

Postcarding Write-Ups for 9/28/2019

ASYLUM SEEKERS, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/26/us/politics/trump-refugees.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_190927?campaign_id=2&instance_id=12573&segment_id=17387&user_id=77459bf83bd5164afd9443001121fdbb®i_id=661760450927

In a deeply disturbing move, President Trump has slashed the cap on the number of refugees the U.S. will admit. In 2016, then-President Obama suggested the U.S. should be taking responsibility globally for admitting 110,000 refugees annually. Last year, Trump and the Republicans accepted 30,000 refugees. Next year the U.S. intends to admit only 18,000 refugees. (Write-up 9/27/2019)

DECRY our abandonment of the world's refugees and **INSIST** that the U.S. revise next year's refugee cap significantly upward

- **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

- **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

- **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 290 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5972

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

- **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

- **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvi5sgOo5YS4/edit>

- **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-children-empty-holding-facility-homestead-fl-720000-dollars-per-day/>

While there haven't been children in the Homestead Detention Center since August 3, taxpayers are still paying \$720,000 day to keep the facility fully staffed in case of an influx. That's a bit more than \$5 million a week or \$21.6 million per month. Incarcerating children is helping to keep Caliburn, the company that runs this and other private prisons and whose Board members include ex-Chief of Staff John Kelly, profitable. They actually wrote in their SEC filings: "border enforcement and immigration policy is driving significant growth for our company." (Write-up 9/24/2019)

TELL your Congressmembers that incarcerating children shouldn't be a growth industry and **DEMAND** an end to private, for-profit immigration detention centers

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvi5sgOo5YS4/edit>

• **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit

Via *Rogan's List*: "Under new regulations, which are still under court challenge, 40,000 immigrants seeking asylum have been forced to wait in Mexico for court dates. Witnesses report that the conditions here are horrific: In Matamoros, which is across the border from Brownsville, Texas, there are reports of extreme hunger, 'mothers crying for their small children sleeping on cardboard on concrete. Babies without diapers, wipes and distressingly, without ointment for their sores. Families dehydrated from living in 100+ heat without enough water.' Matamoros is on the State Department 'Do Not Travel List' because of its high reports of gang violence and kidnapping." (Write-up 9/27/2019)

URGE the members of the Department of Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee's Permanent Subcommittee for Investigation to hold public hearings about the atrocities of this program

- **Senator Rob Portman** (R-OH), Chair, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3353
- **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441
- **Senator Rand Paul** (R-KY), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4343
- **Senator James Lankford** (R-OK), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5754
- **Senator Mitt Romney** (R-UT), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5251
- **Senator Josh Hawley** (R-MO), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Senator Margaret Hassan** (D-NH), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3324
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Senator Jacky Rosen** (D-NV), Member, HSGA Subcommittee for Investigation, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6244

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2019/08/29/473895/china-tariff-costs-congressional-district/?fbclid=IwAR3WaucVdbZKPwEv87MIDNzgEu1JUTkGVul6PLbjY1UYrLaZj0Vq7BINJ28>

The Center for American Progress had been examining the impact of Trump's China tariffs. They report that the Federal Reserve estimates the tariffs will cost each U.S. household \$831 per year, while JPMorgan is projecting a cost of \$1000 per household—and both these numbers were calculated before Trump escalated the trade war with additional tariffs. The Center for American Progress estimates the current cost of these tariffs at over \$100.7 billion (yes, that's *billion* with a *b*). To look up the tariffs' costs thus far for your Congressional district, just go here: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2019/08/29/473895/china-tariff-costs-congressional-district/>. (Write-up 9/24/2019)

REMIND your Congressmembers just how much Trump's intransigence is costing all of us

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvI5sgOo5YS4/edit>

• **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/09/23/2019-20510/jurisdiction-nonemployee-status-of-university-and-college-students-working-in-connection-with-their>

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has just published a proposed rule that would declare that students (undergraduate and graduate) working for any private college or university, including teaching and researching, would not be considered “employees” under the law. This means they would have no collective bargaining rights and could not turn to the NLRB for redress of workplace abuses. The NLRB's logic: “The Board believes that this proposed standard is consistent with the purposes and policies of the Act, which contemplates jurisdiction over economic relationships, not those that are primarily educational in nature.” However, as anyone with much contact with a college or university would already know, many schools now rely on graduate students to do the bulk of lower-division instruction and to avoid hiring additional faculty, which certainly sounds like “employment.” This proposed rule is open for comments through November 11. At the moment, only five comments have been submitted, so we need to speak up. (Write-up 9/24/2019)

EXPLAIN to the NLRB that labor is labor and institutions of higher education shouldn't be given this opportunity to exploit the people delivering their curriculum [*Note: to make sure your comment is treated as “official” include the title, “Jurisdiction-Nonemployee Status of University and College Students Working in Connection with Their Studies,” and the Document Number, 2019-20510. You can also use the link at the start of this write-up to make your comment online.*]

• **Roxanne Rothschild**, Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board, 1015 Half Street SE, Washington, DC 20570-0001

ELECTIONS

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-turnaround-mcconnell-backs-250-million-in-election-security-funding/2019/09/19/b9f64462-daec-11e9-ac63-3016711543fe_story.html

You may have heard that the Senate, with Mitch McConnell's blessing, has passed a \$250 million election security bill. Before you start doing a happy dance, let's look at some of the details. These monies would be given to local elections offices to purchase additional voting machines. Does it require machines with paper ballot verification? No. Does it require machines that haven't been hacked in fifteen minutes by a twelve-year-old (seriously)? No. Does it require Does it require machines be auditable? No. Does it require that the machines not be connected to the internet, which facilitates hacking? No. (Write-up 9/24/2019)

DEMAND real spending and action on election security that doesn't enable corrupt officials to buy more unauditable, internet-connected, hackable voting machines

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvi5sgOo5YS4/edit>

HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

From RLS at *News You May Have Missed*, "Indigenous communities targeted by 'virtual wall' Surveillance towers and methods that are 'field proven' presumably on Palestinians, are scheduled for construction across the Tohono O'odham Nation in Southern Arizona, a community besieged by drone surveillance, facial recognition software and security checkpoints, according to the *Intercept*. The Border Patrol has contracted with the U.S. division of Elbit Systems, a large military equipment company in Israel, to further develop a 26 million dollar security system. Elbit has already built 55 fixed towers in southern Arizona. Younger community members working or studying in the cities are less and less eager to come home, as their movements are incessantly tracked. As the *Intercept* describes it, "Vehicle barriers, surveillance cameras, and trucks have appeared near burial grounds and on hilltops amid ancient saguaro forests, which are sacred to people on the reservation." (Write-up 9/27/2019)

OBJECT to this use of surveillance on indigenous communities and **DEMAND** an end to Customs and Border Patrol's contract with Elbit

• **Mark Morgan**, Acting Commissions, Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20229, (877) CBP-5511

• **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, H2-176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

- **Representative Kathleen Rice** (D-NY), Chair, Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations, House Committee on Homeland Security, H2-176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

INTERNATIONAL

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/sep/23/leaked-letter-suggests-us-is-rallying-un-member-states-to-oppose-abortion>

<https://truthout.org/articles/letter-exposes-trumps-attempt-to-form-anti-abortion-un-coalition/>

The *Guardian* has reported that the U.S. wrote a letter to U.N. member states deemed sympathetic to the administration's view on reproductive health inviting them to sign on to a statement opposing the U.N.'s "pro-abortion" language. The statement, with nineteen member states signing, was presented to a U.N. meeting on universal health coverage on September 24. The *Guardian* quotes from the letter's text: "As a key priority in global health promotion, we respectfully request that your government join the United States in ensuring that every sovereign state has the ability to determine the best way to protect the unborn and defend the family as the foundational unity of society vital to children thriving and leading healthy lives.... We remain gravely concerned that aggressive efforts to reinterpret international instruments to create a new international right to abortion and to promote international policies that weaken the family have advanced through some United Nations fora." The document opposes references to "comprehensive sexuality education," "sexual and reproductive health," and "sexual and reproductive health and rights" in U.N. health documents. This isn't the first time the Republican administration has worked to U.N. language on women's health and reproductive writes. As the *Guardian* notes, "Intense lobbying by US officials in April resulted in the removal of references to sexual and reproductive health from a U.N. security council resolution on combatting rape in conflict.... The US [also] previously attempted... remove the word 'gender' from UN documents." (Write-up 9/27/2019)

OBJECT to this attack on women's autonomy and **REMIND** the Administration that abortion is legal in the U.S.

- **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

- **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

- **Senator Jim Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

- **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

- **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3190/all-actions>

The House has passed H.R.3190, the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability Act. This legislation calls for sanctions on Burmese officials and, as explained in the official summary, “authorizes humanitarian aid for Burma, Bangladesh, and the surrounding region for various purposes, including aid for ethnic minorities targeted by Burma's military and support for voluntary resettlement of displaced persons. The bill also prohibits security assistance for or security cooperation with Burma's military and security forces, with exceptions for certain existing programs related to training, research, and reconciliation.” H.R.3190 has now moved to the Senate, where it is with the Foreign Relations Committee. (Write-up 9/27/2019)

POINT OUT to the Foreign Relations Committee leadership the need for immediate action in defense of Burma's Rohingya

- **Senator Jim Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

- **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

URGE your Senators to support H.R.3190

- **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvI5sgOo5YS4/edit>

https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/09/17/761266169/trump-froze-aid-to-guatemala-a-now-programs-are-shutting-down?fbclid=IwAR0bA9XFcn14-Z9laV11xmDZKivioQ5iYXYsGFgc_JcY8asPCgVo4DYhHhA

In April, President Trump froze foreign aid to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in protest of the number of individuals from these countries entering the U.S. to seek asylum. The problem is, that the loss of aid makes conditions in the region even more dire, giving individuals who live there even more reason to attempt a move to the U.S. *National Public Radio* (NPR) recently did a story illustrating what frozen aid has meant for one Guatemalan family. The Marroquín family, struggling, small-scale corn farmers, had been delighted to receive a small monthly stipend through a program run by Save the Children and primarily financed with U.S. aid. The stipend was originally \$60 a month, but after the aid freeze, the amount kept dropping, until the program was ended altogether. The family spent their final payment of \$18 on chickens, in hopes that their eggs might provide a continuing source of calories and nutrition to supplement their corn. According to NPR, other projects currently in jeopardy include “discount agricultural supply markets in the highlands; rural health clinics; community savings and loans funds; after-school tutoring for kids in violent urban neighborhoods; shelters for victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking; re-integration services for returned migrants; trainings aimed at improving the transparency and effectiveness of local governments; and support for conserving ecologically sensitive landscapes.” And Trump would have us believe that punishing the poorest of the poor in these ways will discourage Guatemalans from seeking a better life in the U.S. (Write-up 9/27/2019)

OBJECT to this cruel, short-sighted policy and **DEMAND** a reinstatement of humanitarian aid to Central American nations

- **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

- **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

- **Senator Jim Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

- **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

- **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

- **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvi5sgOo5YS4/edit>

- **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit