

24 de Marzo 2022

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Commentary/Comentario

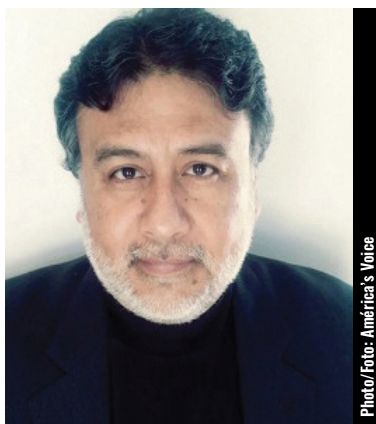
Solidarity with Immigrants Shouldn't Make Distinctions

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

As European countries and other nations around the world receive, with open arms, Ukrainian refugees fleeing from the bloody Russian invasion, in this part of the planet, heart-breaking stories of thousands of other migrants continue to arise. Those trying to come to the United States or its territories—many with the hope of obtaining asylum—find themselves in a permanent duel against death, which often wins. On that, the tally of deaths has not been low in recent months. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), at least 650 people lost their lives in 2021 attempting to cross the U.S.-México border—a strip of land that, on top of being the most transited, guarded, and with the largest commercial exchange in the world, has also turned into a graveyard of hopes. But that is not the only geographic area on this hemisphere where migrants are risking everything, even their lives. Some days ago, news circulated about a group of Haitian migrants, rescued in their attempts to



Photo/Foto: América's Voice



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

come to Puerto Rico from their home country. According to press reports, the group was made up of 51 adults and nine infants. The nine babies died on the journey, and the captain ordered their bodies to be thrown into the sea where, according to survivors, they were devoured by sharks. The Customs Office in Puerto Rico confirmed the rescue, but clarified that they could not corroborate information about the babies dying, having been thrown into the sea and eaten by sharks, despite the fact that a Haitian religious activist helping them confirmed that the mothers themselves narrated this horrible scene. No mother could lie about this sem-

inal loss, much less forget the time or circumstances. This will always be the "before" and "after" of their fractured migration experience. Unfortunately, this is neither the first nor the last time this horror story will be told. Here there were survivors who confirmed what happened. That journey to Puerto Rico, through the gloomy "Canal de la Mona," (Mona Passage), which connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Caribbean Sea, is undertaken especially by Dominicans and Haitians and, more recently by other nationalities, with the hope of reaching U.S. soil and from there, moving on to the continental U.S. somehow. They are the "carne de la mar"

(meat of the sea), as the Dominican musician Juan Luis Guerra put it in his song "Visa para un sueño" (Visa for a dream). And when the visa transforms into death, instead, every moment in that journey becomes a memorial to the eternities, the voices, and the longings of those who wanted, anxiously, to reach the other side of hope. In Puerto Rico, undocumented immigrants arrive by sea on a daily basis. Some arrive and are detained and deported; others, if they request asylum, can be sent to Miami to continue the process; another group doesn't live to tell the tale and ends up forming part of this human mass that risks their lives at various points around the world, every day, looking for opportunity and refuge. That is, the vast and moral desert that marks the route toward the U.S. border is also a migrant cemetery, as is the Caribbean Sea and many other places around the world. But as we are focused on the United States, this most recent tragedy involving Haitians is a sad and outrageous reminder of the urgency of action on immigration reform so that it legalizes undocumented people and

“The solidarity with Ukrainians refugees confronted by Russian barbarism is to be applauded. But at the same time, this same solidarity should be shown toward refugees from other nations and of other colors, whose lives are also worthy.”

also reform asylum laws to make them more humane and efficient. And this is not a demand that should be made in a vacuum, since like it or not, human displacement constantly tests the world and its infrastructure, including this division between nations who have everything—not through an act of magic but because throughout history they became pillagers—and poor nations, who were historically the pillaged. In the short run and without congressional intervention, it's time for the Biden administration to stop applying the nasty Title 42 first implemented by Donald Trump

See [Hastings/Torres](#) on page 17

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La Solidaridad Hacia Migrantes No Debe Hacer Distinciones

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Mientras países europeos y otras naciones a través del mundo reciben con brazos abiertos a los refugiados ucranianos que huyen de la sangrienta invasión rusa, en esta parte del planeta se siguen suscitando historias desgarradoras de otros miles de migrantes. Sí, de esos que buscando llegar a Estados Unidos o a sus territorios—muchos de ellos con la esperanza de recibir asilo—enfrentan un duelo permanente contra la muerte, en el que muchas veces esta sale ganando.

Al respecto, la cifra de muertes de migrantes no ha sido menor en los meses recientes. Según la Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM), al menos 650 personas perdieron la vida en 2021 al intentar el cruce de la frontera México-Estados Unidos; una franja territorial que además de ser la más transitada, vigilada y la de mayor intercambio comercial en el mundo, también se ha convertido en un cementerio de esperanzas.

Pero no es la única área geográfica de este hemisferio en la que los migrantes arriesgan todo, incluso la vida.

“Uno aplaude la solidaridad con los refugiados ucranianos ante la barbarie de Rusia. Pero al mismo tiempo, uno quisiera que esa misma solidaridad se mostrara hacia refugiados de otras naciones y de otros colores, cuyas vidas tienen el mismo valor.”

Hace varios días circuló la noticia de un grupo de migrantes haitianos rescatados en su intento de arribar a Puerto Rico procedentes de su país. Según reportes de prensa, eran 51 adultos y nueve infantes. Los nueve bebés fallecieron en el trayecto y el capitán ordenó que sus cuerpecitos fueran lanzados al mar, donde, según

Vea [Hastings/Torres/Esp](#), página 16

Texas' Bounty Hunter Abortion Ban is a Dire Warning of What Lays Ahead



Photo: ACLU

Chelsea Tejada

For more than six months, people in Texas have been unable to access abortion in the state beyond the earliest weeks of pregnancy. The state's extreme, privately-enforced abortion ban, SB 8, has cut off health care for millions — but it didn't have to be this way. Before the law took effect, we helped Texas abortion providers and abortion support networks bring a [legal challenge](#) in federal court that presented the U.S. Supreme Court with the opportunity to protect pregnant Texans and their families by exercising its power to block SB 8. Instead, the court refused to act, allowing the

law to take effect while the litigation proceeded. Subsequent decisions by both the U.S. Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Texas have ended the possibility of any relief from our lawsuit. Unfortunately, this means that SB 8 will likely remain in effect for the foreseeable future.

On the ground, SB 8 is wreaking havoc. Although the law has prohibited access to most abortions in the state, Texans continue to need and seek abortion care. Those with the resources to do so have been forced to flee the state. Individuals with the means to take time off work, find childcare, and pay for transportation have made long journeys to clinics in other states in order to access abortion. Providers thousands of miles away now report seeing Texas patients, and neighboring states — such as Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma — are overwhelmed with Texas patients. The influx of patients has caused weeks-long wait times in appointments for both traveling Texans and local patients alike. Even for those who are able to access care, SB 8's delays from travel and wait times are pushing them later into pregnancy. Although

abortion is very safe, and much safer than childbirth, each week of unnecessary delay increases the risks of the procedure.



What is happening in Texas is not an anomaly, but a harbinger of what may come for reproductive rights in the United States.

For pregnant Texans beyond six weeks' gestation who cannot overcome the difficult and costly barriers to leaving the state, SB 8 forecloses access to legal abortion and forces them to continue their pregnancies. The devastating impacts of forced pregnancy will be felt most by already marginalized communities, including people of color and low-income families. For example, undocumented immigrants in South Texas may fear interstate travel due to internal immigration checkpoints, and young people may be unable to take time away from school to get medical

care far from home. And it is Black women who will suffer the brunt of the sometimes-deadly effects of forced pregnancy: Texas has a severe maternal mortality crisis, and Black women are [three times more likely than white women](#) to die during pregnancy or as a result of childbirth. Abortion bans hurt pregnant people and their families.

To help individuals avoid state-imposed forced pregnancy, abortion providers, funds, and practical support networks have stepped up to assist as many Texans as possible in accessing care in

state before six weeks or traveling out of state. Clinics have expanded hours to offer more appointments, abortion funds have increased financial support to help cover the cost of more abortions, and practical support networks have ramped up helping individuals with the costs and logistics of travel, lodging, and childcare.

While these efforts are nothing short of heroic, they are not necessarily sustainable long-term or on a larger scale. Conservative

See Tejada on page 16

The Federal Backlog That's Hurting Immigrants — and Our Economy



Photo: Tahirih Justice Center

Payal Sinha

Why are so many employers struggling to find workers right now? One reason is the unprecedented federal backlog of work permits for immigrants.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency that issues these permits, is sitting on [1.4 million](#) applications, leaving applicants in limbo for months or even years.

U.S. employers are required to ensure their employees — regardless of citizenship or national origin — are allowed to work legally. For native-born Americans, that may mean simply providing a Social Security number.

For immigrants, however, it means supplying an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), essentially a piece of plastic that allows them to work legally in the United States for an extended period. The permitting backlog is a major obstacle for these workers.

An immigrant's ability to work is critical to their survival. Procedural delays are an added stress for those who may already struggle to find money for rent, child care, and food for their family.

For example, if an applicant waiting for an EAD renewal doesn't receive the physical card in time to show to their employer, they will likely lose their job. Even when the agency mails a letter confirming that the document has been renewed and the card is on its way, most employers don't understand this and fire the employee.

These workers don't just lose their income. They can also lose their health insurance, the ability to renew or apply for a driver's license, and unemployment benefits, to name just a few consequences. In other cases, immigrants aren't able to apply for work at all.



Policymakers should create policies that protect an immigrant's right to work — and therefore their right to live.

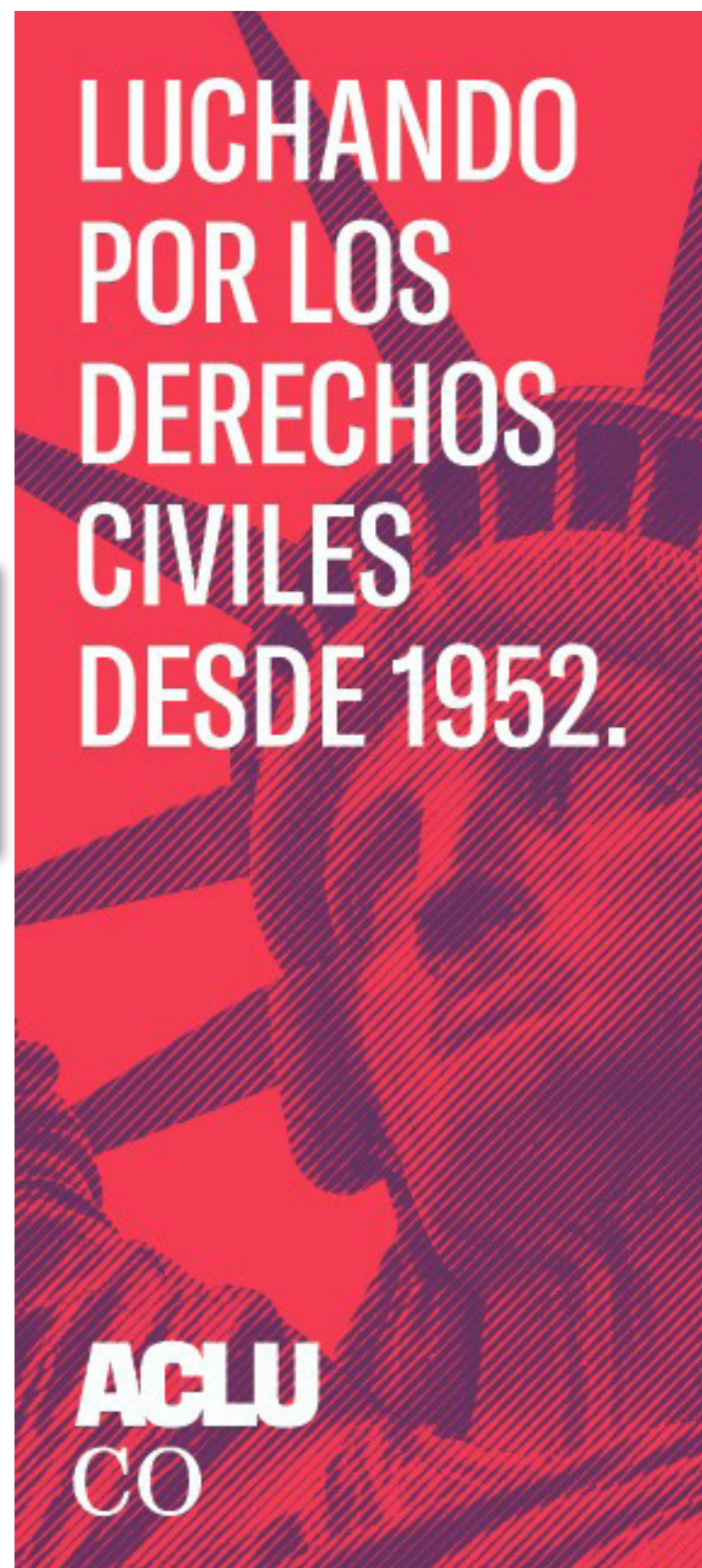
The Tahirih Justice Center, which supports immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, has seen some of our clients wait for nearly a year for their EAD renewals to get approved, costing them their jobs and medical insurance during the scariest time in their lives.

Tahirih's attorneys make their best efforts to file service and ombudsman inquiries to ensure proper assistance, but the USCIS continues to fail those who need help.

These problems date back years, but the previous administration in particular made a concerted effort to ["weaponize"](#) and restrict work permits, as *Politico* reported in 2020.

That year, approximately 75,000 applicants filed a [lawsuit](#) against

See Sinha on page 17



Commentary / *Comentario*

Cuentos De Mi Chante Chicano: True Face, True Heart

Daniel Stange

Yo Soy Chicano. I make that statement to clarify my identity. I also realize that identity is a continually changing state of being. Who you are is relative to the time in your life, in which that question is asked. What you were before you were conceived in your mother's womb might be attuned to where you will be when your breath stops. Such mystery in life is valued when people comprehend their eternal nature. Although cultures are all founded in the explanation of such mystery.

For the colonizer, there is no instruction of proper morals and ethics. Some people are just born bad and therein begins the classist elite and the development of incarceration. Law is sanctioned by those who hold the keys to mystery and bent by those who garnish favoritism or compensation. It's directed against those who seek its shelter. Measured by those who seek its realization - **Justice**. Now that is a debatable word but held as a pillar of our ancestors' way of living.

Justice responds to an individual's sense of self-worth. It can walk a thin line along the edge of

revenge and abuse. Too many people push each other over that edge when life's mysteries are assumed to be competitive. Our beloved Anahuac culture practiced cooperation but more importantly the mysteries were not founded in loss from grace. When we appreciate our eternal energy and accept that there is nothing broken in the universe, we can give justice its proper role—to restore.

“When a person has integrity, the truth of their heart is evidenced in their face and expression. There is a cooperation between what I feel in my heart and what I express. It is honest even when the result is not pleasant.”

In the Nahuatl tongue of Anahuac two words were often combined to express deeper concepts. Such as *Flor y Canto* - **In Xochitl In Cuicatl** which describes poetry. **In Tlalli In Tlapalli** - Wisdom. **In Ixiptla In Yolotl** - Integrity. Ixiptla is the

face (image) Yolotl is Heart. When a person has integrity, the truth of their heart is evidenced in their face and expression. There is a cooperation between what I feel in my heart and what I express. It is honest even when the result is not pleasant.

Just as a person's integrity is crucial to having a proper sense of justice, the justice we experience will engender our integrity. Injustices shift our moral compass unless the individual is rooted to nature. And nature has no mercy. Yet, nature develops beauty and reproduces proper forms. There is no mistake so words like deformity and handicapped have a different feeling and cannot be properly translated. There's an Aztec 'god' Xolotl who has twisted hands and his eye is drooping out with buck teeth and his name also means companion. We all carry ugliness and impure thoughts. They are not sins, they are our shadow, Nagual. We need to have internal dialogue, we all do it (some with more than one personality). Sadly, today's culture ridicules people that speak to themselves.

It is said that Justice without mercy is cruel but that is because they are speaking of revenge or abuse.

Justice should restore things back to their natural state. This brings a challenge to people who believe that they are born without grace, but even more to the children of Anahuac. Our restoration is symbiotic with the land. Authorized by the women. Seeded by the ancestors and developed in the process of remembering the origins. Most Chicanos would not go back to living in the simple homes of our origins, but all of us feel robbed when we see the ridiculous wealth in today's society. A wealth that has rooted in Our land. Land of our grandmother, Tonantzin.

Our changing image (Ixiptla) cycles through experiences from birth to death and many rebirths to repose into small deaths like a lost friendship or an old profession that we never return to. These little cycles cleanse our memories until old age washes them away. A critical example of **In Ixiptla In Yolotl** is revealed in the first cycle of our life that began in the water. Through objective observation that anybody can understand.

A human baby is nurtured through the umbilical cord that marks the body's center. Once intersected your body can be divided into the four elements with the Earth, from the belly button below and Air for the upper half. Then Fire on the right side and Water on the feminine left; where the heart inclines. Your heart is centered between the lungs, but the right lung is larger because the bottom of the heart tilts to the left. And it is in the bottom of my heart that my soul's integrity is rekindled. When you really know something, you say 'I know it by heart' never I know it by brain. So, the image Ixiptla is reconciled when you learn to purify the heart Yolotl.

Scars will harden the heart with abuse and trauma so teaching purity will require many psychological themes. I am no academic, but much of the psychiatrists' discipline is hard for me to agree with. It really boils down to talking and listening to each other. Some therapists can get too overly judgmental. I guess the object of judgement has confused me growing up Catholic, because we were told not to judge others, but we have to reflect on all our good and bad things, so that's just judging ourselves. I see it much more of a self-destructive behavior and it's an affliction of the heart. Some consider the capacity to love with your heart as reflective of the self-love that you cultivate. Integral to a healthy mental and emotional



Photo: D. Stange

state. Balanced through a sense of self without judging and punishing.

A final key aspect to developing a true face and heart is the temperament of Ego. So much talk about overcoming the ego and kill the ego and the ego is your big enemy and how much of this is rooted in self-demeaning reflection? Without an ego you can suffer loss of self-respect. Without ego you can't be sure if your path in life is your own and the world will chew you up. Anxiety is rampant enough with all the personality disorders among people in society. It's a challenge to accommodate your fellow human beings, and integrity is what we need to reevaluate the sins of América in Anahuac.

Not only the enslavement and theft of land, but the attempt to completely erase and vilify the knowledge and cultural identity of one the oldest Mother Cultures of the world, Anahuac. The Indigenous culture of our land is demonized by the people that tried to bury our children under their boarding schools of mis-education. Indian education is what they still push in our public education systems today. The dumbing down of América is no red herring. We have got to redirect that system. It should be rooted in our land and the natural movement of energy.

Next issue, we will review some of the native understanding of our Madre Tierra - Tonantzin Guadalupe. We also use the name Coatlicue that means the skirt of snakes. She represents the fabric of space and time of the universe upon which all energy vibrates in a serpent-like motion. The snake has always been a symbol of cosmic knowledge.

Daniel Stange is the Grant Manager with Sisters of Color United for Education in Denver, Colorado. Read the second edition of Cuentos De Mi Chante Chicano [here](#).

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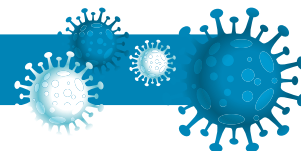
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Sharing Covid Vax Facts Inside ICE Detention, One Detainee at a Time

By Heidi de Marco

The sounds of wailing ambulances, car horns, and bustling traffic filtered into the high-rise home office of Dr. Daniel Turner-Lloveras in downtown Los Angeles as he settled into a brown leather couch to take a call.

On the other end of the line, staring at a mint-green wall inside a plexiglass phone booth with little privacy, sat Pedro Figueroa, 33, a detainee at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Mesa Verde detention facility in Bakersfield, California.

"Is it mandatory to get the booster?" Figueroa asked in Spanish. "And why do I need it?"

Turner-Lloveras, who specializes in internal medicine, fields questions like these once a week as a volunteer physician for the Covid-19 Vaccine Education & Empowerment in Detention program, or VEED, a collaboration between the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice and the Latino Coalition Against COVID-19, an organization he co-founded. They launched the program last April to provide vaccine education to im-

migrants who have been arrested for being in the U.S. without proper documentation and are awaiting a court hearing or deportation.

Licensed medical providers volunteer to talk by phone with immigrants housed in ICE facilities. Conversations last five minutes to half an hour, and volunteers cover a two-hour shift once a week.

"On average, I'll talk to four people. The majority of the calls are in Spanish, about 80%," said Turner-Lloveras, who is proficient in Spanish. "But it varies. One day there was no Spanish, and it was English and Mandarin. I used my phone's real-time audio translation, and that worked fairly well."

April Newman, VEED's program manager, said providers are not pressuring anyone to get vaccinated. "It's really each individual's choice," she said. "But we want to make sure that they're equipped and empowered with sound and accessible information."

ICE has seven detention centers in California, six of them managed by private prison companies. In the two years since the pandemic took hold, covid outbreaks have plagued detainees in recurring waves, sweeping through al-

most every facility in the state. As of March 14, ICE had recorded more than 2,000 cases of covid infection and one covid-related death at its California facilities, according to agency data. Nationwide, ICE has recorded more than 40,000 cases among detainees and 11 deaths.

The California facilities have been the target of lawsuits alleging lax efforts to prevent and contain covid outbreaks. The Mesa Verde facility, where Figueroa is being held, was the subject of a class-action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups alleging crowded, unsanitary conditions and failure to adopt safety protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Government documents uncovered in the case revealed that at one point Mesa Verde officials purposely limited covid testing to avoid having to isolate detainees who tested positive.

Under a settlement reached in January, immigration officials agreed to adhere to numerous covid-related protections for the next three years, including sharp limits on the detainee population to allow for adequate distancing



Dr. Daniel Turner-Lloveras regularly fields questions about covid vaccination from immigrants being held in U.S. detention facilities, part of a broader covid information campaign spearheaded by California advocacy groups. / El doctor Daniel Turner-Lloveras responde regularmente a preguntas sobre la vacunación contra covid de inmigrantes detenidos en los centros de detención del país, como parte de una campaña de información más amplia sobre covid encabezada por grupos de defensa de California.

and regular testing. In addition, hundreds of immigrants who were released because their health made them especially vulnerable to covid cannot be returned to detention unless they pose a public safety risk.

The settlement includes new protocols for vaccine outreach, including requiring ICE and GEO Group, the private prison contractor that manages Mesa Verde, to offer covid vaccines to detainees during the 14-day quarantine peri-

od after they are booked into custody and to provide booster doses consistent with CDC guidance. If a detainee initially declines vaccination, but later has a change of heart, the facility is to administer a vaccine at that person's request.

"It should not take litigation to ensure that ICE provides public health-informed vaccine education and promptly administers vaccines and boosters to people in

See Covid on page 17

Médicos Voluntarios Comparten Información Sobre las Vacunas de Covid con Detenidos de ICE

By Heidi de Marco

Los sonidos de las ambulancias, las bocinas de los autos y el bullicio del tráfico se filtraban en la oficina del doctor Daniel Turner-Lloveras en un alto edificio del centro de Los Ángeles, mientras se acomodaba en su sofá para atender una llamada.

En el otro extremo de la línea, mirando una pared verde menta dentro de una cabina telefónica de acrílico, con poca privacidad, estaba sentado Pedro Figueroa, de 33 años, detenido en el centro de Mesa Verde del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de los Estados Unidos (ICE), en Bakersfield, California.

"¿Es obligatorio tener el refuerzo?", preguntó Figueroa en español. "¿Y por qué lo necesito?"

Turner-Lloveras, especialista en medicina interna, responde a este tipo de preguntas una vez por semana como médico voluntario para el programa Covid-19 Vaccine Education & Empowerment in Detention (VEED), una alianza entre California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice y Latino Coalition Against COVID-19, organización que cofundó.

El programa se lanzó el pasado abril, para brindar educación sobre las vacunas a los inmigrantes que han sido arrestados por estar en el país sin papeles, y que están esperando una audiencia judicial o la deportación.

Médicos se ofrecen para hablar por teléfono con los inmigrantes alojados en las instalaciones de ICE. Las charlas duran entre cinco minutos y media hora, y los vol-

untarios cubren un turno de dos horas, una vez por semana.

"Hablo, en promedio, con cuatro personas. La mayoría de las llamadas son en español, alrededor del 80%", dijo Turner-Lloveras, quien domina este idioma. "Pero varía. Un día no había nadie en español, y fue en inglés y mandarín. Usé la traducción de audio en tiempo real de mi teléfono y funcionó bastante bien".

April Newman, gerente de programas de VEED, dijo que los proveedores no están presionando a nadie para que se vacune. "Realmente es la elección de cada individuo", dijo. "Pero queremos asegurarnos de que estén capacitados y que tengan información sólida y accesible".

ICE tiene siete centros de detención en California, seis de ellos

administrados por empresas penitenciarias privadas. En los dos años transcurridos desde que comenzó la pandemia, los brotes de covid han afectado a los detenidos en oleadas recurrentes, arrasando casi todas las instalaciones del estado.

Hasta el 14 de marzo, ICE había registrado más de 2,000 casos de infección por covid y una muerte relacionada con covid en sus instalaciones de California, según datos de la agencia. A nivel nacional, ICE ha registrado más de 40,000 casos entre detenidos, y 11 muertes.

Las instalaciones de California han sido objeto de demandas que alegan pocos esfuerzos para prevenir y contener los brotes de covid. La instalación de Mesa Verde, donde se encuentra recluido Figueroa, fue objeto de

una demanda colectiva presentada por la American Civil Liberties Union y otros grupos, que alegaron condiciones insalubres y de hacinamiento, y la falta de adopción de los protocolos de seguridad recomendados por los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC). Los documentos del gobierno descubiertos en el caso revelaron que en un momento los funcionarios de Mesa Verde limitaron deliberadamente las pruebas de covid para evitar tener que aislar a los detenidos que dieran positivo.

Según un acuerdo alcanzado en enero, los funcionarios de inmigración acordaron adherirse a numerosas protecciones relacionadas con covid durante los próximos

Vea Covid/Esp, página 19

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The Price of a Migrant's Journey: Scammed by a Trafficker



Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock

A small border shelter offers migrants a temporary place to stay while awaiting the U.S. immigration process. / Un pequeño refugio fronterizo ofrece a los migrantes un lugar temporal donde alojarse mientras esperan el proceso de inmigración en Estados Unidos.

By Karen Gutiérrez

The eyes of a migrant reflect years of struggle, suffering, pain, and deep down, a bit of hope. They tell in silence the hard and difficult experiences the migrant had to live with to fulfill their dreams, facing very difficult circumstances from before reaching their destination in which they

could lose their most precious asset: life.

Josue, who in his eyes reflects the pain and suffering he went through, is a Salvadoran who had to leave behind in his country, his customs, his few belongings, and his dreams, when making the decision to emigrate to another place in search of a better future for his wife and young son.

He has told me about the journey they have had to endure to achieve what many call "the American dream", that which as he says - you would have to work hard, but you could obtain prosperity and opportunities.

It all starts in El Salvador, where work is scarce, people struggle to get ahead, but they study hard; however, no job opportunities or

economic income hardly allow a family to fulfill their dreams and live with dignity.

He enrolled in a university and to pay for his studies he needed to work, but it was impossible to do both study and work at the same time, so he abandoned his dream of becoming a professional in order to survive financially. He lived with his family in a rented house in El Salvador and earned approximately \$350 a month. With that money he had to pay for food, rent, services, and transportation. Feeling trapped in a vicious cycle, without options to improve their income, without the possibility of having their own home, which they desperately wanted to purchase, and with their socio-economic conditions deteriorating, without better job opportunities and with the dream of achieving a better future for their son, he decided to start the search to migrate. The United States was his first and only option because most of his acquaintances who, as he says, lived well, had relatives who were there and sent money to help them or others had worked for years in the United States and had returned to El Salvador with their earnings.



The eyes of a migrant reflect years of struggle, suffering, pain, and deep down, a bit of hope.

Josue knocked on doors and many were closed to him, because there were three people in his family, and no one wanted to help them. One day, his wife's sister, who is undocumented and lives in the United States, decided to bring her 21-year-old son to the U.S., but did not want him to travel alone, so she proposed to Josue and his wife that they accompany him. She would lend Josue the money they needed to be able to travel together, because as he inquired about coming to the U.S., he learned that they are charging more than \$10,000 per person for crossing the border illegally. With endless dreams and illusions of a better future, Josue accepted the proposal and embarked on the journey.

He was called on the phone by human traffickers or "coyotes."

"Grab a bus or truck that is going to take you to the border of El Salvador and you are going to go to

See Migrant on page 20

21st Annual Celebration



César E. Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver

Community Resilience as an Essential Pathway to Justice

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Catholic Mass - 8:30 AM MST

St. John Francis Regis Chapel, 3333 Regis Boulevard, Denver, CO 80221

IN PERSON *Masks optional

Marcha - 10:00 AM MST

Regis Chapel to César E. Chávez Park, 4131 N. Tennyson Street, Denver, Colorado 80212

Program and Awards Ceremony - 11:15 AM MST

César E. Chávez Park

Welcome

Presenters

Leadership Awards

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El Precio del Viaje de un Emigrante: Estafado por un Traficante



Una valla en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México. / A fence on the U.S./Mexico border.

Por Karen Gutiérrez

Los ojos de un migrante reflejan años de lucha, sufrimiento, dolor y en el fondo un poco de esperanza. Cuentan en silencio las duras y difíciles experiencias que tuvieron que vivir para cumplir sus sueños, enfrentándose desde antes de llegar a su destino a circunstancias muy difíciles en la que pudieron perder su bien más preciado: la vida.

Josue, quien en sus ojos refleja el dolor y el sufrimiento por el que pasó, es un salvadoreño que tuvo que dejar atrás sus costumbres, sus pocas pertenencias y los sueños en su país, al tomar la decisión de emigrar a otro en la búsqueda de un mejor futuro para su esposa y su pequeño hijo.

Me ha contado la travesía que han tenido que vivir para lograr lo que muchos llaman "el sueño americano", ese que como él dice -se trabaja duro pero hay prosperidad y oportunidades. Todo empieza en el Salvador, un país latinoamericano, en donde el trabajo es escaso, la gente lucha por salir adelante, estudia, se prepara, pero las oportunidades laborales y los ingresos económicos difícilmente permiten que una familia pueda cumplir sus sueños y vivir dignamente.

Empezó la universidad y para poder pagar sus estudios necesitaba trabajar, pero era imposible hacer las dos cosas al tiempo, entonces abandonó su sueño de convertirse en un profesional para poder sobrevivir económicamente. Vivía con su familia en

una casa arrendada en el Salvador y ganaba aproximadamente 350 dólares, con ese dinero tenía que pagar, comida, renta, servicios, y transporte. Sintióse estancado, sin opciones para mejorar sus ingresos, sin posibilidad de tener vivienda propia pues buscaron ac-

ceder a una y su condición socio-económica los dejó por fuera de la calificación requerida, sin mejores oportunidades laborales y con el sueño de darle un mejor futuro a su hijo, decide empezar la búsqueda para migrar. Estados Unidos fue su primer y única opción pues

la mayor parte de sus conocidos que como él dice -vivían bien- tenían familiares que estaban ahí y enviaban dinero para ayudarlos o también otros habían trabajado por años allí y se habían devuelto al Salvador a emprender con sus ahorros.

Tocó puertas y muchos se las cerraron, pues eran tres personas y nadie quería ayudarles. Un día la hermana de su esposa, que vive indocumentada en Estados Unidos, decide traerse a su hijo de 21 años pero no quería que viajara solo así que le propone a Josue y a su esposa que lo lleven, ella les va a prestar el dinero que necesitan para poder viajar juntos, pues en las averiguaciones que él hace se entera que están cobrando por pasar la frontera ilegalmente más de 10.000 dólares por persona. Con un manojito de sueños e ilusiones de un mejor futuro acepta la propuesta y emprende el viaje.

Lo llaman al teléfono los traficantes de personas o "coyotes".

"Agarra un bus o camión que te va a pasar la frontera del Salvador y vas a pasar a hasta Tecún Umán que es la frontera de Guatemala con México, ahí los voy a estar esperando yo", le dijeron.

Los ojos de un migrante reflejan años de lucha, sufrimiento, dolor y en el fondo un poco de esperanza.

Emprende el viaje con su familia y su sobrino, ya en Tecún Umán, Guatemala, una señora se presentó, los subió a una bicicleta con asientos adelante y los llevó a una casa.

"Mañana nos pasan, salimos a las 5:00 am, vamos a pasar un río así que prepárense, yo me voy a ir aparte, ustedes van a cruzar con este señor (el coyote)", le dijeron.

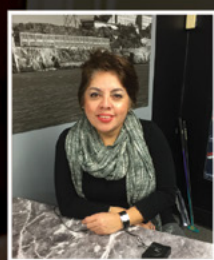
Al siguiente día se levantan muy temprano, según Josue los hacen caminar muy rápido y luego pasar el río en una balsa, por aproximadamente 500 metros. Al otro lado los esperaban unos jóvenes en dos motos.

"Su esposa y usted se suben en esta moto y su hijo con su sobrino en la otra moto", explicaron y se los llevan aparte para despistar los retenes.

Vea **Emigrante**, página 23

Please contact COLOR about upcoming community forums on the **"Know Your Rights"** training for immigrant families and the **"What's At Stake?"** information sessions regarding your health care coverage.

Contacta las oficinas de COLOR para obtener información de los próximos foros comunitarios sobre inmigración y el taller Conozca Sus Derechos. En los foros puedes saber más sobre como puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?



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Topics such as reproductive justice, immigrant rights, health insurance, sex and sexuality among others will be discussed. Phone lines will be open for listeners. Please call (303) 337-1150 to speak with Gina.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

State is Urged to 'Seriously' Reconsider Recommendations for Adams 14

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

Bluntly stating that the Adams 14 school district cannot improve itself, a state review panel has recommended the state close the main high school and reorganize the district. Schools could be consolidated or other districts might step in to manage Adams 14.

"There is evidence of lack of leadership capacity and stability at the district's highest levels to

lead turnaround work effectively to increase student achievement gains," the panel's recommendations state. "Additionally, Adams City High School continues to perform at a low level and there is a lack of a prioritized plan for the school and its students, who likely have better options that are geographically close [to] their homes."

The report obtained by *Chalkbeat* last week suggests closing Adams City High School, the district's only comprehensive high school, and possibly other schools, to allow the district to focus on

fewer grade levels while the state comes up with a reorganization plan.

The recommendation suggests that Adams City High School students might fare better if they attended higher-performing schools in neighboring districts.

The panel included six educators including a consultant, some current superintendents, and a former assistant superintendent. Colorado's State Board of Education will consider the recommendations, as well as those from the education department staff, the district's own proposal, and public comment at a hearing next month.

Colorado has never intervened to this extent in a struggling school district. There are many questions about how it would work.

The Adams 14 school district is likely to push back hard against relinquishing any autonomy.

The district is working on a proposal to improve itself by creating at least one community school, which would offer an array of social services for students and families. The State Board of Education has not indicated how receptive it would be to that idea.



A state review panel is recommending that the state close at least one Adams 14 school and reorganize the district. /La recomendación sugiere que a los estudiantes de la Secundaria Adams City les iría mejor si asistieran a escuelas de mejor desempeño en distritos vecinos.

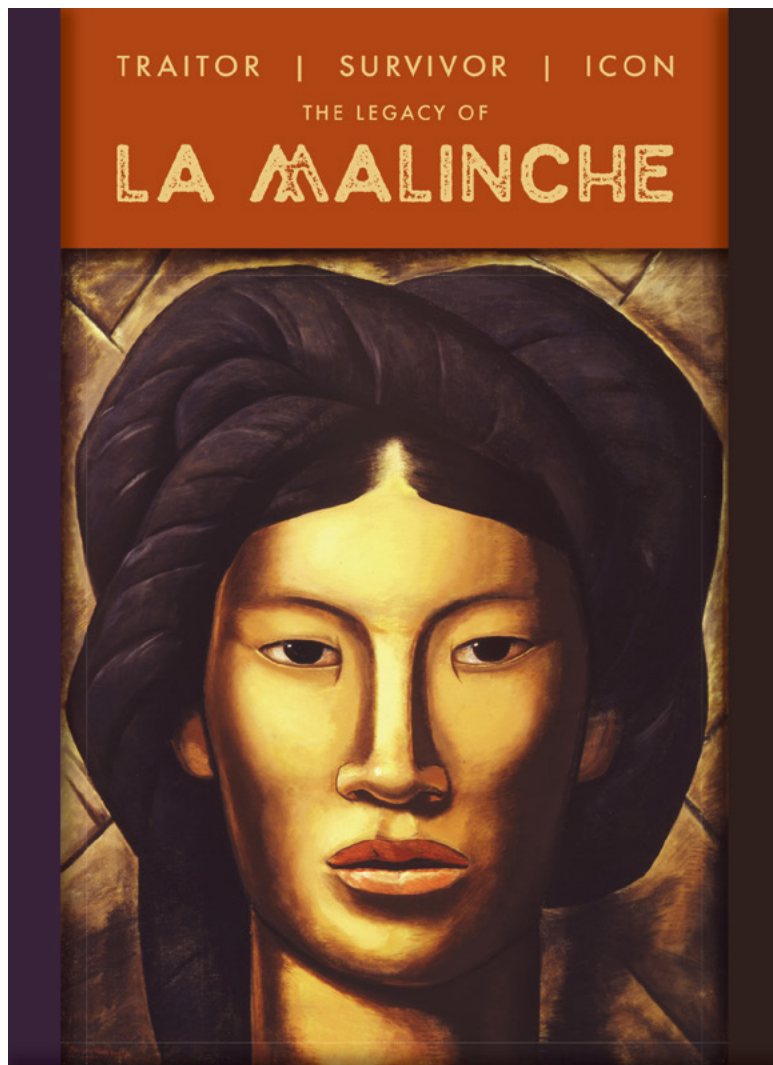
District officials did not respond to a request for comment about the panel's recommendations, but Joe Salazar, an attorney working with the district, said that the district sent a rebuttal to the state criticizing the recommendations, in particular for failing to distinguish between the leadership of the district's former private manager, MGT Consulting, and the new superintendent's leadership.

The district hired Karla Loria as Adams 14's superintendent in May and she began work in June, but Salazar argues that Loria didn't

have any authority until MGT left the district in February, and therefore shouldn't be held accountable for any shortcomings in leadership before that. Under Loria's direction, Adams 14 locked MGT employees out of the district several times.

Jason Malmberg, president of the district's teachers union, said that the panel should have considered emails the district tried to provide that show that Loria had no authority. Malmberg said he

See Adams 14 on page 19



February 6–May 8, 2022

Explore the enduring legacy of Mexico's La Malinche— one of history's most enigmatic and fascinating figures.

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Image: Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *La Malinche (Young Girl of Yalala, Oaxaca)*, 1940. Oil paint on canvas; 50 x 40 1/2 in. Phoenix Art Museum purchase with funds provided by the Friends of Mexican Art, 1979.86. ©The Alfredo Ramos Martínez Research Project, reproduced by permission. *Traitor, Survivor, Icon: The Legacy of La Malinche* is organized by the Denver Art Museum. This exhibition has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Additional funding is provided by Furthermore a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, University of Denver: College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by 5280 Magazine and CBSA. Special thanks to the National Institute of Anthropology and History and Mexico's Secretary of Culture.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Se Insta al Estado a Reconsiderar 'Seriamente' las Recomendaciones para Adams 14

COLORADO

Por Yesenia Robles

Afirmado sin rodeos que el distrito escolar de Adams 14 no puede mejorarse a sí mismo, un panel de revisión estatal ha recomendado que el estado cierre la escuela secundaria principal y reorganice el distrito. Las escuelas podrían consolidarse, y otros distritos podrían intervenir para administrar el Adams 14.

"Hay evidencia de la falta de capacidad de liderazgo y estabilidad en los niveles más altos del distrito para dirigir el trabajo de cambio eficazmente para aumentar los logros de los estudiantes", dicen las recomendaciones del panel. "Además, la escuela secundaria de Adams City sigue teniendo un nivel de desempeño bajo y no hay un plan de prioridades para la escuela y sus estudiantes, que probablemente tienen mejores opciones que están geográficamente cerca [de] sus hogares."

El informe obtenido por *Chalkbeat* sugiere el cierre de la Escuela Secundaria Adams City, la única

escuela secundaria completa del distrito, y posiblemente de otras escuelas, para permitir que el distrito se enfoque en tener menos grados escolares mientras el estado establece un plan de reorganización.

La recomendación sugiere que a los estudiantes de la Secundaria Adams City les iría mejor si asistieran a escuelas de mejor desempeño en distritos vecinos.

El panel incluyó a seis educadores, entre los que se encontraban un consultor, algunos superintendentes actuales y un antiguo asistente de superintendente. La Junta Estatal de Educación de Colorado considerará las recomendaciones, así como las del personal del departamento de educación, la propuesta del distrito mismo, y los comentarios del público en una audiencia el próximo mes.

Colorado nunca ha intervenido hasta este grado en un distrito escolar con problemas. Hay muchas preguntas sobre cómo esto funcionaría.

Es probable que el distrito escolar de Adams 14 se oponga firmemente a renunciar a su autonomía.

El distrito está trabajando en una propuesta para mejorar creando al menos una escuela comunitaria, que ofrecería una variedad de servicios sociales para los estudiantes y las familias. La Junta Estatal de Educación no ha indicado qué tan receptiva sería a esa idea.

Los funcionarios del distrito no respondieron a una solicitud de comentarios sobre las recomendaciones del panel, pero Joe Salazar, un abogado que trabaja con el distrito, dijo que el distrito envió una refutación al estado criticando las recomendaciones, en particular por no distinguir entre el liderazgo del antiguo administrador privado del distrito (MGT Consulting) y el liderazgo del nuevo superintendente.

El distrito contrató a Karla Loria como superintendente de Adams 14 en mayo y ella comenzó a trabajar en junio, pero Salazar argumenta que Loria no tuvo ninguna autoridad hasta que MGT dejó el distrito en febrero, y por lo tanto no debería ser responsable de ninguna deficiencia en el liderazgo

Ve Adams 14/Esp, página 21

Advocates Want Colorado to Translate All Non-English Public Comment

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

Advocates are criticizing Colorado's Education Department for how it plans to handle public comments regarding the fate of Adams 14 schools.

At issue is a line that has been in multiple statements explaining how the public can submit comments to the State Board of Education for hearings on low performing schools and districts: "Comments submitted in languages other than English will be translated into English as time permits."

"It says to us, English comments are important and will be accepted but if you submit in any other language, your voice is only important if 'we have time' to translate it," Cynthia Trinidad-Sheahan, the executive director for the Colorado Association for Bilingual Education, wrote in a letter to the Colorado Department of Education.

"All voices, no matter the language spoken, are important during the process of deciding the fate of a family's school; in particular when there is possibility of a

school closure," Trinidad-Sheahan wrote.

A panel of experts completed its recommendations for Adams 14 this week and is suggesting the State Board close at least the district's main high school, and consider reorganizing the rest of the schools.



"It says to us, English comments are important and will be accepted but if you submit in any other language, your voice is only important if 'we have time' to translate it."

Cynthia Trinidad-Sheahan, Colorado Association for Bilingual Education

Currently the state is accepting public comments for the fate of Adams 14, and its lowest-performing school, Central Elementary. The state also is accepting comments about Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs.

Both schools and the Adams 14 district have much higher percent-

ages of Hispanic students than the state average. Mitchell High School has more than 52% of its students identified as Hispanic. At Central Elementary more than 82% of its students are Hispanic. In Adams 14, more than 87% of students are Hispanic and more than half are English learners.

Dana Smith, a department spokesperson, said the State Board and the department voluntarily created a public comment process to provide more input into their decisions, despite not being required by the law. Smith also said the department is committed to translating all public comments received by the 5 p.m. deadline on April 8.

"The language in the notice perhaps didn't do the best job of conveying that it will take some time to translate all of the comments that are received in Spanish," Smith said. "CDE assures that we will do everything we can so that all public comment, including non-English comments that have been translated, will be included in the record as long as they are received by the deadline."

Additionally, she said, the department has translated the notic-

es requesting public comment, an online survey, and news releases, "to ensure that the Spanish speakers in the community have access to this process."

Trinidad-Sheahan's letter points out that the state expects districts to put in similar work to engage with their communities, and should follow the same rules.

"If districts can provide this service to parents and families, CDE should as well," Trinidad-Sheahan's letter read. "CDE is not above the expectations that CDE itself has set for schools and school districts

when communicating with parents/guardians who speak another language other than English."

Yesenia Robles is a reporter for Chalkbeat Colorado covering K-12 school districts and multilingual education. Chalkbeat is a nonprofit news organization covering public education. This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.

For More Colorado News:
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Los Defensores Quieren Traduzca Todos los Comentarios Públicos

COLORADO

Por Yesenia Robles

Los defensores están criticando el Departamento de Educación de Colorado por la forma en que planea manejar los comentarios del público sobre el destino de las escuelas Adams 14.

El problema es una línea que ha estado en múltiples declaraciones explicando cómo el público puede presentar comentarios a la Junta Estatal de Educación para las audiencias sobre las escuelas y distritos de bajo rendimiento: "Los comentarios presentados en idiomas distintos del inglés se traducirán al inglés cuando el tiempo lo permita".

"Esto nos dice que los comentarios en inglés son importantes y serán aceptados, pero si se presentan en cualquier otro idioma, su voz sólo es importante si 'tenemos tiempo' para traducirla", escribió Cynthia Trinidad-Sheahan, directora ejecutiva de la Asociación de Colorado para la Educación Bilingüe, en una carta al Departamento de Educación de Colorado.

"Todas las voces, sin importar el idioma que se hable, son importantes durante el proceso de decidir el destino de la escuela de una familia; en particular cuando existe



"Esto nos dice que los comentarios en inglés son importantes y serán aceptados, pero si se presentan en cualquier otro idioma, su voz sólo es importante si 'tenemos tiempo' para traducirla".

Cynthia Trinidad-Sheahan, Asociación de Colorado para la Educación Bilingüe

la posibilidad de un cierre de la escuela", escribió Trinidad-Sheahan.

Un panel de expertos completó sus recomendaciones para Adams 14 esta semana y está sugiriendo que la Junta Estatal cierre al menos la escuela secundaria principal del distrito, y considere la reorganización del resto de las escuelas.

Actualmente el estado está aceptando comentarios públicos para el destino de Adams 14, y su escuela de menor rendimiento, Central Elementary. El estado también está aceptando comentarios sobre la Escuela Secundaria Mitchell en Colorado Springs.

Ambas escuelas y el distrito de Adams 14 tienen porcentajes mucho más altos de estudiantes hispanos que el promedio del estado. La Escuela Secundaria Mitchell tiene más del 52% de sus estudiantes identificados como hispanos. En Central Elementary más del 82% de sus estudiantes son hispanos. En Adams 14, más del 87% de los estudiantes son hispanos y más de la mitad son estudiantes de inglés.

Dana Smith, una portavoz del departamento, dijo que la Junta Estatal y el departamento crearon voluntariamente un proceso de comentarios públicos para proporcionar más información sobre sus decisiones, a pesar de no ser requerido por la ley. Smith también dijo que el departamento se



Ukrainian Refugees Share Experiences of Fleeing War for Colorado

COLORADO

By Sara Wilson

Iryna Rothko arrived in Colorado approximately two weeks ago after fleeing Kyiv with her two children to escape the violence from Russia's war on Ukraine.

Her husband stayed behind and sought safety as the Russian military shelled the neighborhood she left in the countryside outside of the capital city. Rothko watched in

real-time from Colorado, through a home camera feed, as that idyllic home with a swimming pool and playground became another site of destruction from the war.

"In the beginning, I was in total denial," Rothko said, through an interpreter, during a meeting with Democratic Rep. Diana DeGette on Tuesday morning in Denver. But as the threat of war turned to a real concern for safety, Rothko's husband insisted she and the children leave the country. She land-

ed in Colorado, where her sister lives.

Rothko is one of the over 3 million people who have left Ukraine since Russia's invasion on Feb. 24. The United Nations now estimates that 10 million people have been displaced from their homes.

"Most of all, we want to welcome you being in the U.S. and let you know that the whole community and the whole country are supporting you and sending you love," DeGette said.



Rep. Diana DeGette meets with people who fled Ukraine in the wake of Russian aggression in her Denver office on March 22, 2022. Katerina Khmil, back left, fled Poltava and Iryna Rothko, front right, fled Kyiv.

Katerina Khmil, who also met with DeGette, spoke about her house, which sits next to a military airport in Poltava, Ukraine, narrowly missing the first wave of attacks. It took her and her daughter, Tetiana Khmil, two weeks to make the decision to leave home and come to Colorado. Viktor Khmil, Katerina's

“
People whose houses area being bombed every day can't wait for two years to be able to come here, and we know that.”
Congresswoman Diana DeGette

See [Refugees](#) on page 22

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Reconciliation in Place Names



Mount Evans was named for Territorial Gov. John Evans, who oversaw the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864, in which volunteer soldiers attacked a Cheyenne and Arapaho village, killing approximately 750 people.

COLORADO

By Jill McGranahan

U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland issued an order in November declaring "squaw" a derogatory term and established a task force to rename more than 600 geographical sites across the country that have the word in their names.

"Squaw" — a racist and sexist term for Native American women — is just the latest target for renaming as the United States continues to reconcile historical names and events to modern sensibilities. Haaland also called for

“
Do we want the largest peak in Colorado to be named for a territorial governor who was forced to resign because of his part in the infamous Sand Creek Massacre and its subsequent coverup or something we can all be proud of?”
Sara Jackson Shumate, Ph.D., Metropolitan State University of Denver

See [Names](#) on page 22

Broad Coalition Petitions AQCC for Faster Action on Clean Trucks

COLORADO

Arguing that the Polis Administration's unnecessary delay in considering new rules to clean up truck pollution will only lead to more harm to families and communities in disproportionately impacted areas of Colorado, a coalition of environmental justice, conservation, local government and other groups last week formally petitioned the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) to consider an Advanced Clean Trucks rule and a low NOx rule this spring. A copy of the filing can be found [here](#).

"There simply is no good reason to delay consideration of these rules, and plenty of good reasons why the AQCC should act this spring," Ean Thomas Tafoya, the Colorado director of GreenLatinos, said. "Frontline communities made it clear before Covid that these toxics were of the highest priority. The deadly impacts of truck diesel pollution were made more clear during Covid. We must act quickly on many fronts, and today we re-assert that we will use every tool available to us to ensure our right to clean air and a livable future."

"Black, Brown and Indigenous families and neighborhoods in Colorado suffer disproportionately from the negative health effects of dirty trucks driving and idling near homes and businesses. Cleaning up truck pollution is good environmental policy, good social justice policy and good economic policy," said Wendy Howell of the Colorado Working Families Party. "Delay is simply unacceptable."

The coalition challenging the Polis Administration delay includes GreenLatinos, Colorado Working Families Party, Mi Familia Vota, NAACP Denver, and Womxn from the Mountain (collectively the "Environmental Justice Coalition"); Conservation Colorado; Environmental Defense Fund; Natural Resources Defense Council; Sierra Club; Western Resource Advocates; and Boulder County. The petition was filed by Earthjustice.

At issue is how quickly the state of Colorado joins several other states in adopting an Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) rule, which would require manufacturers to sell a certain, and increasing, percentage of electric trucks in Colorado, and also adopting a Low-Nitrogen Oxides Omnibus (Low-NOx)

rule, which would require fossil fuel powered trucks to burn cleaner. These rules would help clean up tailpipe pollution from medium and heavy duty trucks, delivery vans, buses and school buses. The state has already adopted zero and low emission rules for cars and light trucks.

Medium- and heavy-duty vehicles are the second-largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector in the state, contributing 22% of on-road GHG emissions, despite comprising less than 10% of Colorado vehicles. They are also a significant contributor to emissions that lead to high ozone levels, Nitrogen Oxides and Particulate Matter (NOx and PM) that have serious impacts on air quality and human health. These vehicles contribute about 30% of on-road NOx emissions and 40% of on-road PM emissions. Communities along major highways like I-70, I-25 and I-270, and those near warehouses and railyards, often referred to as "diesel death zones," bear the brunt of these high emission levels because of high truck traffic.

"Further delays to moving towards a clean truck solution inval-

idates the environmental justice needed now for disproportionately impacted communities harmed by cumulative impacts of pollution and environmental racism. The policy can not only restore our communities but finally address equity with the health and safety our future generations deserve," said Renée M. Chacon, Co-Founder/Executive Director of Womxn from the Mountain.

"BIPOC communities have long had to bear the brunt of environmental hazards through racist redlining which forced our neighborhoods into the most polluted areas of the state. There is finally an opportunity for change along the highways and major streets which are often found near our communities as well.

"This means clean air through ACT is a must, this year, without any further delay. BIPOC communities deserve to finally have environmentally safe livelihoods," argued Katara Burrola with Mi Familia Vota.

Added Sarah Clark, Lead Organizer Colorado Sierra Club, "It's imperative that the air quality control commission expedite the Advanced Clean Trucks and the Low-NOx rulemaking and get us on

“
The longer we wait to pass these rules, the longer disproportionately impacted communities and our environment suffer. The time to act is now."
”
Sarah Clark, Colorado Sierra Club

track to meeting the state's climate reduction obligations. The longer we wait to pass these rules, the longer disproportionately impacted communities and our environment suffer. The time to act is now."

The coalition asserts that the Commission should not delay the ACT and Low-NOx rulemaking for several reasons. First, postponing the rulemaking hearing until 2023 would delay when the rules could go into effect in Colorado by one year, delaying air pollution and climate benefits and is contrary to the Commission's equity and environmental justice obligations.

Second, the Commission has recently abandoned and delayed other rulemakings that would re-

See [Trucks](#) on page 23

La Coalición Pide a la AQCC que Actúe con Mayor Rapidez

COLORADO

Argumentando que el retraso innecesario de la Administración Polis en la consideración de nuevas normas para limpiar la contaminación de los camiones sólo conducirá a un mayor daño a las familias y las comunidades en las zonas desproporcionadamente afectadas de Colorado, una coalición de justicia ambiental, la conservación, el gobierno local y otros grupos solicitaron formalmente a la Comisión de Control de Calidad del Aire de Colorado (AQCC) para considerar una


regla de camiones limpios avanzados y una regla de bajo NOx esta primavera. Una copia de la presentación se puede encontrar aquí.

"Simplemente no hay ninguna buena razón para retrasar la consideración de estas normas, y hay un montón de buenas razones por las que la AQCC debe actuar esta primavera", dijo Ean Thomas Tafoya, el director de Colorado de GreenLatinos. "Las comunidades de primera línea dejaron claro ante Covid que estos tóxicos eran de máxima prioridad. Los impactos mortales de la contaminación por diésel de los camiones quedaron más claros durante Covid. Debemos actuar rápidamente en muchos frentes, y hoy reafirmamos que utilizaremos todas las herramientas disponibles para asegurar nuestro derecho a un aire limpio y un futuro habitable."

"Las familias y los barrios afrodescendientes, morenas y indígenas de Colorado sufren de forma desproporcionada los efectos negativos para la salud de los camiones sucios que circulan y


“
Cuanto más tardemos en aprobar estas normas, más tiempo sufrirán las comunidades afectadas de forma desproporcionada y nuestro medio ambiente."
”
Sarah Clark, Colorado Sierra Club

Vea [Camiones](#), página 18




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Federal Inspectors Demand ICE Relocate Migrants Detained in Torrance County

NEW MEXICO

By Austin Fisher

Federal oversight officials this week told U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to move everyone out of Torrance County detention center in Es-tancia, N.M., until it can fix unsani-tary and unsafe conditions inside.

"U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement must take immedi-ate steps to address the critical staffing shortages that have led to safety risks and unsanitary living conditions at the Torrance County Detention Facility," Homeland Security Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari wrote in an [alert](#) published on March 16.

ICE responded by accusing the Homeland Security Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of publishing false informa-tion.

In addition to housing migrants, the Torrance County lockup hous-es [federal prisoners](#) and serves as the [county's jail](#). It's owned and op-erated by CoreCivic. ICE pays the company about \$2 million a month under their contract, according to



Figure 3



Figure 4

Detainee cell sink with missing hot water button (left) and a detainee demonstrating filling a drinking cup from a housing unit floor mop sink (right). / Fregadero de la celda del detenido al que le falta el botón de agua caliente (izquierda) y un detenido demostrando cómo llenar un vaso de agua del fregadero de la unidad de alojamiento (derecha).

the report. CoreCivic also owns and runs migrant detention in Cibola County.

Between Feb. 1 and Feb. 3, the Inspector General's Office conducted an unannounced, in-person inspection of the detention center to find out if it complies with the ICE's own [standards](#) for detain-ing people. They found 176 people being held there in "egregious con-ditions."

The staffing crisis has prevented the detention center from meeting requirements under a contract be-tween CoreCivic and ICE meant to "ensure detainees reside in a safe,

secure and humane environment," the report states.

"We recommend the immedi-ate relocation of all detainees from the facility unless and until the fa-cility ensures adequate staffing and appropriate living conditions," OIG wrote.

It's extremely rare that the OIG releases an urgent alert based on one of its investigations and calls for the immediate removal of people from a facility, said Rebecca Sheff, a senior staff attorney on immigration at American Civil Liberties Union of New México (ACLU-NM). The find-ings aren't surprising, she said, but advocates are heartened to see OIG taking them so seriously.

"The inhumanity of the situation speaks for itself," she said.

As of Friday afternoon, ICE had not responded to a request for comment on whether it has fol-lowed OIG's recommendation to move the people held while await-ing immigration proceedings to other detention centers.

Sheff said the ACLU doesn't know whether anyone has been released or transferred since the report came out.

The ACLU of New México is calling for everyone held in migrant detention in Torrance County to be processed and released, not trans-ferred to other facilities, so they can start to heal from being in such degrading conditions. It's also call-ing on ICE to end its contract with CoreCivic.

Unsanitary conditions

Inspectors found the Torrance de-tention center exposes workers and incarcerated people to "exces-sive and avoidable unsanitary con-ditions." More than half of the occu-pied cells have broken, clogged or continuously cycling toilets.

They found faucets without cold and hot water buttons, some with no hot water, and broken sinks and water fountains. COVID-19 re-strictions on the water fountains left

incarcerated people to get drinking water communally from a faucet meant for filling mop buckets.

The OIG report includes a pho-to of an incarcerated person hold-ing a cup under running water. ICE accused OIG of staging the photo, based on its own review of surveil-lance footage.

The inspectors wrote they saw an incarcerated person filling a cup with water from the mop bucket faucet, but couldn't photograph him doing it.

"Therefore, OIG inspectors asked him to demonstrate how he filled the cup to allow for a pho-to to document the issue," the in-spectors wrote. "The photo was not staged but rather a re-creation of what the team had observed just moments prior."

For at least a dozen days, staff did nothing about mold and wa-ter leaks, according to the report, which exacerbated unsanitary con-ditions and could lead to slips and falls, and health issues from anyone breathing in the mold.

Setarah Ghandehari, advocacy director for Detention Watch Net-work, said in a statement last Fri-day that the OIG report "adds to the overwhelming bank of evidence detailing how ICE detention is in-herently cruel and abusive."

The network, a national coalition of immigrant rights groups, is rei-terating its demands to release ev-eryone in ICE detention and entirely abolish the detention system.

"In light of this horrific report, im-mediate action must be taken to release all people detained at Tor-rance and permanently shut down the facility," Ghandehari said. "No amount of ICE funding and staffing changes can fix a fundamentally inhumane system operated by an agency that has been shown time and again to systemically disregard the health and safety of the people in its custody."

History of abuse

The Torrance detention center, along with the ones in Cibola and Otero counties, has well-docu-mented "chronic and systemic hu-man and civil rights abuses," said Margaret Brown Vega, an anthro-pologist and volunteer for [Advo-cate Visitors with Immigrants in De-tention](#). She was speaking to New Mexico lawmakers during an Octo-ber 2021 legislative hearing.

The ACLU has been document-ing and raising similar issues at ICE facilities nationwide, and at Otero and Cibola. Sheff pointed out that transgender asylum-seekers at

Cibola were sent elsewhere after similar concerns about fundamen-tal health and safety were raised with CoreCivic, Sheff said.

Torrance County commission-ers and CoreCivic are defendants in an ongoing lawsuit after guards used pepper spray on at least nine asylum-seekers who were engag-ing in a [hunger strike](#) in May 2020. They were demonstrating to call attention to a lack of COVID-pro-tections in the detention, they said, and that they were receiving little information about the status of their immigration cases.

Staffing shortages

In December 2020, ICE published its own report telling CoreCivic the company was not following the contract because of staffing short-ages, medical and otherwise.

"Nevertheless, Torrance con-tinues to remain severely under-staffed over one year later, requir-ing current staff to work a minimum of six overtime shifts per month to help bridge the gap," OIG wrote.

Inspectors found guards did not properly supervise and monitor incarcerated people. The guards' control rooms have blind spots and poor sight lines, and are under-staffed, the report states, with just one guard assigned to watch four housing units at once.

ICE responded by saying the detention center has "only housed a number of detainees that is com-mensurate with current staffing levels at any given time."

Hollow inspection regime

In response to the OIG report, ICE also said in November 2021 it passed an annual inspection done by The Nakamoto Group, a private company hired by ICE for inspec-tions. But those Nakamoto reports have been broadly recognized as not robust and "essentially a rub-ber-stamping exercise," Sheff said.

Even so, Torrance [failed](#) the Nakamoto inspection in July 2021, Sheff said. Inspectors identified similar staffing issues and other safety and sanitation issues. That's remarkable, she said, because most facilities tend to pass those inspections.

It shouldn't take advocates raising these issues, or detained people filing grievances or calling emergency hotlines, or an over-sight agency coming all the way from Washington D.C., Sheff said, but the existing routine inspections are completely inadequate.

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Inspectores Federales Exigen al ICE que Reubique a los Migrantes Detenidos



Figure 5

Leaking detainee cell sink and toilet with floor mold in a vacant cell located in an occupied housing unit (left) and housing unit ceiling mold from leaks (right).

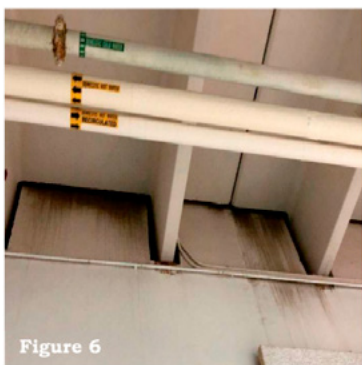


Figure 6

Foto/Photo: DHS & OIG

Por Austin Fisher

NEW MEXICO

Esta semana, los funcionarios federales de supervisión pidieron al Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de Estados Unidos que traslade a todos los detenidos del centro de detención del condado de Tarrant en Estancia, N.M., hasta que pueda arreglar las condiciones insalubres e inseguras del interior.

"El Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de EE.UU. debe tomar medidas inmediatas para solucionar la grave escasez de personal que ha provocado riesgos de seguridad y condiciones de vida insalubres en el centro de detención del condado de Tarrant", escribió el inspector general de Seguridad Nacional, Joseph V. Cuffari, en una alerta publicada el 16 de marzo.

El ICE respondió acusando a la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG) del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de publicar información falsa.

Además de alojar a migrantes, el centro de detención del condado de Tarrant alberga a presos federales y sirve de cárcel del condado. Es propiedad de CoreCivic y está gestionado por ella. El ICE paga a la empresa unos 2 millones de dólares al mes en virtud de su contrato, según el informe. CoreCivic también es propietaria y dirige la detención de migrantes en el condado de Cibola.

Entre el 1 y el 3 de febrero, la Oficina del Inspector General llevó a cabo una inspección no anunciada y en persona del centro de detención para averiguar si cumple con las propias normas del ICE para la detención de personas. Encontraron a 176 personas retenidas allí en "condiciones atroces".

La crisis de personal ha impedido que el centro de detención cumpla con los requisitos de un contrato entre CoreCivic y el ICE destinado a "garantizar que los

detenidos residan en un entorno seguro y humano", afirma el informe.

"Recomendamos la reubicación inmediata de todos los detenidos del centro, a menos y hasta que el centro garantice una dotación de personal adecuada y unas condiciones de vida apropiadas", escribió la OIG.

Es extremadamente raro que la OIG publique una alerta urgente basada en una de sus investigaciones y pida la expulsión inmediata de personas de un centro, dijo Rebecca Sheff, abogada principal de inmigración de la Unión Americana de Libertades Civiles de Nuevo México (ACLU-NM). Los hallazgos no son sorprendentes, dijo, pero los defensores se sienten alentados al ver que la OIG los toma tan en serio.

"La inhumanidad de la situación habla por sí misma", dijo.

Hasta el viernes por la tarde, el ICE no había respondido a una solicitud de comentarios sobre si ha seguido la recomendación de la OIG de trasladar a otros centros de detención a las personas retenidas a la espera de procedimientos de inmigración.

Sheff dijo que la ACLU no sabe si alguien ha sido liberado o trasladado desde que se publicó el informe.

La ACLU de Nuevo México está pidiendo que todas las personas detenidas en el condado de Tarrant sean procesadas y liberadas, y no transferidas a otras instalaciones, para que puedan comenzar a sanar de estar en condiciones tan degradantes. También pide al ICE que ponga fin a su contrato con CoreCivic.

Condiciones insalubres

Los inspectores descubrieron que el centro de detención de Tarrant expone a los trabajadores y a los encarcelados a "condiciones insalubres excesivas y evitables". Más de la mitad de las celdas ocupadas tienen inodoros rotos, atascados o que funcionan continuamente.

Encontraron grifos sin botones de agua fría y caliente, algunos sin agua caliente, y lavabos y fuentes de agua rotos. Las restricciones de COVID-19 en las fuentes de agua hicieron que los encarcelados tuvieran que obtener agua potable de forma comunitaria de un grifo destinado a llenar cubos de fregona.

El informe de la OIG incluye una foto de una persona encarcelada sosteniendo un vaso bajo el agua corriente. El ICE acusó a la OIG de escenificar la foto, basándose en su propia revisión de las imágenes de vigilancia.

Los inspectores escribieron que vieron a una persona encarcelada llenando una taza con agua del grifo del cubo de la fregona, pero no pudieron fotografiarle haciéndolo.

"Por lo tanto, los inspectores de la OIG le pidieron que demostrara cómo llenaba la taza para poder tomar una foto que documentara la cuestión", escribieron los inspectores. "La foto no era un montaje, sino una recreación de lo que el equipo había observado momentos antes".

Según el informe, durante al menos una docena de días, el personal no hizo nada para evitar el moho y las filtraciones de agua, lo que agravó las condiciones de insalubridad y pudo provocar resbalones y caídas, así como problemas de salud a quien respirara el moho.

Setarah Ghandehari, directora de defensa de la Red de Vigilancia de la Detención, dijo en un comunicado el viernes pasado que el informe de la OIG "se suma al abrumador banco de pruebas que detalla cómo la detención del ICE es inherentemente cruel y abusiva".

La red, una coalición nacional de grupos de defensa de los derechos de los inmigrantes, reitera sus exigencias de liberar a todas las personas detenidas por el ICE y abolir por completo el sistema de detención.

"A la luz de este horrible informe, se deben tomar medidas inmediatas para liberar a todas las personas detenidas en Tarrant y cerrar permanentemente el centro", dijo Ghandehari. "Ninguna cantidad de fondos y cambios de personal del ICE puede arreglar un sistema fundamentalmente inhumano operado por una agencia que ha demostrado una y otra vez que desprecia sistemáticamente la salud y la seguridad de las personas bajo su custodia."

Historial de abusos

El centro de detención de Tarrant, junto con los de los condados de Cibola y Otero, tiene bien documentados "abusos crónicos y sistémicos de los derechos humanos y civiles", dijo Margaret Brown Vega, antropóloga y voluntaria de *Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention*. Ella se dirigió a los legisladores de Nuevo México durante una audiencia legislativa en octubre de 2021.

La ACLU ha estado documentando y planteando cuestiones similares en las instalaciones del ICE en todo el país, y en Otero y Cibola. Sheff señaló que los solicitantes de asilo transgénero en Cibola fueron enviados a otro lugar después de que se plantearon preocupaciones similares sobre la salud y la seguridad fundamentales con CoreCivic, dijo Sheff.

Los comisionados del condado de Tarrant y CoreCivic son acusados en una demanda en curso después de que los guardias utilizaran spray de pimienta en al menos nueve solicitantes de asilo que estaban participando en una huelga de hambre en mayo de 2020. Se manifestaban para llamar la atención sobre la falta de protecciones de COVID en la detención, dijeron, y que estaban recibiendo poca información sobre el estado de sus casos de inmigración.

Escasez de personal

En diciembre de 2020, el ICE publicó su propio informe en el que decía a CoreCivic que la empresa no estaba cumpliendo el contrato debido a la escasez de personal, tanto médico como de otro tipo.

"Sin embargo, Tarrant sigue siendo severamente insuficiente en personal más de un año después, lo que requiere que el personal actual trabaje un mínimo de seis turnos de horas extras por mes para ayudar a cerrar la brecha", escribió la OIG.

Los inspectores descubrieron que los guardias no supervisaban ni controlaban adecuadamente a las personas encarceladas. Las salas de control de los guardias tienen puntos ciegos y líneas de visión deficientes, y carecen de personal, según el informe, con un solo guardia asignado para vigilar cuatro unidades de alojamiento a la vez.

El ICE respondió diciendo que el centro de detención "sólo ha alojado un número de detenidos que se corresponde con los niveles actuales de personal en un momento dado".

Régimen de inspección vacío

En respuesta al informe de la OIG, el ICE también dijo en noviembre

Vea **Inspectores**, página 23

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lo narrado por los sobrevivientes, vieron cómo fueron devorados por tiburones.

La Oficina de Aduanas en Puerto Rico confirmó el rescate, pero aclaró que no podía corroborar la información de que los bebés muertos fueron lanzados al mar y devorados por tiburones, a pesar de que un líder religioso haitiano que los asiste aseguró que fueron las madres las que narraron la horrible escena.

Ninguna madre podría mentir ante semejante pérdida, ni mucho menos olvidar su tiempo ni sus circunstancias. Es un antes y un después en su desgarrada experiencia migratoria.

Lamentablemente no es ni la primera ni la última vez que se suscita esta historia de horror. Aquí hubo sobrevivientes que dieron fe de lo acontecido. Esa travesía hacia Puerto Rico por el tenebroso Canal de La Mona la realizan especialmente dominicanos y haitianos, y más recientemente migrantes de otras nacionalidades, con la esperanza de pisar suelo estadounidense y desde allí saltar a los Estados Unidos continentales de algún modo.

Son "carne de la mar", como escribió el músico dominicano Juan Luis Guerra, en su canción "Visa para un sueño". Y cuando la visa se transforma en la misma

muerte, todo el esfuerzo en esa travesía se convierte en el memorial de las eternidades y de las voces y de las miradas que ansiaban llegar a la otra orilla de la esperanza.

En Puerto Rico es cotidiano el arribo de migrantes indocumentados por mar. Algunos llegan y son detenidos y deportados; otros, si piden asilo, pueden ser enviados a Miami para los próximos pasos; otros más no viven para contarlo y pasan a formar parte de esa masa humana que a diario arriesga su vida en diversos puntos del mundo buscando mejores oportunidades y refugio.

Esto es, el vasto y mortal desierto que enmarca la ruta hacia la frontera estadounidense es también un cementerio de migrantes, como lo es el mar en el Caribe y en tantos otros lugares del mundo.

Pero como nos compete el caso de Estados Unidos, esta más reciente tragedia que involucra a haitianos es un triste e indignante recordatorio de la urgencia de una reforma migratoria que no únicamente legalice a los indocumentados entre nosotros, sino que reforme las leyes de asilo haciéndolas más humanas y eficientes.

Y esta no es una petición que deba hacerse en el vacío, pues quiérase o no, los desplazamientos humanos ponen a prueba constantemente al mundo y su estructura; a esa división entre naciones que lo tienen todo, no por arte de magia sino porque en la historia se convirtieron en saqueadoras, y naciones pobres que históricamente fueron saqueadas.

Así, a corto plazo y sin intervención del Congreso, ya viene

siendo hora de que el gobierno de Joe Biden deje de aplicar el nefasto Título 42 implementado por Donald Trump, que, invocando la pandemia del Covid, impide que solicitantes de asilo de Haití y de otras naciones puedan hacerlo en Estados Unidos.

Uno aplaude la solidaridad con los refugiados ucranianos ante la barbarie de Rusia. Pero al mismo tiempo, uno quisiera que esa misma solidaridad se mostrara hacia refugiados de otras naciones y de otros colores, cuyas vidas tienen el mismo valor.

*Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de **América's Voice**. David Torres es Asesor en Español de **América's Voice**.*

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Tejada

legislatures in other states have been emboldened by the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court allowed SB 8 to take effect, and many are now considering passing their own versions of the Texas law. This could immediately stop some or all abortion access in other states, potentially including neighboring Oklahoma — hurting more individuals and families by not only cutting off care in those states but also eliminating places for Texans to travel for care and pushing people of those states into travel or forced pregnancy.

Unfortunately, SB 8 is only the beginning: What is happening in Texas is not an anomaly, but a harbinger of what may come for reproductive rights in the United States. The Supreme Court recently heard *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case about Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban where the state asked the court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision that recognized abortion as a constitutional right. A decision is expected in a few short months, and many have taken the court's inaction on Texas's SB 8 as a sign that the court will gut or completely eliminate the constitutional right to abortion.

The court could allow states to ban abortion after 15-weeks of pregnancy, which would cut off weeks of legal care in various states, including in states like Tennessee and Arkansas where challenges are pending to abortion bans at different points in pregnancy, and in states like Arizona and Florida that will likely enact 15-week bans this legislative ses-

sion. Or the court could eliminate the federal constitutional right to abortion entirely, which would mean that about half the states in the country would likely ban abortion altogether, leaving 36 million people without access. This would be disastrous, enlarging the abortion deserts that already exist, and forcing people across the country to carry pregnancies against their will. As with SB 8, the effects of this patchwork landscape would be felt the most by those who are already marginalized.

No matter what the Supreme Court does with *Roe*, the court already let SB 8 take effect, which means that for Texans the right to abortion currently exists largely in name only. The inability to access abortion beyond the earliest weeks of pregnancy has been and will continue to be devastating for pregnant people in Texas and their families. Sadly, that is precisely the intent of SB 8's architects and supporters, and whether through copycat bills, 15-week bans, or total abortion bans, courts and legislatures appear prepared to release this devastation on countless more people. But we won't give up the fight — we will do everything we can to protect the right to abortion, rebuild the right if the Supreme Court dismantles it, and ensure that people can get the care they need.

Chelsea Tejada is a Legal Fellow with the American Civil Liberties Union Reproductive Freedom Project.

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Inspectors

The inspections don't necessarily result in real change, she said. It's clear the changes recommended in the July 2021 report were not made, she said, so the follow through also is not there, even on the rare occasion where they do fail the inspection.

"It speaks to how the broader system is just incapable of assuring basic minimum standards are met to make sure that people are safely treated right with care and dignity when they're held in these facilities," she said.

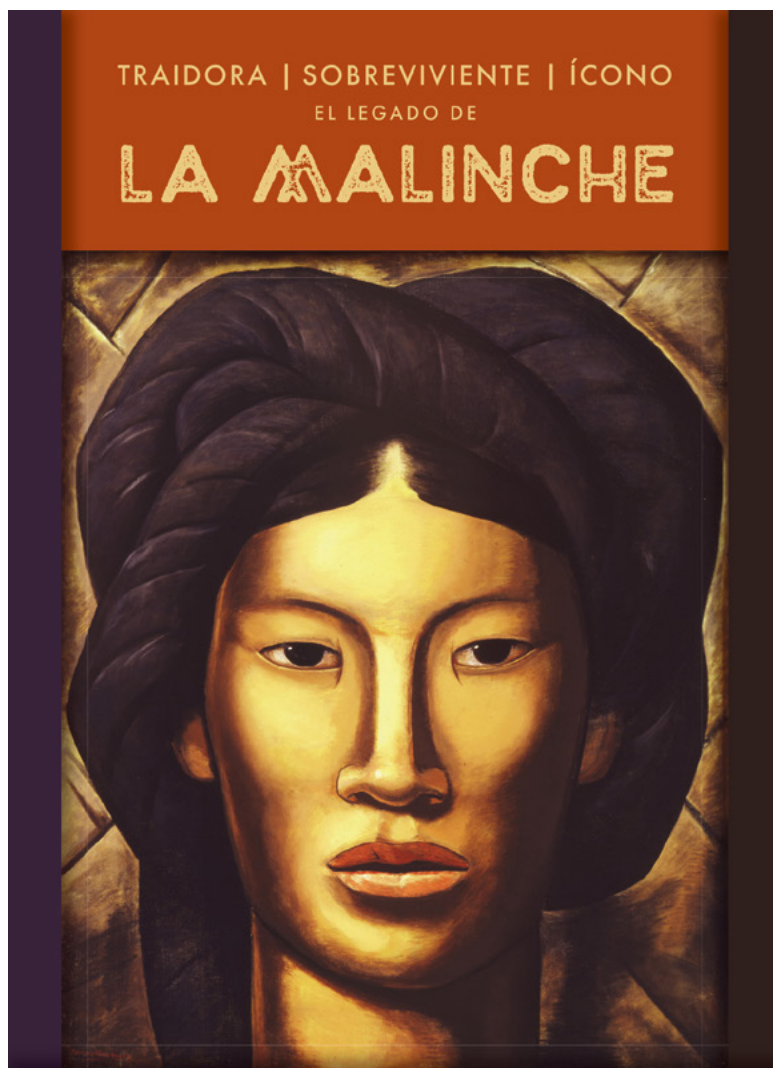
The OIG is also working on a forthcoming report on the Torrance detention center about deficiencies in staff-detainee communications, detainee classification, COVID-19 mitigation, medical care and access to legal services.

That warrants continued vigilance and close attention to what's happening at the facility, Sheff said.

"This isn't the end of the story," she said.

*Austin Fisher is a journalist based in Santa Fe, New México. This article is republished from **Source New Mexico** under a Creative Commons license.*

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Del 6 de febrero al 8 de mayo de 2022

Explore el legado perdurable de una de las figuras más enigmáticas y fascinantes de la historia de México.

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Imagen: Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *La Malinche (Mochacha de Yalala, Oaxaca)*, 1940. Óleo sobre lienzo; 50 x 40 1/2 in. Phoenix Art Museum. Adquisición del museo con fondos proporcionados por Amigos del Arte Mexicano, 1979.84. ©Proyecto de Investigación Alfredo Ramos Martínez, reproducción con autorización.

Traidora, sobreviviente, ícono: El legado de la Malinche ha sido organizado por el Denver Art Museum. La exposición ha sido posible en parte gracias a una subvención del National Endowment for the Humanities. La democracia exige sabiduría. Asimismo, recibe el apoyo de Furthermore, un programa del fondo J. M. Kaplan Fund, University of Denver, College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, así como de los donantes a la campaña benéfica Annual Fund Leadership Campaign y de los residentes que brindan su apoyo al Distrito de Organizaciones Científicas y Culturales (SCFD, por sus siglas en inglés). Apoyo promocional proporcionado por *5280 Magazine* y CBS4. Un agradecimiento especial al Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia y a la Secretaría de Cultura de México.

Cualquier opinión, resultado, conclusión o recomendación expresados en esta exposición no representan necesariamente los del National Endowment for the Humanities.



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Covid

custody. These are absolutely critical measures to protect people in custody from the ongoing threat of covid-19," said Bree Bernwanger, a senior attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, one of the groups that sued.

As of Feb. 21, nearly 34,000 detainees in U.S. detention facilities had declined vaccination, according to figures provided by ICE. In the same period, more than 53,000 received one.

Turner-Lloveras said the big barrier is a lack of trusted messengers. "When someone doesn't have confidence in the people offering the vaccine," he said, "many people are going to decline it."

According to ICE's covid protocols, vaccine information is provided at intake in numerous languages. Still, Newman, VEED's program manager, said detainees in some facilities have reported a markedly inconsistent approach to providing vaccines, boosters, and education.

"Programs like VEED are critical," said Jackie Gonzalez, policy director for *Immigrant Defense Advocates*, a group working to abolish detention facilities in California. "Because we know individuals who are detained don't trust the people who are detaining them, especially when the detaining party has been a private corporation that has failed them time and time again on issues of health and safety."

Figueroa, originally from Michoacán, Mexico, has been at the Mesa Verde facility since November awaiting a court date on his deportation case. He said he was brought to the U.S. without documentation as a child and picked up by ICE following a recent arrest. He declined to discuss the nature of the arrest, saying he had been advised that discussing his case could hurt his legal effort to stay in the U.S.

In detention, Figueroa said, he initially declined a vaccine because he felt he had insufficient information about safety and side effects. He had heard the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been linked to a rare but life-threatening side effect involving severe blood clots.

"I told the nurse that I heard bad reports on Johnson & Johnson. If I wanted to get vaccinated with one of the other ones, could I have more information?" Figueroa recalled. "Her response was, 'We're offering J&J. Do you want it or not?' So I didn't get it."

Eventually, Figueroa got the Pfizer vaccine. But he had ques-

tions about booster shots and other covid-related issues. Turner-Lloveras, he said, didn't treat him like a detainee.

"I feel like I was treated like just another person who called for information," said Figueroa. "I feel more comfortable receiving medical information from someone on the outside, so that I can make these decisions."

The pilot program started with 20 physicians on call across the country. They recruit volunteers on an ongoing basis and currently have several active doctors. For now, they are providing services in four detention centers in California where detainees have specifically requested outside medical advice, and hope to expand nationwide.

The call between Turner-Lloveras and Figueroa lasted about 18 minutes. Figueroa asked about the risks of people mixing different brands of vaccines from the initial doses through the booster, as well as the possibility of false-negative test results.

After the conversation, Figueroa decided to get the booster when he becomes eligible in three months. "The hope is that I won't be here, but if I am, I'm going to get it to protect myself and protect others," he said.

Heidi de Marco, Reporter and Producer for California Healthline. This story was produced by Kaiser Health News, which publishes California Healthline, an editorially independent service of the California Health Care Foundation.

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Hastings/Torres

which, invoking the Covid-19 pandemic, keeps asylum seekers from Haiti and other countries from applying in the United States. The solidarity with Ukrainians refugees confronted by Russian barbarism is to be applauded. But at the same time, this same solidarity should be shown toward refugees from other nations and of other colors, whose lives are also worthy.

Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice. David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.

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Sinha

USCIS. Within seven days of a court order in response to the lawsuit, 27,829 applicants received their EAD. The lawsuit, however, failed to make any significant policy changes, and individuals experiencing processing delays continue to file lawsuits across the country.

Under the Biden administration, USCIS has taken incremental steps to tackle the backlog, but these steps aren't enough. The lengthy processing time estimates on the USCIS website — with basic applications often taking six months to over a year to process — show that the agency lacks an effective

internal procedure to simplify and speed up the adjudication process.

Fortunately, a recent federal court judgment offered relief to people seeking asylum who have been waiting for their EAD when it ruled that the previous administration's restrictions on work permits were illegal and invalid. This ruling gives hope to people seeking asylum today, many of whom have been living in this country for years and are unable to work legally while they wait for their case to be approved.

USCIS must consider how its inaction affects immigrants and their

families. More than a million immigrants are eager to contribute to this country. Allowing them to work legally will boost our workforce and economy.

Policymakers should create policies that protect an immigrant's right to work — and therefore their right to live.

Payal Sinha is a managing attorney at the Tahirih Justice Center. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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están al ralentí cerca de los hogares y las empresas. Limpiar la contaminación de los camiones es una buena política ambiental, una buena política de justicia social y una buena política económica", dijo Wendy Howell del Partido de las Familias Trabajadoras de Colorado. "El retraso es simplemente inaceptable".

La coalición que desafía el retraso de la Administración Polis incluye a GreenLatinos, Colorado Working Families Party, Mi Familia Vota, NAACP Denver, y Womxn from the Mountain (colectivamente la "Coalición de Justicia Ambiental"); Conservation Colorado; Environmental Defense Fund; Natural Resources Defense Council; Sierra Club; Western Resource Advocates; y Boulder County. La petición fue presentada por Earthjustice.

La cuestión es la rapidez con la que el estado de Colorado se une a otros estados en la adopción de una norma sobre camiones limpios avanzados (ACT), que exigiría a los fabricantes vender un porcentaje determinado, y cada vez mayor, de camiones eléctricos en Colorado, y también la adopción de una norma omnibus sobre óxidos de nitrógeno bajos (Low-NOx), que exigiría que los camiones alimentados

con combustibles fósiles se quemaran de forma más limpia. Estas normas ayudarían a limpiar la contaminación del tubo de escape de los camiones medianos y pesados, las furgonetas de reparto, los autobuses y los autocares escolares. El Estado ya ha adoptado normas de cero y bajas emisiones para los coches y los camiones ligeros.

Los vehículos medianos y pesados son la segunda mayor fuente de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI) en el sector del transporte en el estado, contribuyendo con el 22% de las emisiones de GEI en carretera, a pesar de comprender menos del 10% de los vehículos de Colorado. También contribuyen de forma significativa a las emisiones que provocan altos niveles de ozono, óxidos de nitrógeno y partículas (NOx y PM) que tienen graves impactos en la calidad del aire y la salud humana. Estos vehículos contribuyen a un 30% de las emisiones de NOx en carretera y a un 40% de las emisiones de PM en carretera. Las comunidades situadas a lo largo de las principales autopistas, como la I-70, la I-25 y la I-270, y las que se encuentran cerca de almacenes y depósitos ferroviarios, a menudo denominadas "zonas de muerte del diésel", son las más afectadas

por estos elevados niveles de emisiones debido al elevado tráfico de camiones.

"Más retrasos para avanzar hacia una solución de camiones limpios invalida la justicia ambiental que se necesita ahora para las comunidades desproporcionadamente afectadas por los impactos acumulativos de la contaminación y el racismo ambiental. La política no sólo puede restaurar nuestras comunidades, sino que finalmente aborda la equidad con la salud y la seguridad que nuestras futuras generaciones merecen, dijo Renée M. Chacón, cofundadora/directora ejecutiva de Womxn from the Mountain.

"Las comunidades BIPOC han tenido que soportar durante mucho tiempo el peso de los peligros ambientales a través de la redlining racista que obligó a nuestros barrios a convertirse en las zonas más contaminadas del estado. Por fin hay una oportunidad para el cambio a lo largo de las autopistas y calles principales que a menudo se encuentran cerca de nuestras comunidades también. Esto significa que el aire limpio a través de ACT es una necesidad, este año, sin más demora. Las comunidades BIPOC merecen tener por fin medios de vida ambientalmente se-

guros", argumentó Katara Burrola de Mi Familia Vota.

Añadió Sarah Clark, organizadora principal de Colorado Sierra Club, "Es imperativo que la comisión de control de la calidad del aire acelere los camiones limpios avanzados y la normativa de baja NOx y conseguir que en el camino para cumplir con las obligaciones de reducción del clima del estado. Cuanto más tardemos en aprobar estas normas, más tiempo sufrirán las comunidades afectadas de forma desproporcionada y nuestro medio ambiente. El momento de actuar es ahora".

La coalición afirma que la Comisión no debe retrasar el ACT y la regulación de bajo NOx por varias razones. En primer lugar, el aplazamiento de la audiencia de reglamentación hasta 2023 retrasaría un año la entrada en vigor de las normas en Colorado, retrasando la contaminación del aire y los beneficios climáticos, y es contrario a las obligaciones de equidad y justicia ambiental de la Comisión.

En segundo lugar, la Comisión ha abandonado y retrasado recientemente otras normas que reducirían la contaminación del sector del transporte y beneficiarían a las comunidades desproporcionadamente afectadas, incluyendo un plan para dar a los viajeros diferentes opciones y otro para reducir las emisiones de GEI de los grandes contaminadores industriales. Todo este retraso hace que el estado se retrase aún más con respecto al propio plan del Gobernador para limitar los impactos del cambio climático, lo que hace aún más imperativa una acción acelerada sobre el ACT y las normas de bajo NOx.

En tercer lugar, el retraso pondrá a Colorado un año por detrás de otros estados en la aplicación de estas normas. Los fabricantes venden vehículos donde las reglas están en su lugar, por lo que los compradores tendrán menos opciones que otros estados.

"El incendio de Marshall ha dejado claro que los habitantes de Colorado ya están experimentando los devastadores impactos de la crisis climática", dijo Cindy Copeland, asesora de política climática

y del aire del condado de Boulder. "Ahora no es el momento de retrasar las nuevas normas sobre aire limpio y clima. Estas reglas de camiones limpios reducirán la contaminación del aire para las comunidades desproporcionadamente impactadas que viven cerca de las principales rutas de camiones y mejorarán la calidad de vida de los millones de habitantes de Colorado que viven en el área de no cumplimiento de ozono severo de Front Range."

Larissa Koehler, abogado mayor en EDF, comentó, "Colorado debe moverse adelante tan rápidamente como sea posible en la adopción de los camiones limpios avanzados y de las regulaciones omnibus pesadas. Necesitamos camiones más limpios para reducir la contaminación, ayudar a lidiar con el cambio climático, y mejorar la calidad del aire - en particular en las comunidades que tienen una carga desigual de la contaminación de los camiones y autobuses sucios. Además de ayudar al estado a pasar a vehículos de cero emisiones y más limpios, estas políticas darán lugar a puestos de trabajo bien remunerados, así como a un ahorro de costes de combustible y mantenimiento para los operadores de flotas."

Los peticionarios solicitaron que la AQCC emita una orden declaratoria que acelere la elaboración de normas de ACT y Low-NOx y que ordene a la División de Control de la Contaminación del Aire dentro del Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado que solicite rápidamente una audiencia de elaboración de normas que garantice que las normas se publiquen en el Registro de Colorado antes del 31 de diciembre de 2022.

"El tiempo es esencial", dijo Tafoya. "La contaminación por diésel nos está matando ahora, y el cambio climático está amenazando nuestra salud y seguridad ahora. No podemos esperar para actuar. Instamos a la AQCC a considerar y decidir esta petición en su reunión de abril, y ayudar a conseguir camiones limpios en Colorado este año."

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Adams 14

often called her on various issues and was told he had to talk to MGT.

Malmberg is also concerned that the panel was made up of people from outside the district who don't understand all the local issues students face. And he said that when the panel finally hosted a meeting with parents, technical issues meant many parents didn't stay to give their thoughts.

The Adams 14 district serves more than 6,000 students in the working-class areas north of Denver and has received failing ratings from the state for at least a decade.

The state had already made Adams 14 the first district required to hand over management to an outside group to improve student achievement. But the district and its manager, MGT Consulting, abruptly cut ties earlier this year. So the State Board of Education set a hearing to decide on a new improvement plan.

As required by law, a state review panel of outside experts visited the district twice, in February, interviewed staff and community members, and compiled recommendations.

The panel's report notes the

group was concerned about the district's leadership, and about a division among the community.

Specifically, "the gravest concerns are the reported culture of fear and retaliation, the lack of sound financial and human resource practices, and the overall limited improvement in student achievement and growth over many years."

The state has limited options for directing the district. The law allows the state to close a school, turn it into a charter school, grant waivers and autonomy to implement its own plan, and partially or totally hand over school or district management to an outside group. The state can also dissolve or consolidate a district, but it has never done so.

The review panel's report notes some of the many open questions about taking unprecedented steps.

"In order for consolidation to be an option, the [state review panel] recognizes that there are neighboring districts that are performing at higher levels and may be viable options for students. However, this option would require the local board of education in neigh-

boring districts to agree," the report states.

State [law outlines](#) a general process for reorganization that requires a planning committee to craft a plan for how to change district boundaries. It could include creating new or dissolving existing districts, but must get agreement from a majority of committee members and approval from the state's education commissioner.

As an alternative, the report suggests that neighboring districts instead become partners to support Adams 14 in its turnaround work. That idea came up when the panel held a focus group with leaders of the nearby districts who were described as having an "initial hesitancy" to absorbing Adams 14 students. But the report questions who would be held accountable in a partnership scenario.

"While partners indicated they are willing to provide support to the district, it is not clear if there are local partners who are willing to be held accountable for the work occurring in Adams 14."

Before Adams 14 hired MGT Consulting, the district had proposed partnering with the neigh-

boring Mapleton Public Schools. The State Board of Education at the time rejected the district's plan, unless the districts agreed to add another group to help Mapleton do the work. But [talks](#) between the districts broke down.

The state review panel also noted that a reorganization or consolidation would require a plan for transition.

"Creating a lack of stability at the school level could be more detrimental to students and families if not done well and without the appropriate expertise," the report stated. The report also suggested creating a new board.

"The creation of and/or appointment of a separate board composed of local peers/experts to lead and oversee the district leadership and its roles and responsibilities ... may provide the accountability required to show improvements," the report states. "This would also allow for any major leadership changes and reorganization to occur on a smaller scale and to begin more swiftly and thoughtfully than a large district reorganization or consolidation."

Adams 14 is already suing the state to change the rules for the

hearing next month. The district's lawsuit, in part, takes issue with the State Review Panel and the data it might have considered.

Salazar has been vocal about questioning the state's authority to take control away from the locally elected school board and the superintendent it hired.

The hearing next month will also consider separate recommendations for Central Elementary, one of the district's lowest-performing schools which could face its own orders for improvement apart from the district. A separate state review panel is drafting recommendations for the school.

Read the State Review Panel's recommendations [here](#). Read the district's response [here](#).

Yesenia Robles is a reporter for Chalkbeat Colorado covering K-12 school districts and multilingual education. Chalkbeat is a nonprofit news organization covering public education. This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.

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Covid/Esp

tres años, incluidos límites estrictos en la población de detenidos para permitir un distanciamiento adecuado, y pruebas periódicas.

Además, cientos de inmigrantes que fueron liberados porque su salud los hacía especialmente vulnerables al covid no pueden volver a estar detenidos a menos que representen un riesgo para la seguridad pública.

Este acuerdo incluye nuevos protocolos para información sobre las vacunas, incluido el requisito de que ICE y GEO Group, el contratista de prisiones privadas que administra Mesa Verde, ofrezcan vacunas contra covid a los detenidos durante el período de cuarentena de 14 días después de que se registran bajo custodia, y proporcionen dosis de refuerzo consistentes con la guía de los CDC.

Si un detenido inicialmente rechaza la vacunación, pero luego cambia de opinión, la instalación debe administrar la vacuna a pedido de esa persona.

"No debería ser necesario un litigio para garantizar que ICE brinde educación de salud pública sobre las vacunas y administre rápidamente las dosis y refuerzos a las personas bajo custodia. Estas son medidas absolutamente críticas para proteger a las personas de la amenaza constante de covid-19,"

dijo Bree Bernwanger, abogada senior del Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights del área de la Bahía de San Francisco, uno de los grupos que presentó la demanda.

Hasta el 21 de febrero, casi 34,000 detenidos en los centros de detención de todo el país se habían negado a vacunarse, según cifras proporcionadas por ICE. En el mismo período, más de 53,000 se vacunaron.

Turner-Lloveras dijo que la gran barrera es la falta de mensajeros confiables. "Cuando alguien no tiene confianza en las personas que ofrecen la vacuna", dijo, "mucha gente la rechazará".

De acuerdo con los [protocolos contra covid de ICE](#), la información sobre la vacuna se proporciona en numerosos idiomas al momento de la admisión. Aún así, Newman, gerente del programa de VEED, dijo que los detenidos en algunas instalaciones han informado inconsistencias a la hora de proporcionar vacunas, refuerzos y educación.

"Los programas como VEED son fundamentales", dijo Jackie Gonzalez, directora de políticas de [Immigrant Defense Advocates](#), un grupo que trabaja para abolir los centros de detención en California. "Porque sabemos que las personas que están detenidas no

confían en los que los detienen, especialmente cuando ha sido una corporación privada que les ha hablado una y otra vez en temas de salud y seguridad".

Figueroa, originario de Michoacán, México, ha estado en las instalaciones de Mesa Verde desde noviembre esperando una fecha en la corte para su caso de deportación. Dijo que lo trajeron a los Estados Unidos sin documentación cuando era niño y que ICE lo recogió después de un arresto reciente. Se negó a discutir la naturaleza del arresto y dijo que le habían advertido que discutir su caso podría perjudicar su esfuerzo legal por permanecer en el país.

Ya detenido, Figueroa dijo que al principio rechazó una vacuna porque sintió que no tenía suficiente información sobre la seguridad y los efectos secundarios. Había escuchado que la de Johnson & Johnson se había relacionado con un efecto secundario raro pero potencialmente mortal que involucra coágulos de sangre severos.

"Le dije a la enfermera que escuché malos informes sobre Johnson & Johnson. Si quisiera vacunarme con una de las otras, ¿podría tener más información?", recordó Figueroa. "Su respuesta fue: 'Estamos ofreciendo J&J. ¿La

quieres o no?'. Así que no lo entendí".

Eventualmente, Figueroa recibió la vacuna de Pfizer. Pero tenía preguntas sobre las dosis de refuerzo y otros temas relacionados con covid. Dijo que Turner-Lloveras no lo trató como a un detenido.

"Siento que me trató como a una persona más que llamó para pedir información", dijo Figueroa. "Me siento más cómodo recibiendo información médica de alguien de afuera, para poder tomar estas decisiones".

El programa piloto tiene casi 20 médicos de guardia en todo el país. Por ahora, están brindando servicios en cuatro centros de detención en California donde los detenidos han solicitado específicamente asesoramiento médico externo, y esperan expandirse a nivel nacional.

La llamada entre Turner-Lloveras y Figueroa duró unos 18

minutos. Figueroa preguntó sobre los riesgos de que las personas mezclas diferentes marcas de vacunas desde las dosis iniciales hasta el refuerzo, así como la posibilidad de resultados falsos negativos en las pruebas.

Después de la conversación, Figueroa decidió recibir el refuerzo cuando sea elegible en tres meses. "La esperanza es que no estaré aquí, pero si estoy, lo conseguiré para protegerme y proteger a los demás".

Heide de Marco es Reportera de California Healthline. Esta historia fue producida por Kaiser Health News, que publica California Healthline, un servicio editorialmente independiente de la California Health Care Foundation.

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Tecún Umán which is on the border of Guatemala with México, there I will be waiting for you," they told him.

He embarked on the journey with his family and nephew, already in Tecún Umán, Guatemala. A lady introduced herself, put them on a bicycle with seats in front, and took them to a house.

"Tomorrow, they will help us cross. We leave at 5am, and we are going to cross a river, so get ready. I am going to go by myself, and you are going to cross with the *coyote*," they were told.

The next day they got up very early. According to Josue, they made them walk very fast and then

crossed the river on a raft. On the other side, young people on two motorcycles were waiting for them.

"You and your wife get on this motorcycle and your son with your nephew on the other motorcycle," they said, and explained to Josue that they do this to avoid checkpoints.

Josue recounts the fear he felt at that time when he was separated from his son, because he knew many stories where children were physically and sexually abused by human traffickers, so while he was riding on the motorcycle, he was obsessed with tremendous fear.

The young people took them to Chiapas, México, where they had

to wait seven days to be told when the time was right to go to the border. Josue so far felt lucky because he was able to go with his whole family and nothing bad had happened to them. He said that they were treated okay, but the coyotes did not give them food.

Before leaving El Salvador, Josue had to sell his families' belongings, he then kept the money hidden to use in case of an emergency and to feed his family.

After seven days, the human trafficker finally called them. "They are going to leave, but if they detain anyone, they cannot talk about us, do not be upset if this happens, it will take more time, but they will still reach the border," they said.

The next day they got on a bus that would take them directly to México City. Josue recalled that there was a strong storm that night that deterred routine checkpoints, approximately twenty along the entire route, he said.

They were stopped by the border patrol agents three times to inspect their vehicle. The trafficker told the family they had to pretend to be asleep, so the agents would not ask questions about their immigration status. However, at one of the stops their luck ran out, and an officer asked Josue who was in his row of seats on the bus.

"Where are you from," asked the agent.

"I have no identification papers," Josue replied.

The officer continued his inspection and at the end, asked them to take their belongings and get off the bus. "I thought he was going to arrest us," recalled Josue, but the officer asked the bus driver to wait. In the middle of the inspection the officer asked several questions.

"What happened, because the *coyote* didn't get off [the bus] with you and so how are we going to fix it?" asked the agent.

"Tell me," Jose replied.

The officer asked for 1,000 Mexican *pesos* per person to let them get on the bus again. With the little he had left, he handed over the 4,000 Mexican *pesos* and continued his journey. For him it was fortunate that they had only asked for identification, considering that otherwise they would have continued extorting them until they reached the border.

Finally, they arrived in México City with the traffickers.

«We have successfully gone through the most difficult part of the trip. From here to the border there is only one checkpoint, and we will pass it at dawn so as not

to run into immigration border patrols.» they told him.

At that checkpoint the agents only questioned Josue. His wife was with their child inside the bus. The agents inspected his suitcase, they demanded information from him, and the soldiers then left.

After seventeen days crossing El Salvador, Guatemala, and México, they arrived in Matamoros, Tamaulipia, near the México/U.S. border. Then the coyotes left them and abandoned them there.

"Walk straight and there you will find the border. We are leaving," they told them.

“The officer asked for 1,000 Mexican pesos per person to let them get on the bus again. With the little he had left, he handed over the 4,000 Mexican pesos and continued his journey.”

Josue believes that they were swindled because normally people are helped to cross the river and then passed through the desert, but they were left in the middle of nowhere with a five-year-old boy, his wife, and his nephew. Not knowing what to do, Josue began to walk with his family to the border when they happened to meet a man. He asked them to approach him, and despite their fear of him, they began to speak with him.

"If you want to enter the country, you will have to take the COVID test and there in that line, the *gringos* (U.S. officials) give you the exam, just give me something (a little money) for the information," he told them.

Josue gave the man some of the little money he had left and went to the long line for COVID tests. They were in line until the next day, with no food to eat, but he realized there was an organization of immigration lawyers to assist the migrants.

"Why do people stand in this line?" Josue asked.

They were told that the COVID tests were not given in that line, but they had to go first to migration authorities, present themselves to be able to enter the country, and explain about their immigration case. They were sent to a shelter that supports migrants trying to cross the border while their case was being processed.

They were in that location two months waiting for an answer, seeing many families come and go with similar cases and dreams, eating only twice a day because it was

what the shelter provided them. They were not able to work, so they had to ask their relatives in El Salvador to help them with money.

One day when Josue's hopes were failing, and depression was already an integral part of their lives, with his wife undergoing so much stress that she began to lose her hair, and her son, who in order to persuade him to migrate with them, they had told him they were going to take him to Disneyworld, he just wanted to return home and not continue living in these difficult conditions—when suddenly, their lawyer called them to tell them they could cross into the U.S. and argue and fight for their immigration case in the United States. They were overwhelmed with emotion, and they felt that finally their journey would improve.

Finally, permission to enter the U.S. was in their own hands. To make their case to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, they took a bus to Texas. From there, they called his wife's sister and asked for help to travel to where she lived in Denver, Colorado. Josue still remembers his first day, as he arrived at his sister-in-law's house and took a breather and was relieved to get his family to safety after their very long journey.

The road has not been easy for Josue and his family. They have not yet adapted to the harsh climate and freezing nights of Colorado, and they continue to hope to resolve their immigration status. He works in two places; his first job starts at 3a.m. and he works until 11:30am, and his second job begins at Noon until his responsibilities end each day, with no structured ending time. On many days feels his strength ebbing, and he is not able to get up to start work again the next day. However, the rent, the bills, the food costs, and the debt he has with his wife's sister—exceeding \$14,000, with interest doubling the amount, make him get up every day to struggle for his family. His wife, who is now pregnant again, is looking for work to help the family financially, with the sole hope of being able to pay off all of their debts. They look forward to living better in a few years and finally, among all of their goals, being able to fulfill their son's dream of seeing Mickey Mouse at Disney-World in Orlando, Florida.

"The name in this article has been changed to protect this migrant's identity."

Karen Gutiérrez is a Journalist in Colorado.

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antes de esa fecha. Bajo la dirección de Loria, Adams 14 en varias ocasiones no le permitió entrada al distrito a los empleados de MGT.

Jason Malmberg, presidente de la unión de maestros del distrito, dijo que el panel debió haber considerado los correos electrónicos que el distrito trató de proporcionar para demostrar que Loria no tenía autoridad. Malmberg dijo que la llamaba a menudo para hablar de varios temas y que le decían que tenía que hablar con MGT.

A Malmberg también le preocupa que el panel estaba compuesto por personas de fuera del distrito, que no entienden todos los problemas locales a los que se enfrentan los estudiantes. Y dijo que cuando el panel finalmente tuvo una reunión con los padres, muchos de ellos no se quedaron para dar su opinión debido a problemas técnicos.

El distrito Adams 14 atiende a más de 6,000 estudiantes en las áreas de gente trabajadora en el norte de Denver y ha estado recibiendo calificaciones deficientes por parte del estado durante al menos una década.

El estado ya había hecho que Adams 14 fuera el primer distrito obligado a ceder su administración a un grupo externo para mejorar el desempeño de los estudiantes. Pero el distrito y su administrador, MGT Consulting, cortaron abruptamente sus vínculos a principios de este año. Por lo tanto, la Junta Estatal de Educación fijó una audiencia para decidir sobre un nuevo plan de mejora.

Como lo requiere la ley, un panel de revisión estatal formado por expertos externos visitó el distrito

dos veces en febrero, entrevistó al personal y a los miembros de la comunidad, y recopiló recomendaciones.

El informe del panel señala que al grupo le preocupaba el liderazgo del distrito y una división en la comunidad.

Específicamente, "las preocupaciones más graves son la cultura de miedo y represalias que se ha informado, la falta de buenas prácticas financieras y de recursos humanos y la poca mejora general del desempeño y el crecimiento de los estudiantes durante muchos años."

Las opciones del estado para dirigir el distrito son limitadas. La ley permite que el estado cierre una escuela, la convierta en escuela chárter, otorgue exenciones y autonomía para implementar su propio plan, y que ceda el manejo de la escuela o del distrito parcialmente o totalmente a un grupo externo. El estado también puede disolver o consolidar un distrito, pero nunca lo ha hecho.

El informe del panel de revisión señala algunas de las muchas preguntas abiertas sobre la adopción de medidas sin precedentes.

"Para que la consolidación sea una opción, el [panel de revisión estatal] reconoce que hay distritos vecinos que están desempeñándose a niveles más altos y pueden ser opciones viables para los estudiantes. Sin embargo, esta opción requeriría que las juntas locales de educación de los distritos vecinos lleguen a un acuerdo", dice el informe.

La ley del estado establece un proceso general de reorganización que requiere que un comi-

té de planificación elabore un plan sobre cómo cambiar los límites del distrito. Ese plan podría incluir crear distritos nuevos o disolver distritos existentes, pero requiere obtener el acuerdo de la mayoría de los miembros del comité y la aprobación del comisionado de educación del estado. Luego, el comité ordenaría elecciones en todos los distritos afectados para aprobar el plan.

Como alternativa, el informe sugiere que los distritos vecinos se conviertan en socios para apoyar a Adams 14 en su trabajo de recuperación. Esta idea surgió cuando el panel tuvo un grupo de discusión con los líderes de los distritos cercanos, de los que se dijo que estaban "inicialmente renuentes" a absorber a los estudiantes de Adams 14. Pero el informe cuestiona quién sería el responsable en caso de una asociación.

"Aunque los socios indicaron que están dispuestos a darle apoyo al distrito, no está claro si hay socios locales que estén dispuestos a rendir cuentas del trabajo que está ocurriendo en Adams 14."

Antes de que Adams 14 contratara a MGT Consulting, el distrito había propuesto asociarse con las escuelas vecinas del Distrito Mapleton Public Schools. La Junta

Estatal de Educación rechazó el plan del distrito en ese momento, a menos que los distritos aceptaran añadir otro grupo para ayudar a Mapleton a realizar el trabajo. Pero las conversaciones entre los distritos no progresaron.

El panel de revisión estatal también señaló que una reorganización o consolidación requeriría un plan de transición.

"Crear una falta de estabilidad en las escuelas podría ser más perjudicial para los estudiantes y las familias si no se hace bien y si no se cuenta con la pericia adecuada", afirma el informe. El informe también sugirió crear una junta nueva.

"La creación y/o el nombramiento de una junta independiente compuesta por pares/expertos locales para dirigir y supervisar la dirección del distrito y sus funciones y responsabilidades... puede proporcionar la responsabilidad cuantitativa necesaria para mostrar mejoras", afirma el informe. "Esto también permitiría que cualquier cambio mayor en liderazgo y reorganización se hiciera a menor escala y comenzara más rápidamente y pensado que la reorganización o consolidación de un distrito grande."

Adams 14 ya está demandando al estado para que cambie las

reglas de la audiencia del próximo mes. La demanda del distrito, en parte, cuestiona el Panel de Revisión Estatal y los datos que éste podría haber considerado.

Salazar ha cuestionado vocalmente la autoridad del estado para quitarles el control a la junta escolar elegida localmente y al superintendente que contrató.

La audiencia del próximo mes también considerará recomendaciones separadas para la Escuela Primaria Central, una de las escuelas de más bajo desempeño del distrito y que podría enfrentar sus propias órdenes de mejora aparte del distrito. Un panel de revisión estatal separado está preparando recomendaciones para esa escuela.

Yesenia Robles es reportera de Chalkbeat Colorado. Cubre distritos escolares K-12 y educación multilingüe. Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat. Traducido por Milly Suazo-Martínez.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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the creation of a complementary Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names to solicit, review and recommend changes to other derogatory geographic and federal place names.

"Place names are very powerful," said Sara Jackson Shumate, Ph.D., a human geographer and the director of Metropolitan State University of Denver's Center for Individualized Learning. "It's important to rethink our landscapes and what we are valuing through these geographical names."

The federal Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force convened by Haaland, a member of Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico and the first Native American to lead a Cabinet agency, has recommended 28 sites in Colorado for renaming. All of those sites incorporate the word "squaw."

The task force works closely with the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, which gives final determinations for standardizing the names of geographic and natural features. The board is a federal body created in 1890 that was established to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the federal government.

"You can't erase history," said Adriana Nieto, Ph.D., associate

professor chair of Chicana/o Studies at MSU Denver. "Changing geological names doesn't change our history; it reframes it. Reframing history is important because it points out the holes. Naming important places should be a way to remember or learn about important people and events. It changes what we talk about."

Nieto said she's hopeful the conversation is now happening at the national level. "It means it won't go away easily like it has at a local level," Nieto said. "A lot of credit goes to Secretary Haaland, who has created an opening for a conversation and brought the significance of names to the public eye."

Local efforts

Jared Polis established the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board last year to evaluate proposals concerning name changes, new names and name controversies of geographic features and public places in Colorado.

In September, the board made its first recommendation: to change the name of Squaw Mountain in Clear Creek County to Mestaa'èhehe Mountain.

Pronounced mess-taw-HAY, the name honors an influential Cheyenne translator known as Owl Woman.

Other discussions at the state level include renaming Negro Creek and Negro Mesa in Delta County to Clay Creek and Clay Mesa, respectively; changing the name of Redskin Mountain in Jefferson County to Mount Jerome; and renaming Mount Evans as Mount Blue Sky, the name the Arapaho people call themselves.

Mount Evans was named for Territorial Gov. John Evans, who oversaw the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864, in which volunteer soldiers attacked a Cheyenne and Arapaho village, killing approximately 750 people.

Jackson Shumate is hopeful that renaming such a well-known site might spur conversations about past and current values.

"People vacation at these sites. If we start renaming places like Denali (from Mount McKinley) and Mount Evans, it creates an inflection point to begin a critical conversation about our past and what we value as Americans and Coloradans," Jackson Shumate said. "Do we want the largest peak in Colorado to be named for a territorial governor who was forced to resign because of his part in the infamous Sand Creek Massacre and its subsequent coverup or something we can all be proud of?"

Mount Evans' name change may soon be a reality. On Tuesday, the Clear Creek County commissioners recommended changing its name to Mount Blue Sky. The recommendation will go to the state Geographic Naming Advisory Board and Polis before a final decision.

Last June, Colorado legislators passed Senate Bill 116, which prohibits the use of American Indian symbols and names by Colorado public schools beginning this June. Schools that do not come into compliance by June 1 face a \$25,000 monthly fine.

"These efforts are steps, albeit baby ones, in the right direction," Jackson Shumate said. "This is scratching the surface of what really needs to change, which is how we think about and relate to one another, but it gets us moving in the right direction."

Jill McGranahan, Metropolitan State University of Denver. This story originally appeared on MSU Denver RED.

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son and Tetiana's brother, lives in Denver. They arrived approximately one week ago after five days of travel.

Tetiana's husband and two adult sons remain in Ukraine. They work to repair critical electrical infrastructure that gets hit and volunteer with the territorial defense group for their town. The family is able to speak daily as Wi-Fi remains operational.

"Tetiana says that even though they are here in a warm and safe place, they don't feel safe because the country is in the war," interpreter Marina Dubrova, with Ukrainians of Colorado, said.

DeGette said that most refugees who have come to the United States so far have family in the country already, or have used tourist visas.

Congress reauthorized the Lautenberg Amendment on March 15, which provides a way for persecuted religious groups from the former Soviet Union to be reunited with family in the United States. Other mechanisms for resettlement that require a United Nations or U.S. Embassy referral can take up to two years.

"People whose houses area being bombed every day can't wait for two years to be able to come here, and we know that," DeGette said.

DeGette hopes that bipartisan congressional action in the next few weeks can help other Ukrainian refugees come to the

country in an expedited process through that refugee resettlement program.

That could mean more arrivals in Colorado.

"We expect that as Russia continues the humanitarian abuses that we may see even more. As the new refugee resettlement policies take into effect, more people will be coming into Denver and into Colorado," DeGette said.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is one of three refugee resettlement agencies that operates in Colorado.

"The refugee resettlement agencies here in Colorado are ready to assist refugees who come from Ukraine," IRC Executive Director Jennifer Wilson said. "We recognize that most of the people displaced just want to go home, and it is the best and most preferable option if we can restore safety in the country so people can return."

Dubrova said that people who wish to help support Ukrainians can donate to Ukrainians of Colorado as the organization raises money to transport medical supplies.

Sara Wilson is a Reporter with Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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Comentarios

compromete a traducir todos los comentarios públicos recibidos antes de la fecha límite de las 5 p.m. del 8 de abril.

"El lenguaje en el aviso tal vez no hizo el mejor trabajo de transmitir que tomará algún tiempo para traducir todos los comentarios que se reciben en español", dijo Smith. "El CDE asegura que haremos todo lo posible para que todos los comentarios del público, incluidos los comentarios que no estén en inglés y que hayan sido traducidos, se incluyan en el expediente siempre que se reciban antes de la fecha límite".

Además, dijo, el departamento ha traducido los avisos que solicitan los comentarios del público, una encuesta en línea y los comunicados de prensa, "para garantizar que los hispanohablantes de la comunidad tengan acceso a este proceso."

La carta de Trinidad-Sheahan señala que el estado espera que los distritos realicen un trabajo sim-

ilar para comprometerse con sus comunidades, y deben seguir las mismas reglas.

"Si los distritos pueden proporcionar este servicio a los padres y las familias, el CDE también debería hacerlo", dice la carta de Trinidad-Sheahan. "El CDE no está por encima de las expectativas que el mismo CDE ha establecido para las escuelas y los distritos escolares cuando se comunican con los padres/tutores que hablan otro idioma que no sea el inglés".

Yesenia Robles es una reportera de Chalkbeat Colorado que cubre los distritos escolares K-12 y la educación multilingüe. Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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Emigrante

Josue relata el miedo que sintió en ese momento al separarse de su hijo, pues conocía muchas historias en donde los niños eran abusados física y sexualmente por los traficantes de personas, así que por el tiempo que duro el recorrido en la motocicleta el miedo se apoderó de sus pensamientos.

Los jóvenes los llevaron a Chiapas donde tuvieron que esperar siete días para que les indicaran cuando era el momento adecuado para poder subir hasta la frontera. Josue hasta el momento se siente afortunado porque pudo ir con su familia completa y no les pasó nada, menciona que los tratos fueron buenos, pero no les dieron comida. Tuvo que vender antes de partir todas las cosas materiales que tenía en el Salvador para poder llevar dinero escondido en caso de presentarse alguna emergencia o suplir las necesidades alimenticias de su pequeño hijo y su esposa.

Pasados siete días los llama el traficante de personas.

"Van a partir, pero si los retienen no pueden hablar de nosotros, no se vayan afligir si esto pasa, va a tomar más tiempo pero igual van a llegar a la frontera", dijeron.

Al siguiente día los suben a un bus que los llevaría directo a Ciudad de México. Josue relata que esa noche cae una fuerte tormenta que no permite a migración hacer los retenes rutinarios, aproximadamente veinte en todo el trayecto, dijo.

Los detienen tres veces para inspeccionar el vehículo y por instrucción del traficante ellos debían hacerse los dormidos para que no les hicieran preguntas sobre su estatus migratorio, pero en una de estas paradas no corrieron con la misma suerte, un oficial le preguntó a Josue quien iba en la fila del pasillo.

"¿Originario?" preguntó el agente.

"No tengo identificación," respondió Josué.

El oficial continúa su inspección y al finalizar les pide que tomen sus cosas y se bajen del bus. "Yo creí que nos iba a detener", dijo Josue, pero el oficial le pide al conductor del bus que espere. En medio de la inspección el oficial hace preguntas.

"¿Qué pasó porque el coyote no se bajó con ustedes si todo ya estaba arreglado, ahora cómo vamos a arreglar nosotros?" preguntó el oficial.

"Dígame usted", respondió Josue.

Le pide 1000 pesos mexicanos por persona para dejarlos subir nuevamente al bus. Con lo poco que le quedaba entrega los 4000

pesos mexicanos y continúan su trayecto. Para él es una fortuna que solo les ahí pidieron identificación, pues considera que de no ser así los hubieran seguido extorsionando hasta llegar a la frontera.

Llegan a Ciudad de México con los traficantes.



Le pide 1000 pesos mexicanos por persona, para dejarlos subir nuevamente al bus. Con lo poco que le quedaba, entrega los 4000 pesos mexicanos y continúan su trayecto.

"Tranquilos que lo más difícil es allá atrás, de aquí hasta la frontera solo hay un retén y lo pasaremos a la madrugada para no toparnos con migración", le dijeron.

En ese retén bajan solo a Josue, su esposa estaba con el niño dentro del bus, le inspeccionan la maleta, lo requisan y un soldado lo vuelve a subir.

Después de diecisiete días atravesando el Salvador, Guatemala y México llegan a Matamoros, Tamaulipa, frontera de México con Estados Unidos y los "Coyotes" los dejan ahí.

"Caminen derecho y ahí encuentran la frontera, nosotros nos vamos", les dijeron.

Josue considera que fueron estafados porque normalmente a la gente la pasan por el río y la cruzan todo el desierto, pero a ellos los dejaron en medio de la nada con un niño de 5 años, su esposa y su sobrino. Sin saber qué hacer Josue empieza a caminar con su familia hacia la frontera y se topa con un hombre, les pide que se acerquen, ellos con miedo empiezan a hablar con él.

"Si quieren pasar tienen que llevar la prueba del COVID y ahí en esa fila la sacan los gringos, solo dame algo para los frescos," dijo.

Le da algo del poco dinero que le quedaba y se va para el lugar a hacer una larga fila que les tomo hasta el siguiente día sin poder comer, en la misma estaba una organización de abogados de inmigración.

"¿Para qué la gente hace esta fila?", preguntó Josue.

Ellos le aclaran que no sacan la prueba COVID en dicha fila, debían ir primero a migración, presentarse para poder entrar al país, exponer su caso y así lo hicieron. Los enviaron para un albergue que apoya a los migrantes que intentan cruzar la frontera mientras su caso es procesado.

Estuvieron en este lugar dos meses esperando una respuesta, viendo ir y venir a muchas familias con casos y sueños similares, comiendo solo dos veces al día pues era lo que el albergue les proporcionaba, sin poder trabajar, tuvo que recurrir a sus familiares del Salvador para que los ayudaran a suplir sus necesidades económicas temporalmente. Un día cuando sus esperanzas estaban cayendo, la depresión ya era parte de sus vidas, su esposa con tanto estrés empieza a perder su cabello y su hijo, al que para poderlo traerlo le dijeron que lo iban a llevar a DisneyWorld y tenía esta ilusión, solo quería volver a su casa y no seguir viviendo en estas difíciles condiciones; los llama su abogado para decirles que pueden entrar y pelear su caso en EE.UU, sus emociones salieron a flor de piel y sintieron que su destino empezaría a mejorar.

El permiso para entrar a EE.UU estaba en sus manos, tomaron un bus hasta Texas, ahí llamaron a la hermana de su esposa y le pidieron ayuda para poder viajar hasta donde ella vivía, toman un vuelo y llegan a Denver, Colorado. Josue aún recuerda su primer día, llegó a la casa de su cuñada dio un respiro y se sintió aliviado por poner a su familia a salvo después de esta larga travesía.

El camino no ha sido fácil para él y su familia, aún no se han adaptado a los climas extremos y las noches heladas y continúan esperando resolver su estatus migratorio. Él trabaja en 2 lugares, su primer trabajo empieza desde las 3:00 am hasta las 11:30 am y continua en otro desde las 12:00 pm sin hora fija de salida. Tiene muchos días en los que siente que pierde sus fuerzas, que no es capaz de levantarse pero la renta, los bills, la comida y la deuda que tiene con la hermana de su esposa que supera los 14.000 dólares con intereses del doble, hace que se levante todos los días a luchar por su familia. Su esposa, quien ahora esta embarazada, está buscando trabajo para ayudarlo económicamente, con la única esperanza de poder pagar todas sus deudas, vivir mejor en unos años y finalmente pero no menos importante: cumplirle el sueño a su hijo de ver a Mickey Mouse en Disney Orlando FL.

"El nombre que aparece en este artículo ha sido modificado para proteger su identidad."

Karen Gutiérrez es periodista en Colorado.

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Inspectores

de 2021 que aprobó una inspección anual realizada por The Nakamoto Group, una empresa privada contratada por el ICE para realizar inspecciones. Pero esos informes de Nakamoto han sido ampliamente reconocidos como no robustos y "esencialmente un ejercicio de aprobación", dijo Sheff.

Aun así, Tarrant no superó la inspección de Nakamoto en julio de 2021, dijo Sheff. Los inspectores identificaron problemas similares de personal y otras cuestiones de seguridad y saneamiento. Eso es notable, dijo, porque la mayoría de las instalaciones tienden a pasar esas inspecciones.

No debería ser necesario que los defensores planteen estos problemas, ni que las personas detenidas presenten quejas o llamen a las líneas de emergencia, ni que una agencia de supervisión venga desde Washington D.C., dijo Sheff, pero las inspecciones rutinarias existentes son completamente inadecuadas.

Las inspecciones no se traducen necesariamente en un cambio real, dijo. Está claro que los cambios recomendados en el informe de julio de 2021 no se llevaron a cabo, dijo, por lo que el seguimiento tampoco existe, incluso en las raras ocasiones en las que no se supera la inspección.

"Esto demuestra que el sistema en general es incapaz de garantizar el cumplimiento de las normas mínimas básicas para asegurar que las personas sean tratadas de forma segura, con cuidado y dignidad, cuando son retenidas en estas instalaciones", dijo.

La OIG también está trabajando en un próximo informe sobre el centro de detención de Tarrant acerca de las deficiencias en las comunicaciones entre el personal y los detenidos, la clasificación de los detenidos, la mitigación del COVID-19, la atención médica y el acceso a los servicios jurídicos.

Esto justifica que se siga vigilando y prestando atención a lo que ocurre en el centro, dijo Sheff.

"Este no es el final de la historia", dijo.

Austin Fisher es un periodista residente en Santa Fe, Nuevo México. Este artículo es republicado de Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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Trucks

duce pollution from the transportation sector and benefit disproportionately impacted communities, including a plan to give commuters different options and another to reduce GHG emissions from large industrial polluters. All of this delay puts the state further behind the Governor's own plan to limit the impacts of climate change - making expedited action on the ACT and low NOx rules even more imperative.

Third, the delay will put Colorado a year behind other states in implementing these rules. Manufacturers sell vehicles where rules are in place, so buyers will have fewer choices than other states.

"The Marshall Fire has made it clear that Coloradans are already experiencing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis," said Cindy Copeland, Boulder County Air and Climate Policy Advisor. "Now is not the time to delay new clean air and climate rules. These clean truck rules will reduce air pollution for disproportionately impacted communities living close to major truck routes and improve the quality of life for the millions of Coloradans living in the Front Range's Severe Ozone Nonattainment area."

Larissa Koehler, Senior Attorney at EDF, commented, "Colorado should move forward as quickly as possible on adopting the Advanced Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations. We need cleaner trucks to reduce pollution, help deal with climate change, and improve air quality -- particularly in communities that have an unequal burden of pollution from dirty trucks and buses. Aside from helping the state move to zero-emission and cleaner vehicles, these policies will result in good-paying jobs, as well as fuel and maintenance cost savings for fleet operators."

The Petitioners requested that the AQCC issue a declaratory order expediting the ACT and Low-NOx rulemaking and directing the Air Pollution Control Division within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to promptly request a rulemaking hearing that will ensure the rules are published in the Colorado Register by December 31, 2022.

"Time is of the essence," said Tafoya. "Diesel pollution is killing us now, and climate change is threatening our health and safety now. We can't wait to act. We urge the AQCC to consider and decide this petition at its April meeting, and help get clean trucks rolling in Colorado this year."

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