

Prison Phone Justice Speakers List

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Speakers are listed in order of appearance at press conference

Steven Renderos is a long-time organizer for migrant and media rights and the Senior Campaign Manager at the Center for Media Justice, co-convener of the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice.

Kevin Reese III is a member of Voices for Racial Justice and an articulate 12 year old whose father, incarcerated at Lino Lakes in Minnesota, gathered 20 hand-written letters from other detained fathers in support of prison phone justice that were recently delivered to the FCC.

Wandjell Harvey-Robinson is a member of the Illinois Campaign for Prison Phone Justice and a 19-year-old college sophomore whose parents were in prison throughout her childhood.

Lillie Branch-Kennedy is Founder and Executive Director of Resource Information Help for the Disadvantaged (RIHD) an organization that provides transportation for families of prisoners and organizes them to work for change. Lillie's son Donald was arrested as an accessory to robbery and was sentenced to 127 years (reduced to 28 years on appeal). Lillie then began a weekly, 16-hour round-trip commute to Wallens Ridge—a "super max" state security facility high in the Appalachian Mountains—to stay connected with her son.

Lillian Tillman is mother of an incarcerated son, who entered the system as a juvenile and has been incarcerated in Texas for the last 9 years. She has experienced profound difficulty staying connected to her son because of costs, fees, dropped calls, land line requirements. Lillian works with Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children and helped to produce *Who Pays?*, a recent report on the costs of incarceration, by the Ella Baker Center.

Rev. Marvin Silver serves as a United Church of Christ Associate Conference Minister for the DC and MD region. The United Church of Christ's media justice ministry has been the leading faith voice fighting against predatory prison phone rates, and an important envoy to the civil rights and criminal justice reform communities on this issue.

Alex Friedman is the Associate Director of HRDC and Managing Editor of Prison Legal News. He also serves in a volunteer capacity as president of the non-profit Private Corrections Institute and is a national expert on the issue of prison privatization.

Additional Sources

Vina Kay is Executive Director at Voices for Racial Justice. She worked for several years with John Powell at the Institute on Race and Poverty, first as Legal Fellow and then as Senior Researcher and Director of the Racial Justice and Regional Equity Project.

Bethany Frasier is a 38-year-old mother from outside of Washington, D.C., whose husband was incarcerated on a drunk driving case after which, she found herself having to choose between food and phone calls with him. She has been a long-time spokesperson for our campaign and has been cited in Rolling Stones (2013), Al Jazeera, LA Times, WSJ Blog, and others. Her husband was released several months ago.

Cheri Crump-O'Donoghue is an organizer with Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment (FREE) and was involved in the successful campaign to end commissions in New York in 2007.

Miguel Saucedo is a Chicago resident and graduate student whose brother is incarcerated in Illinois and pays \$100 a month for calls. He has been quoted by NPR, Truthout and Prison Legal News.

Jazlin Mendoza is an 18 year old from Albuquerque whose father has been incarcerated for the past 12 years. She has been limited to 5 minutes a month of call time with him because of the high price of calls borne by her grandparents. Jazlin has recently gone public with her story and joined a 20-person delegation to visit the FCC in October 2015.