

Last updated July 16, 2008 4:23 p.m. PT



Federal Detention: Humane for all

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER EDITORIAL BOARD

Behind our backs, much is being done in the name of Americans that should shame us. We count a [new report](#) on the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, which houses immigrants believed to be here illegally, as the latest example of that sorry phenomenon.

OneAmerica, a respected advocacy group, and the International Human Rights Clinic at Seattle University's law school found problems in health care, excessive strip searches and frequent delays for attorneys trying to talk to clients. Those are serious issues in a rapidly growing facility.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement should take the report as an opportunity to make improvements. But, in one initial comment, an ICE spokesperson [told The Associated Press](#), "The report authored by Seattle University and OneAmerica is considered a work of fiction by ICE."

That is an absurd misrepresentation of the report. Nor does it fit with previous documentation of shortcomings at such facilities nationally or the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security's [inspector general](#) to watch conditions.

The report protects the identity of those interviewed for the study, as the ICE spokesperson correctly noted. That makes the job of tracing problems and creating improvements more difficult, but we lack sympathy for bureaucrats' challenges. If it's too much for regional ICE officials, Homeland Security's inspector general should investigate quickly. Americans deserve a government that assures humane treatment for everyone, including those awaiting deportation.

Soundoff (Read 39 comments)
Tell us what's on your mind.



DAVID HORSEY

Have a swingin' 2010! It's really time for you to go Yes, Virginia

Follow us on Twitter
Become a fan on Facebook
RSS feeds
E-mail newsletters
Mobile edition

ap: top headlines

- Watch lists grow; more screening on flights to US
 - Winter system drops record snow, chills the South
 - Guard, gunman dead in Vegas federal building shots
 - IRS to start regulating paid tax preparers
 - A 3rd uninvited guest got into White House dinner
- » more

ap: local

- Man accused of starting Kent fire with fireworks
 - 2 women say they were raped in Bellingham hotel
 - Teen accused of fatal hit-run in Bellingham
 - Grant County deputy killed in one-car crash
 - Edmonds college sees interest up in green degrees
- » more

most read

- Everett police find body, shot several times, in parking garage
 - Change is a coming for Seahawks
 - 7-step plan to a warmer house (and a lower heating bill)
 - Neighbors: Deadly fire was 'murder,' ignited by bomb
 - Seattle Prep to hold fund-raiser, letter-writing campaign for Amanda Knox
- » more

most e-mailed

- I'm kind of hooked on lingerie football
 - Seattle Prep to hold fund-raiser, letter-writing campaign for Amanda Knox
 - The Big Blog: Is Soundgarden getting back together?
 - Bainbridge author has written 109 books
 - Forecast 2010: movies
- » more

popular soundoffs

- GOP gaffes in the war on terror
 - Neighbors: Teens fought constantly before deadly shooting
 - Seattle Prep to hold fund-raiser, letter-writing campaign for Amanda Knox
 - I'm kind of hooked on lingerie football
 - Cantwell takes on Wall Street fat cats
- » more

ap: odd news

- Police: Ohio woman hit window over lack of nuggets
 - Police: Driver passes out, meth lab in back seat
 - Md. furloughs prevent New Year's Eve marriages
- » more
- Help/troubleshoot
· Customize headlines
· My account

OUR AFFILIATES