



October 8, 2012

Marc Moore, Field Office Director
Paul Candemeres, Assistant Field Office Director
Miami Field Office
Krome SPC
18201 SW 12th ST
Miami, FL 22194

RE: Glades Detention Center

Dear Officers Moore and Candemeres:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to visit the Glades Detention Center on Friday, September 14, 2012. It was a great experience for all of us and we hope that the detainees found our presentations informative. We are writing to you today in order to discuss important issues that detainees raised during our trip with the hope that we can work together toward effective resolutions.

We are deeply concerned by the jail's inability to ensure private phone between detainees and legal counsel. Last week, our clinical students scheduled telephone conversations with two detainees. The students were unable to speak with the detainees in a private room with the door closed and officers and other detainees in the next room could hear their conversation. The students spoke with Sergeant Reynolds and requested that they be able to speak with the detainees in private. Officer Reynolds informed the students that Glades conducts attorney telephone calls only with the door open. Furthermore, several detainees informed us that they believe that private attorney phone calls are being recorded. Attorney-client communications are privileged and should not be recorded.

As you are aware, the ICE Detention Standards provide that "for detainee telephone calls regarding legal matters, each facility shall ensure privacy by providing a reasonable number of telephones on which detainees can make such calls without being overheard by staff or other detainees." Moreover, the standards require that each facility provide a reasonable number of phones from which "detainees shall be supervised within eyeshot, but out of earshot."

Regarding telephone access in general, many detainees report that the fees for using the phone are prohibitive. The lack of affordable access to phones limits the contact that detainees can have with family members, which makes it more difficult for them to participate in the preparation of their cases and to maintain relationships with their family members, friends, and community.

We are concerned with the usability and accessibility of the Lexis/Nexis CD ROM system in the law library. As noted in the ICE/DRO Detention Standards Manual, the Lexis/Nexis CD ROM is an important resource for the detainees as it is "an alternative to obtaining and maintaining the paper-based publications" found in the law library. We are concerned that the detention center's Lexis system is sub-par and unable to meet the legal research needs of the detainees. Professor Rebecca Sharpless and a clinical student had an opportunity to assess the Lexis system with the assistance of a detainee and were able to learn about the system. They discovered that it was extremely difficult to navigate and search for cases. The information is divided across four different CDs and it is extremely difficult to perform a key word search. The structure and organization of the legal cases on the CDs is not intuitive. The materials are not as up-to-date as they could be. Some detainees expressed that they had never used the Lexis/Nexis CD ROM program due to their inability to navigate the program.

Moreover, detainees continue to express concern about long waits to use the law library. Some reported being able to spend only one hour per week or less in the library. The Detention Standard requires that a facility afford detainees "regular access" to the law library, meaning "no less than five hours per week." As we have noted in the past, the law library is in a very small room with only four working computer stations. The library is not adequate for a facility that regularly detains well over 400 men and women for ICE.

In a related matter, many detainees stated that they were unable to print and copy documents necessary for their legal case. Moreover, several detainees reported that in order to make copies they must hand over their documents to ICE. This copy protocol violates the confidentiality of their legal documents and cases. The ICE/DRO Detention Standards Manual provides that "the law library shall provide an adequate number of computers with printers, access to one or more photocopiers and sufficient writing implements, paper, and related office supplies to enable detainees to prepare documents for legal proceedings." The detainees' limited ability to print and copy materials is detrimental to their cases.

Some detainees reported problems with medical care, including long waits and inadequate treatment. The ICE/DRO Detention Standards Manual requires that detainees "receive timely follow-up to their health care requests." In addition, the standard further provides that "all facilities must have an established procedure in place to ensure that all sick call requests are received and triaged by appropriate medical personnel within 48 hours after the detainee submits the request."

Professor Farrin Anello visited the facility's solitary confinement, which was being used to hold two detainees in need of psychiatric treatment. One of the detainees appeared to manifest a very serious mental illness. Solitary confinement is not an appropriate setting for long-term placement of mentally ill detainees and this segregation practice could intensify their mental illness. According to the ICE/DRO Detention Standards, "the administrative health authority shall immediately refer any detainee with mental health needs to a mental health provider for a mental health evaluation...such evaluation and screenings shall include: "Short-stay" unit or infirmary, Special Management Unit, or Community hospitalization.

Some male detainees reported that they were disciplined for having to use the bathroom at night. Others complained about harsh language, including profanity, from the officers.

Detainees complained about the poor quality of the food and said that the posted menu does not match the food being served. Several detainees reported taking part in a three-day hunger strike in order to bring attention to the substandard items that were being served. We are concerned that the detention center's food service is failing to meet its purpose and scope set out by the ICE/DRO Residential Standards, which provides that "residents are provided a nutritionally balanced diet that is prepared and presented by a sanitary and hygienic food service operation."

We greatly appreciate your attention to these issues and would like to request a meeting so we can further discuss the above mentioned issues. We would also like to again visit the law library and review the material that is currently available to the detainees and find ways to improve their legal resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Friz" followed by a circular stamp containing the initials "AF".

Alexandra Friz, Law Student
Paulina Valanty, Law Student
Haley Kornfeld, Law Student
Ross Johns, Law Student
Rebecca Sharpless, Attorney
Farrin Anello, Attorney