

## DELEGATES' GUIDELINES FOR MEETING DETAINEES AT PEARSALL DETENTION CENTER

### WHO WE ARE

We are students and teachers and members of faith groups who are interested in seeing how the immigration system operates and how it affects the people who are detained and their families.

We are interested in learning more about the experiences of migrants from other countries who end up in a detention facility.

We want to know what brings a migrant to this country, how and why he is detained.

We want to know how they have been treated by the system (and authority figures). Only with your permission we would be sharing some of what you tell us with members of our communities back in Austin.

### QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE ASKED.

1. What is your name?
2. Where are you from? / ¿De dónde eres?
3. How long have you been here at Pearsall?
4. Have any of you been detained for more than 6 months?  
/ ¿Alguien ha detenido por más de 6 meses?
5. Do you have family in the US? Any US-born children? / ¿Tienes familia aca en los EEUU? Tienes niños nacidos aqui?
6. Has anyone offered to help you with your hearing?
7. How did you arrive here? Tell us about your journey to the US. / ¿Cómo llegaste aqui? Cuéntanos de tu viaje a los EEUU.
8. Why did you come to the US? What was your motivation to leave [country]? / ¿Por qué viniste a los EEUU? ¿Cuál fue tu motivación para salir de [country]?
9. Tell us about your experience in detention. How did you end up in ICE detention? / Cuéntanos de tu experiencia en detención. ¿Cómo llegaste en la detención?
10. What was it like when you were caught by the Border Patrol? Where were you and what were you doing (work? Travel?)
11. How have you been treated by the officials at Pearsall (or other facilities)

## NOTICE AND CONSENT

### Notice to Interviewee:

The organizers of this delegation are Women on the Border, Inc. (WOB) and Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (ATCF).

WOB and ATCF are educational nonprofits who are interested in gathering information about the ICE detention process.

WOB and ATCF organizers do not provide legal services and none of the information gathered will lead to any kind of legal action or promise of any legal service for detainees.

Your participation in any meeting with delegates as an individual or group is strictly voluntary. You have the right to not answer any questions and you have the right to withdraw your consent to use any details of your personal story or experiences as an immigrant to the U.S. or as a detainee at this facility, or other DHS facilities.

By signing this consent form you understand that WOB and ATCF are asking for meetings with detainees strictly for educational details about the structure and operation of detention facilities pursuant to law and regulations enforced by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICIA Y CONSENTIMIENTO

### Noticia para el entrevistado(a):

Esta delegación fue arreglada por dos organizaciones (sociedades sin fines de lucro): Women on the Border (WOB) y Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (ATCF)

Las personas que los visitan aquí hoy están interesadas en obtener información sobre el impacto humano causado por los métodos y sistemas de la agencia de aduana e inmigración (ICE) de los Estados Unidos.

Las organizaciones arriba mencionadas no ofrecen servicios legales y nada de lo que usted comunicará en las entrevistas, sera usado para ningun tipo de acción legal o demanda.

Su participación en esta entrevista es completamente voluntaria. Usted Tiene el derecho de no responder a ninguna pregunta y tiene el derecho de retirar su consentimiento en cualquier momento acerca del uso de sus experiencias personales tanto como residente de los Estados Unidos o como detenido por el sistema de aduana e inmigración (ICE), aquí o en otras partes del país.

Su firma a este consentimiento indica que Usted entiende que WOB y ATCF solamente buscan conocer los detalles acerca de las operaciones del sistema de inmigración de los EEUU para uso en materiales Educativos.

NOMBRE \_\_\_\_\_

FIRMA \_\_\_\_\_ FECHA \_\_\_\_\_

## From Veracruz to Austin and Back: The journey of an immigrant

*May 17 (Thurs. evening) to May 20 (Sun. evening) 2012*  
Delegation sponsored by **Austin Tan Cerca\*** de la Frontera in  
partnership with **Women on the Border#**

Since 1999 the ATCF quarterly program of solidarity delegations visiting maquiladora workers in Mexico at the border has examined the impact of free trade on real lives and communities. Our on-going relationship of solidarity with members of the Comité Fronterizo de Obreras/os\*\*\* brought us behind news headlines and US policy rhetoric. Immigration within Mexico from South to North always fueled the border maquilas with workers. We saw border cities double their populations, many with migrants from Veracruz.

Now, teaming up with sister organization, Women on the Border, our May 2012 delegation will swivel the perspective to see what happens when Mexican and Central American immigrants cross the border into the US. In Austin we will learn about a labor system that practices wage theft on immigrants without documents and how they assert their rights. We will hear from immigrants as well as US citizens who lose their basic human rights when they are pulled into the US's detention system and sometimes deported.

In South Texas we will visit an immigration detention center and speak with local people as well as activist/advocates to understand the economic bribe that detention centers offer poor Texas communities. We will stop overnight at the UFW/La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)\*\* campus east of McAllen to learn about services that UFW and the Texas Civil Rights Project\*\* offer recent

\* [www.atcf.org](http://www.atcf.org)

# [www.womenontheborder.org](http://www.womenontheborder.org)

\*\*\* [www.cfomaquiladoras.org](http://www.cfomaquiladoras.org)

\*\* [www.lupenet.org](http://www.lupenet.org)

\*\* [www.texascivilrightsproject.org](http://www.texascivilrightsproject.org)

immigrants. At The Wall the Sierra Club<sup>\*\*\*</sup> will explain environmental and social hazards.

Throughout we will question and discuss US policies that hold this immigrants' nightmare in place.

- Trade,
- Immigration,
- Security (anti-terrorism).

We will speculate why the federal government is so unable to "fix a broken system."

**Dates**: May 17, (Thursday evening) to May 20, (Sunday Evening), 2012. **Deadline**: This 12-14 person delegation will fill quickly: Small discount if you register by **April 9**.

**Cost**: \$225 – Do not hesitate to inquire about partial scholarships if needed.

**Contact**: Judith Rosenberg, [chelarose@grandecom.net](mailto:chelarose@grandecom.net),  
More info: <http://www.atcf.org/>, [womenontheborder.org](http://womenontheborder.org)

**Facilitators and contributors** , Elvia Arriola, Women on the Border Director and Professor, **NIU College of Law**; Bianca Hinz-Foley, Organizer, **Workers' Defense Project**; Bob Cash, Director, **Texas Fair Trade Coalition**; Andrea Black, National Director, **Detention Watch Network**; Representatives from **Univ. of Texas Immigration Rights Law Clinic** and from the **Texas Civil Rights Project, Grassroots Leadership** and **Texans United for Families**.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> <http://texas.sierraclub.org>

Jesse White Secretary of State

ILLINOIS DRIVER'S LICENSE

Blood Type: **B+**      Sex: **M**

Medical Information: **None**

Date of Birth: **03-28-89**

Expiration: **03-28-15**

Issued: **01-06-11**

Class: **D**

Sex: **M**

Type: **ORG**

Name: **GEORGE M MOON47**

Address: **111 N PAVINE DRIVE**  
**ROUND LAKE PARK IL 60873**

Male - 5'07" 165 lbs BRN Eyes

**ILLINOIS**      Jesse White Secretary of State

**DRIVER'S LICENSE**

Lic. No. **G520-3138-9090**

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FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE TODAY – how the 2012 delegation was viewed:

Purpose of delegation was to explore the Journey of an immigrant\_ to witness the economic and social injustice undocumented workers face on a daily basis as they endure wage theft, hazardous labor conditions, and the loss of human rights in the US Customs Enforcement detention system.

Heard from Workes Defense Project in Austin (address wage theft of undocumented workers)

Casa Mariennal - provides emergency shelter for adult immigrants in Austin, Texas.

Through ARISE – met struggling single mothers living in the Texas border “colonias”—slum housing along the border—who will never see their husbands again due to deportation or detention issues.

Toured Port Isabel Detention facility We toured Port Isabel Detention Facility, operated by the Department of Homeland Security, in Los Fresnos, Texas where husbands, fathers, and sons peered across metal bars in quiet desperation to return to their families.

We met an activist from the Mexican border organization - Comité Fronterizo de Obreras (CFO), who educated us on the harsh realities for maquiladora (sweatshop) workers who live at the border and work for the US companies that profit from their labor under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

THE SIGNIFICANT OF THE EXPERIENTIAL LENS ON THE BORDER IS ABOUT DECONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO hegemonic pieces of legislation (TRADE LAW AND IMMIGRATION LAW) THAT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT a skewed cross-border labor economy that significantly benefit global corporate wealth and that is sustained by the existence of a militarized border.

Policies like NAFTA have been linked to the massive increases in migration from Mexico. During the Bush administration the NAFTA model, with its privileges in place for foreign

investors, was copied into CAFTA.

The question of migration whether by adults or children should not be separated by the commitment of this government to sustain a range of public policies that operate at cross purposes, at least if you're trying to answer the question - why do they migrate and then avoid looking at the root causes of migration.

True can say - it's Mexico's problem. Or can say, it is Honduras' problems, or that of Guatemala or El Salvador.

But there are numerous ways in which you have to put the dots together to see a bigger picture in which American military and economic policies influence the social conditions for the working poor in those countries.

FROM THE QUESTION OF HUMANITARIANISM THERE ARE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ASKED -

Is there a fundamental human right to travel safely? To look for a job in another country? To find refuge there? To work in safe conditions despite one's undocumented status? Do these people have a right to intimacy, privacy and family?

The continued effort of politicians to exploit the attitudes that it is OK to criminalize the identity of the undocumented worker is a gross violation of the simple of every person to their human dignity.

We have to stop criminalizing the identity of the non-citizen traveler into this country in search of either safety, adventure or survival. We have to reform the public policies that sustain the operations of the Corrections Corporation of America which profits from the prison and detention system in this country and globally. And we have to decry the same public policies that have converted the civil detention system into a mockery of justice and humanity when it allows daily actors under color of law or private contractors to dehumanize detainees captured by the border patrol.



Delegations I have helped co-produce have offered ways to understand the nuances of the law's impact through the voices of people we have met, whether it is the maquiladora worker unable to make a living wage working for an American factory or others who are fleeing political or economic injustice and find themselves caught in the web of structural violence of a militarized border.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WORDS FROM DETAINEES WE MET AT PEARSALL:

CONNECTING THE TESTIMONIES TO AMERICAN COMPLICITY: