

# Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://ijpccincinnati.org/featured/spring-2017-newsletter/>

### Newsletters

In our Spring 2017 newsletter, we give updates regarding the death penalty in the state of Ohio, share how recent immigration policies impact those locally, provide a context to the Pentagon budget and also have a communication preferences survey to make sure we're the best resource possible for you! We have made an [online version](#) of our survey if you are able to fill it out.

Spring 2017



## Issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

### Ohio Death Penalty Protocol Still Unsettled

It certainly is challenging to keep up with the dizzying one-step forward, two-steps backward routine of capital punishment reform and abolition efforts.

The executions once scheduled to resume in Ohio beginning on May 10<sup>th</sup> are currently rescheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>, as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. The last stay was issued by Magistrate Judge Michael Merz in January to allow the courts to come to a decision on the challenge to the state's controversial filed means and method of execution filed by several death row inmates.

The Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and will not allow the state to use the "problematic" drugs employed in botched executions conducted in Alabama, Arizona, Ohio and Oklahoma. However, that decision was made by a three-judge panel, not the full court. The panel decision has now been challenged and so must be heard by the full court of judges on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Given the positions of the additional three judges, it is pretty likely that the ruling will not stand and Ohio will get the go-

ahead to resume executions using the proposed drug cocktail that includes the controversial sedative midazolam.

In other news, companion bills have been introduced in both the Ohio House and Senate to exempt persons with serious mental illness at the time they committed murder from execution. Testimony for and against HB 81 and SB 40 is currently being heard by the respective judiciary committees. The original bill limiting sentences for persons with severe mental illness, SB 162 was passed by the judiciary committee during the last legislative session, but did not proceed any further.

### New Immigration Policies Threaten the Vulnerable

In an executive order signed January 25, President Trump called for increased immigration enforcement. Instead of spending its time, energy and resources to find those who are committing serious crimes, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been detaining our neighbors and friends. Even DACA recipients, those who are legally protected from deportation, are at risk.

DACA recipient Daniel Ramirez Medina, 24, was detained in Washington after agents thought he had a gang tattoo. In Mississippi, Dany Vargas, 22, was detained because she didn't have enough money to renew her DACA on time. Juan Montes, 23, was deported from California because he didn't have his DACA identification card with him.

[Washington Post reports](#) ICE arrested and detained 21,362 people be-

tween January and March of this year. That's up 32.6% from the same period last year. More importantly, detentions of those who do not have criminal records has doubled compared to the same period from 2016. To meet the call for increased enforcement, ICE has gained more latitude in defining who is classified as a criminal.

Locally, in April a mother with no criminal record was taken away

from the community. Maribel Trujillo Diaz from Fairfield was deported in April after 15 years of working, paying taxes, volunteering and taking care of her of 4 US born children.

Thank you to those

who were able to rally with IJPC to oppose Maribel's deportation. We won the attention of Ohio's Senators Portman and Brown as well as Governor Kasich. Sadly, people like Maribel are going to continue to be deported unless we win comprehensive immigration reform. Join us as we continue the fight for justice.

Join IJPC May 24<sup>th</sup> to watch Frontline's investigation "Immigration Battle" explaining how the 2013 bipartisan legislation for immigration reform failed. Discussion to follow. More info on our website.



Advocates stand outside of Senator Portman's office in Cincinnati during an evening prayer vigil for Maribel Trujillo Diaz

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Sign up for issue-specific emails and important updates from IJPC!

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national and global systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society. IJPC is supported by faith-based organizations and individuals who work together to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and do public witness. We address local, national and international concerns focusing on the death penalty, immigration, human trafficking and peace and nonviolence.