

Jackie Iraheta-Baires

Mrs. Palmesano

Human Rights Essay Contest

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In his presidency, Donald Trump has targeted immigrants from Central America. With his proposal to construct a billion-dollar wall on the Mexican border he has also set new policies to prevent immigrants or refugees from entering the United States. The Trump administration has also targeted dreamers. The White House has targeted immigrants and are violating their human right to seek asylum, as well as, dehumanizing the Latinx community.

The Trump administration created detention centers where immigrants would be detained. Many of those in these detention centers are children that are separated from their families. The treatment in these centers is inhumane and concerning. In May of 2019, a 16-year old boy from Guatemala died while in a cell in Texas. Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez was a migrant that was in the care of the United States Border Patrol. A nurse diagnosed Vasquez with the flu. Video surveillance showed his cellmate finding his body next to the toilet (Moore). The video surveillance contradicts how the Border Patrol described finding his body.

Vasquez was not given the proper treatment for his illness. The Border Patrol failed to check in and administer the proper health care for Vasquez. Unfortunately, Vasquez's death is not a lone case of deaths in these detention centers. These detention centers are becoming increasingly overcrowded. Detainees are not provided with proper care or sanitation. The facilities are holding more people than the normal capacity (Stieb). The max capacity is very concerning. It is inhumane for these facilities to have such a high degree of overcrowding. The

migrants in these buildings are still human beings. They deserve the same care as any other person, regardless of their immigration status.

Even more concerning is the United States' treatment of children in these detention camps. Children were separated from their families and taken to these facilities. The age ranges from infants to thirteen-years old. According to a news article, children were forced to sleep on the concrete floor for losing a brush. Children were told to share the comb when there was a lice outbreak (Stieb). Sharing combs while there is a lice outbreak will cause the lice to spread. This shows the lack of hygiene that is provided in these detention centers. In regard to the flu outbreak in some facilities and the death of Carlos Vasquez, the United States Customs and Border Patrol is treating these migrants unlawfully. They are not taking responsibility for their wrongdoings.

Another issue that is happening in these facilities is how children are taking care of other children. This exemplifies the lack of care the Border Patrol agents are giving to the children in these detention camps. A child should not be facing these types of issues. When these children grow up their time in these detention facilities will be traumatizing. Their brains are still developing at a young age and the mistreatment they are facing will impact them. The Trump administration is attempting to remove the Flores agreement which sets a limit on the amount of time children can be held in detention. It also gives the United States government the authority to provide care for the children (Shear). The removal of the Flores agreement is likely a way to discourage people from coming into the United States.

The mistreatment is not only happening to children but also to adults. It is said that detainees go days without showers or brushing their teeth. It is also stated that the meals provided are non-consumable (Serwer). Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez documented her experience visiting the Customs and Border Patrol facilities in a set of tweets. Officers inside

the facilities were ill mannered towards members of Congress. Cortez talked about the abuse that she encountered such as guards telling detainees to drink the water from toilets (Stieb). These actions are dehumanizing migrants, which is a violation of human rights.

No child and no human should be facing the horrors that lie within these detention centers. It is cruel to treat these migrants like this. These people are only looking for a better life. In a world full of violence and poverty it becomes necessary to seek safety. For many, the United States is a place that can provide sanctuary from the violence of drug cartels or gangs. The Trump administration is ripping families apart. President Trump's policies show his lack of compassion and prejudice towards Latinos. The mistreatment of people in these detention centers must be stopped. It is inhumane for these families to be punished for seeking a better life. The dehumanization of these people is against human rights and the United States must prevent these malicious actions.

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