difficult to reach. However, its location close to the border between San Diego and Yuma, Arizona, has made it an important place for Mexican migrants attracted to the valley's

agricultural economy. In 1945, it also became home to the El Centro Immigration Detention Camp. *The Shadow of El Centro* tells the story of how that camp evolved into the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service Processing Center of the 2000s and became a national model for detaining migrants—a place where the policing of migration, the racialization of labor, and detainee resistance coalesced.

Book review by Megan Ybarra (University of Washington) on Jessica Ordaz's *The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity*. Antipode Online June 2021 https://antipodeonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Book-review_Ybarra-on-Ordaz.pdf



The exterior of the Imperial Regional Detention Facility in Calexico. Immigration and Customs Enforcement contracts with Management and Training Corporation to hold people in ICE custody at the facility. (photo John Gibbins/San Diego Union-Tribune)

Adelanto Detention Facility and Desert View Annex

Quick Facts

- **Contract Parties:** Contract Detention Facility (CDF) U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement and GEO Group Inc. Land use permits issued by the city of Adelanto.
- **Contract dates:** 2011– Present
- After AB 32 was passed outlawing private prisons in California, a 5 year contract between ICE and GEO was signed in December 2019. The contract stipulates two 5 year extensions, but the legality of the contract is questionable.
- **Terms:** Government pays for 2,690 beds/day guaranteed. GEO pays the City of Adelanto a bed tax of \$1 per bed, occupied or not, per day, for the detention center and the GEO-owned state prison located next door, Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facility, as well as \$50,000 for facilitating the subcontract with ICE, according to the 2016 development agreement between GEO and the city of Adelanto.

As part of the contractual arrangement, GEO pays the city more than \$1 million in annual fiscal mitigation payments and administrative fees.

What You Need To Know

- The Adelanto Detention Facility (Adelanto) has been detaining people since 2011, when the City of Adelanto entered into a contract with ICE and the GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) to detain 975 people. Since then, ICE has expanded the facility to detain 2,690 people, making the Adelanto Detention Facility the largest ICE detention center in the West Coast.
- Advocates, the California Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General have documented the long list of human rights abuses at Adelanto, including inadequate health care, sexual assault, use of solitary confinement, and mistreatment.
- In 2017, three people died within three months, including Osmar Epifanio Gonzalez-Gabba, Sergio Alonso Lopez, and Vicente Cáceres Madariaga. There have been at least seven attempted suicides at the facility, which underscores the severity of conditions.

Read Mario's story here:

<http://bit.ly/FreeMarioToolkit>

Desert View Annex

Desert View Annex was previously a GEO-run California State Prison which the state of California shuttered in 2020. The facility's usage was immediately modified as a federal contract with ICE to detain up to 750 male and female immigrants. As of May, Desert View Annex's daily average population is 92.

Resistance

Since 2015, the Immigrant Stations of the Cross prayer service held in front of the Adelanto detention center has been a time to pray together, share stories of the struggles of people held inside, and also to advocate for the shut down of this facility.

How you can take action

Commit to advocate and vote to defund ICE and CBP for the fiscal year 2023.

Commit to working with the ShutDown Adelanto Coalition to routinely inspect and tour both the Adelanto Detention Center and the Desert View Annex.

Links to further reading

Video: Adelanto, CA Toxic Tour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGx1gXslZeA>

"Inside Adelanto, California's largest immigration detention facility"

<https://curious.kcrw.com/2017/06/inside-adelanto-californias-largest-immigration-detention-facility>

'We don't feel OK here'

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-adelanto-detention-20170808-story.html>

LA Times article from 2017, written following the 5th suicide in the facility since 2011.

"California Takes a Stand Against Immigrant Detention"

www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/15/california-takes-stand-against-immigrant-detention

Published by Human Rights Watch, the report outlines how California's current budget blunts the effect of the U.S. Administration's Immigrant Detention.

"How a Private Prison Giant Has Continued to Thrive in a State That Wants it Out"

<https://www.desertsun.com/in-depth/news/2020/01/24/private-prison-giant-geo-thrives-california-state-wants-out/2589589001/>

Who to contact if you want to be involved

Hilda Cruz, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity hacruz@im4humanintegrity.org

Lizbeth Abeln, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice lizbeth@ic4ij.org

Berto Hernandez, California Immigrant Youth Justice alliance bhernandez@ciyja.org

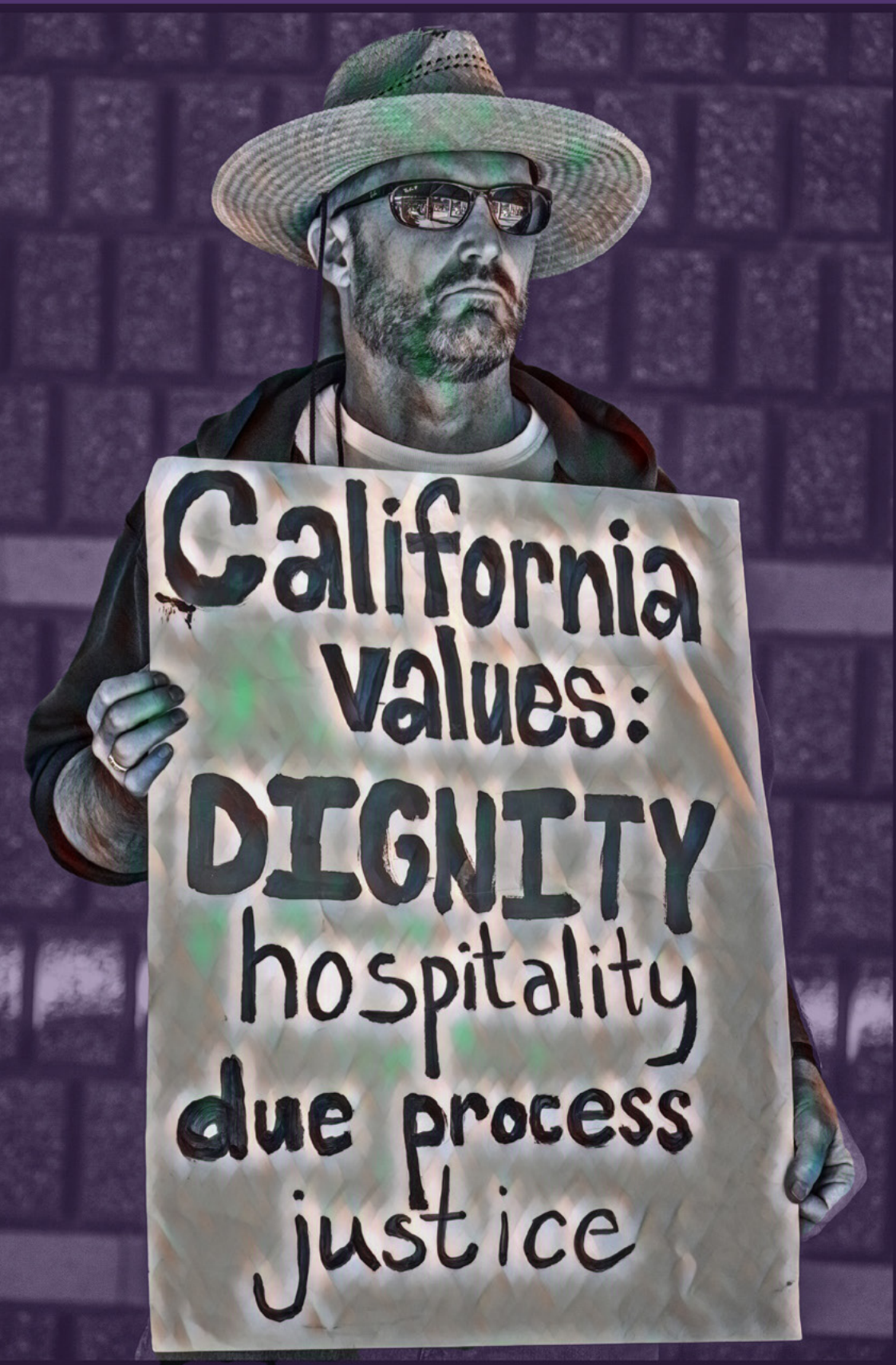


Photo original by David Bacon

PILGRIMAGE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Our Pilgrimage Prayer

- 1) Honoring the Earth: (Hands palms down and open receiving the energy of the earth)

Honoring what was here before. The memory of this land and water and wildlife. A time before jails and prisons. A time when indigenous values and knowledge and ways of being lived in this place. **What do we feel?**

- 2) The Cries of those Detained: (Hands up just above the head, palms facing each other)

We hold our hands up listening to the cries of those who are currently in detention. **What do we hear?**

We hear their anguish, their despair, their fear, their waiting. Not knowing how long, what will happen or when. May we listen and hold their suffering.

- 3) The Heartbreak of Detention: (Hands together on the heart)

We bring our hands to our hearts, for all those whose hearts are broken by detention. Children, partners, parents, families, neighbors and friends. The pain and hurt of forced separation. The pieces that fall apart. We recognize daily impact on families and communities. And the ways they are keeping hope, supporting their detained loved ones, organizing and resisting. **How are they surviving?**

- 4) Shedding what is not Serving: (Brushing motion down the the forearms (alternating))

What is it that needs to be shed and brushed away?

What is it that no longer serves humanity and thriving communities?

- 5) Transformation and Community: (Arms open extending towards each other)

Civil Rights and Black Freedom Movement leader Rev. Phil Lawson, says, “The opposite of slavery is not freedom, but community.”

What does transformation look like?

What is the strength of our community?



Photo original by David Bacon

“Pilgrimage is a journey that frees the pilgrim from all that prevents heart-unity with others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

“If anyone saves a life, it is as if they have saved All of Humankind.”

from Qur'an and Talmud

***“That we should want for our brothers and sisters
what we want for our families, children and ourselves.”***

beloved prophet Muhammed (pbuh)

***Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?***

***Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?***

Isaiah 58 6-7

***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.***

Luke 4 18-19

Cantares

<i>Peregrino no hay camino se hace camino al andar.</i>	<i>Pilgrim, there is no road, the road is made as we go.</i>
<i>Caminante son tus huellas</i>	<i>The road you march, lonely wanderer</i>
<i>El camino, y nada más</i>	<i>It's just your tracks, nothing much.</i>
<i>Caminante no hay camino</i>	<i>There is no road, lonely wanderer.</i>
<i>Se hace camino al andar</i>	<i>The road is made as you march.</i>
<i>Al andar se hace camino</i>	<i>As you move on paths appear.</i>
<i>Y al volver la vista atrás</i>	<i>And upon glancing behind,</i>
<i>Se ve la senda que nunca</i>	<i>You contemplate lanes and byways.</i>
<i>Se ha de volver a pisar</i>	<i>Where you shall never go back.</i>
<i>Caminante, no hay camino</i>	<i>There is no road, lonely wanderer.</i>
<i>Solo estelas en la mar</i>	<i>Just wakes at sea, only that.</i>

Antonio Machado, "Proverbios y cantares" in Campos de Castilla (1912)

Declarando Libertad (Proclaiming Freedom)

Levantando los brazos hacia el cielo (raising our arms to the heavens)

Declaramos que ser libres es un derecho de nuestra divina humanidad

We declare that being free is a right of our divine humanity

Declaramos que la tierra solo le pertenece a Dios y no es propiedad de algunos

We declare that the earth belongs only to God and is not owned by some

Declaramos libertad para los hijos y las hijas de Dios

We declare freedom for the sons and daughters of God

Rev. Rhina Ramos, United Church of Christ Minister, Ministerio Latino

We call upon the earth, our planet home, with its beautiful depths and soaring heights, its vitality and abundance of life, and together we ask that they:

Teach us, and show us the way.

We call upon the mountains, the Cascades and the Olympics, the high green valleys and meadows filled with wild flowers, the snows that never melt, the summits of intense silence, and we ask that they:

Teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the waters that rim the earth, horizon to horizon, that flow in our rivers and streams, that fall upon our garden and fields, and we ask that they:

Teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil, the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards, and we ask that they:

Teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots and the heaven in their branches, the fir and the pine and the cedar, and we ask them to:

Teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and the seas, our brothers and sisters the wolves and deer, the eagle and dove, the great whales and the dolphin, the beautiful Orca and salmon who share our Northwest home, and we ask them to:

Teach us and show us the way.

We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built, and with thanksgiving, we call upon them to:

Teach us and show us the way.

And lastly, we call upon all that we hold most sacred, the presence and power of the Great Spirit of love and truth which flows through all the universe...to be with us to:

Teach us and show us the way.

What prayers and reflections would you like to offer for a better future?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



EVERY HUMAN PERSON IS SACRED ACROSS ALL BORDERS
IM4HUMANINTEGRITY.ORG

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

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www.facebook.com/DignityNotDetentionCA