



League of United Latin American Citizens

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Rosa Rosales

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brent A. Wilkes

NATIONAL OFFICERS
Hector Flores
Immediate Past President
Jaime P. Martinez
Treasurer
Joey Ramirez
Youth President
Richard Fimbres
VP for Elderly
Margaret Moran
VP for Women
Javier Montanez
VP for Youth
Michelle M. Pelayo
VP for Young Adults
Dave Rodriguez
VP for Farwest
Alicia Rios
VP for Midwest
Toula Politis Lugo
VP for Northeast
Maria Rodriguez-Salazar
VP for Northwest
Haydee Rivera
VP for Southeast
Adrian Rodriguez
VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS
Enrique P. Gomez
Arizona
Carlos F. Cervantes
Arkansas
Angel G. Luevano
California
Tom Duran
Colorado
Ada Peña
District of Columbia
Anita De Palma
Florida
Eligio Marin
Illinois
Maria de los angeles Oria
Indiana
Gilbert Sierra
Iowa
Rodrigo Bonilla
Kansas
Annabelle Guerra
Massachusetts
Augustin Sanchez
Michigan
Enrique Soto
Minnesota
Hortencia Vasquez Wilcox
Missouri
Nicolas Martinez
Nevada
Paul A. Martinez
New Mexico
Rosa Torres Caskey
Ohio
Rey Madrid
Oklahoma
Carmen I. Cruz
Puerto Rico
Roger C. Rocha
Texas
Leni Gonzalez
Virginia
David G. Cortinas
Washington
Yolanda Santos Adams
Wisconsin

December 20, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We are writing to express our concern about the immigrant families being held at the T. Don Hutto detention center in Taylor, Texas. The jail, operated by Corrections Corporation of America, a for-profit prison company, holds immigrant families including 400 families and 260 children awaiting immigration or asylum hearings. This is one of two Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities in the United States holding non-Mexican unauthorized immigrants on non-criminal charges. We have spoken with family members and local organizations and find this type of action deplorable.

Children are being housed in cells while ICE arranges for deportation or until they are granted asylum. They receive only one hour of education and one hour of recreation each day in the prison, and spend the remaining 22 hours in their living quarters. We also have confirmation of the children wearing jail uniforms and nametags. LULAC is concerned about the way that the children are being fed and cared for with reports of malnutrition. There has to be a better way.

Federal authorities began detaining all unauthorized immigrants last summer. The reason for the detention was that so many were charged with unauthorized entry into the United States never appearing before their court dates. It is clear that national security is a priority but these parents came to offer their children a better way of life and are not terrorists. There should be a way for the families to have their day in court without imprisoning their children. It is irrational and inefficient to require unnecessary and costly detention of individuals who do not pose a danger to the community.

We urge the Department of Homeland Security to look further into this matter and address our concerns. Thank you for your prompt attention. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Rosa Rosales
LULAC National President