

PUBLIC INFORMATION BRIEFING GUIDE for AKAL AND ICE PETITION SUPPORTERS

Version 1.0

Our campaign is a grassroots effort involving concerned members of our 3HO/SDI community. This public document is designed to provide clear, accurate, and cohesive messaging and background information for educating the public about the goals and intentions of the petition.

Contact: akalandicepetition@gmail.com

This guide will be updated online as needed. If you are using a printed copy of the guide, please check the “revised” date in the footer of the online document to ensure you have the most recent version.

PUBLIC INFORMATION BRIEFING GUIDE

The purpose of this document is to provide a cohesive message when sharing or promoting the “Tell Akal to Sever Ties with ICE” petition effort and our purpose behind it. The Briefing Guide was authored by Fatehbir Kaur, Dr. Kimberly Nao, and members of the Coordinating Committee who recognize that a consistent, clear set of points will go a long way in keeping our efforts focused and effective. It contains:

- Statement of Goals
- Important Guidelines
- Talking Points
- Suggested Responses to Frequently Asked Questions
- A Campaign Timeline (Origin to July 2019)
- Resource Guide
- Glossary

This Briefing is NOT designed to silence individual voices or opinions about these issues. We ask that you use this document as a basis for consistency of message and framework for discussion. You may find the group message more or less radical, more or less narrow, more or less objective than your own depending on your personal views and experience. Please distinguish between the collective message and your perspective whenever possible, but we encourage you to share from both.

We need to speak with the power of a unified voice, but we will not all agree on each facet or tactic of this campaign. Let us welcome both the unity and the diversity and use it to deepen and strengthen our cause. Some of our supporters are professional lawyers and researchers. Others are passionate activists. Some people were born and raised in the community and identify as Sikh. Others crashed into a kundalini yoga class out of desperation, hope, illness, or curiosity. Some of us are white, some black, brown, indigenous, LGBTQIA+, old, young, fearless, scared, vocal, thoughtful, rich, poor, tall, or short. Some people want to sign the petition and go on about their lives. Others want to storm the gates to cause what John Lewis calls “good trouble.”

The opinions that resonate with us and the opinions that challenge us are all equal in value to our conversation. Our passion cannot persuade without facts to support our position. Our facts are not meaningful without passion to inspire us to act on our knowledge. And while we are all equally important, it is also true that because of existing social constructs certain voices enjoy a dominance in public spaces while others are ignored or silenced. For that reason, in our collective efforts we will remain conscious and willing to embrace and support the amplification of those who are made invisible by systemic oppression. The fact is: this is a marathon, not a sprint, and we will need every single person who cares to bring their perspective, skills, and energy to accomplish our task of honoring Yogi Bhajan’s legacy. Let us continue to seek change from a place of compassion, trust, and consciousness in the light of Guru Ram Das.

Humbly,
Fatehbir Kaur

STATEMENT OF GOALS

Our goals as stated in the petition are as follows:

- We call on SSSCorp¹ and Akal Security² to immediately divest from all financial interest in ICE³ in order to end any profiting or appearance of profiting from mass incarceration & detention. We also call on SSSCorp and Akal Security to eliminate any business relationships, associations, and contracts associated with the detention of human beings in the prison-industrial complex, which disproportionately affects [Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities⁴] including immigrants and now asylum seekers.
- Further, we call on SSSCorp to immediately establish a system of transparency by which the members of our community may review the fiscal practices between the SSSCorp and its associated for-profit and non-profit businesses for the sole purpose of evaluating the source of financing for our 3HO⁵ activities.

Additional goals for the campaign are as follows:

- That members of the community, particularly high-profile teachers and musicians, take a public stand regarding Akal's connection with ICE in order to: bring public pressure to bear on the decision-making boards; to allow students/consumers the option of withholding financial support from their classes, trainings, publications, and products.
- To align our community with the Aquarian Age through our mandate to Poke, Provoke, Confront, and Elevate.

¹ Siri Singh Sahib Corporation, the executive board that oversees both the for-profit and nonprofit entities

² Akal Security, a for-profit company established by Yogi BhaJan in 1980

³ ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), one of the U.S. government agencies responsible for immigrant detention

⁴ A more precise description of affected populations than the original petition language "communities of color."

⁵ Although 3HO is the only named nonprofit entity here, we include Sikh Dharma International and the other nonprofits in this statement.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

Consider yourself a leader in this effort. When you talk about the petition and the changes we seek, you are assuming a responsibility for sharing information and facts through the principles of conscious communication.

Start with the basics and then drill down. Begin with the Talking Points, then move into the more detailed sections like Suggested Answers and the Resource Guide. Stick to the language in the Briefing Guide. It will sound repetitive to you but most people are hearing about this issue for the first time. From there introduce and address more complex facets of the issue carefully.

Be willing to say often: “I/We don’t know. That’s why we need answers.” Avoid speculation and do not spread rumors. Understand that failure to do so damages the credibility of our effort. When others invoke rumor or speculation, take the time to clarify and debunk using the content of the Briefing Guide. If you do not have enough information to dispel misinformation, be honest and remind people that the confusion is exactly why we want SSSCorp to answer our questions and engage in a dialogue of transparency in order to move forward.

Find the balance. Talking to people about how much this issue means to you personally will be moving and, often, persuasive. When sharing your own experience and opinions (which we welcome), make clear that you are speaking from your individual perspective, not representing the group message.

Expect that everything you say and type is part of the public domain. Do not say or write anything you wouldn’t want to go viral. This includes but is not limited to: individual and group interactions, Facebook DMs, emails, chats, and social media posts.

Conduct yourself with dignity and grace. This issue is extremely emotional for most people involved. Honor your own feelings and those of people who disagree with you. Be an educator AND a listener.

Reach out to others for support as needed. Depending on various factors, this work is often difficult and draining. Assume that you need more support than you think you do. Share your feelings with trusted friends, take advantage of our global sadhana meditations, make time for rest, and enjoy outside interests and activities.

If you have any questions, email akalandicepetition@gmail.com

TALKING POINTS

We are deeply troubled by Akal Security's contract with ICE and find it unacceptable that our practice is associated with any profits generated from mass incarceration and the private prison industry.

We need transparency and clarity from leadership about the financial links between the for-profit businesses and the nonprofit organizations and entities we use in our teachings/practices.

We believe our call for change honors Yogi Bhanan's legacy, promotes his direction that we must become ten times greater than him, and represents Aquarian Age values.

TALKING POINTS BREAKDOWN

The petition has two objectives

- for SSSCorp and Akal to sever ties with ICE
- for SSSCorp to create complete transparency in the funding stream between the for profits and nonprofits

We are deeply troubled by Akal's contract with ICE and a private immigration detention center

- As Sikhs, kundalini yoga teachers, and practitioners we provide our physical, spiritual, and financial energy to this community
- We find it unacceptable that our practice be supported by any profits generated from human detention, which disproportionately harms Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities and marginalized individuals
- We believe that Akal's association with ICE makes our community complicit in the current humanitarian crisis in the U.S. by participating in the mass deportation infrastructure

We need clarity from leadership about Akal's financial links to organizations and entities we use in our teachings/practices, including but not limited to

- 3HO including IKYTA, Summer and Winter Solstice, video classes and webinars, the Luminaries Program, Women's Camp, and Khalsa Youth Camp
- White Tantric Yoga
- Sikh Dharma International
- Kundalini Research Institute including the Library of Teachings, trainings, and publications
- Sikhnet

As long as the tie between SSSCorp and Akal/ICE exists

- We believe all teachers, artists, and vendors that engage with the nonprofit entities are implicated in the choice to profit from human detention

- We will use social media, group meditation, and every tool at our disposal to bring attention to this problem and seek change
- We will ask high-profile teachers and artists in our community to make public statements condemning Akals' work with ICE

We believe as a conscious community, SSSCorp must be fully transparent

- Regarding activities, practices, and financial interests of any company it oversees (e.g. Yogi Tea, Akal Security, KRE, and Yoga West)
- About how it funds our spiritual activities and where those funds originate

We recognize, respect, and honor

- The hard work, dedication, and grace of those who established the foundation of our global community alongside Yogi Bhajan
- The exponential growth of that community as evidence of the power and value of the teachings
- The changing composition of our global family and the need to demonstrate understanding and awareness of the diverse cultures and communities

We uphold the teachings including

- Embodying and sharing Aquarian Age values of transparency, inclusion, equity, and service
- Yogi Bhajan's direction that we must become ten times greater than him

SUGGESTED ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This section is designed to help representatives of our effort give uniform responses to questions we often get about our goals, viewpoints, and motives. You can quickly scan the questions by grouping to find the appropriate topic, but we suggest becoming familiar with all the answers since you will probably get questions that overlap topics. Some questions and responses may sound redundant, but consistent messaging is essential to effective communication on the scale we are trying to achieve. Remember that we encourage you to add your own views to any discussion, but please distinguish between the official group position and your personal perspective.

ABOUT AKAL SECURITY

1. What does Akal say? What does SSSCorp say?

Akal has released two statements which acknowledge and verify their tie to ICE: a PDF on letterhead dated June 26, 2018, and a second PDF that is not on letterhead and not dated which circulated by email and direct message on July 12, 2019. Both documents state that Akal is not involved in child separations and that the company operates according to the highest ethical standards. SSSCorp has not released any official statement regarding Akal's contract with ICE or the petition's call for transparency in the funding stream.

2. Did anyone try to talk to the people at Akal before making the petition?

Yes. Before posting the petition and website in July 2018, Fatehbir Kaur reached out to a number of people in leadership to get answers about the rumors on social media that Akal was involved in child separations. Those inquiries only led to more questions. Official and unofficial spokespeople have offered one-on-one explanations but no evidence-based, specific account of Akal's work, including subcontracts, which are part of a very convoluted government contracting system.

3. I'm satisfied that Krome isn't at the border and Akal has nothing to do with the child separations. Why are you still opposing Akal?

We object to making a profit from all human detention. The adult male detainees at Krome are subject to the multi-billion dollar machine known as the prison-industrial complex. Regardless of personal or political views regarding this system, we believe is not appropriate for our spiritual activities to benefit financially from any association with it. We are also not confident in this claim from the July 12, 2019, statement that "Akal has had zero involvement with border operations, enforcement action, immigration raids or the separation of families." The U.S. government failed to properly track the separated families and still does not know the location of many separated parents. How does Akal know that none of their detainees have been part of the zero tolerance policy? Also, a senior vice president at Akal has said the company is pursuing additional ICE contracts.

4. How long would it take for Akal to end its government contract?

We do not know. Neither SSSCorp nor Akal as provided any information regarding this option.

5. I've heard that this is only a small part of Akal's business. Why make such a big deal about it?

This issue is another source of great confusion. We hear that Akal barely makes any money off Krome. We also hear that these contracts are so lucrative (and that Akal is seeking to enter into more) that there is no way SSSCorp will give up such a money-maker. We believe that if the Krome/ICE work is so financially insignificant, there should be no hesitation in ending the relationship which is causing distress and conflict. If, however, the Krome/ICE work is actually highly profitable, it would indicate significant involvement in the private prison industry. In that case, our desire to sever ties becomes even more urgent.

6. Akal management said they're not involved. Why don't you believe them?

We do not know what to believe. An organization or company that lacks transparency does not inspire trust. We have no access to evidence-based information about Akal's practices or the numerous roles it may or may not have in the immigrant detention system. We also have no explicit description from SSSCorp of how or how much money travels between the for-profit businesses and our nonprofit entities. We believe it is reasonable to have actual access to this information rather than vague assurances about the integrity of the work or process.

7. Don't you think it's better that a company like Akal is guarding people instead of a company that doesn't care?

In a word: no. We do not find it acceptable for a spiritual community or conscious business to profit from human detention. The non-profit Sikh Dharma ministry performs seva in these detention spaces for humanitarian purposes, which is the appropriate vehicle to perform this function. Furthermore, many people have a false impression that the guards are dressed in white and meditating with the detainees. In fact, Akal now has thousands of employees, most of whom are not Sikhs or kundalini yogis. Krome actually has a documented history of complaints and abuses. Our community has no control over the integrity of operations, and should the situation worsen we would not like our reputation as a spiritual community to be further implicated.

8. Akal has been in business a long time and has held ICE contracts for nearly 20 years. Why didn't you speak up before?

There are many reasons but no excuses for not speaking up in the past. The two most common ones are: one, lack of awareness of the nature of Akal's operations or its affiliation with the nonprofits; and, two, the drastic changes to border and immigration policies under the Trump administration and the zero-tolerance policy.

ABOUT PETITION SUPPORTERS

9. Why are you bringing politics into our spiritual practice?

The subject of the border crisis and immigration is surely political in nature, but we are not telling anyone how to vote or requiring a particular party affiliation to join our effort. We simply don't believe

that Akal or our community should be associated with ICE. In fact, if we are successful in our campaign, our community will no longer be participating in a divisive political controversy.

10. If you were really following your practice, you wouldn't be so upset/angry/loud/divisive. Why don't you deal with your own consciousness instead of engaging in the commotion of pointing fingers at others?

The yogic values of neutrality and acceptance do not extend to ignoring the world around us and remaining silent in the face of harm. Kundalini yoga as taught by Yogi Bhanan is especially clear on this point: we practice a householder's yoga. There is nothing enlightened about expecting people to stuff their authentic emotions, stifle their legitimate concerns, or remain paralyzed rather than taking action. Instead that is spiritual bypass. Sikh values are also rich with the tradition of the warrior-sage in fierce service to those who need protection.

11. I know a lot of the people at Akal and they are trustworthy and decent. Why are you attacking them?

Many of the petition supporters also know and love people in charge at Akal. We are not attacking anyone personally and recognize that some sincerely believe Akal's role is "righteous work." We are seeking to disengage from a business relationship that generates profit from the mass incarceration and deportation industry.

12. Why are you spreading so many rumors about Akal? So much of what is being said is not true or misleading.

Since originally posting the petition and website in July 2018, Fatehbir Kaur has welcomed clarification and confirmation from anyone interested in this issue. The Background & Viewpoints page on the website asks people to contact Fatehbir if they know any information on the site is incorrect. As a group, we continue to make every effort to convey factual information in a fair manner by differentiating between what we know to be true, what we know to be false, our opinions & questions, what has been said by leadership, and what we have heard as speculation or rumor. We do not take responsibility for the ongoing misinformation and confusion. In fact, if leadership would communicate directly and transparently with the community, rumors and speculation would be replaced by the facts and informed discussion we desire.

13. You keep telling people not to attend teacher trainings and events. Won't that just deprive people of the teachings when we need them most?

Withdrawing financial support is one way to protest an issue and we are using it as one of the many tools of activism. However, the choice to refrain from participation in various activities is highly personal. Many supporters feel that as long as there are ties between our community and ICE, it is not appropriate to support the activities that benefit from that association. We also believe that high-profile teachers and artists should be vocal about this issue. It is true that the teachers and the nonprofits have no direct decision-making power regarding the for-profit businesses, however, we know that if they speak out it will create additional public pressure on the executive boards to address our concerns. Many of us continue to teach and practice and consider the teachings pure, even if our business relationships are not.

14. Why are you being so judgmental?

Taking a stand does not necessarily mean we are “being judgmental.” We understand that there are people who believe in the work Akal is doing at Krome and, while we disagree, we acknowledge the sincerity of their beliefs. Our desire to bring positive energy and unity to our cause is also why we began our global sadhana with the First Sutra of the Aquarian Age: Recognize the other person is you.

ABOUT IMMIGRATION

15. You don't think we should decide who comes into our country? You just want open borders.

Our campaign does not oppose a nation maintaining and securing its borders. We oppose our complicity in the arbitrary, inhumane, and discriminatory application of government polices to deter, punish, and imprison people. The immigration apparatus in the U.S. has become increasingly overwhelmed in recent years. Failures by Congress to enact immigration reform in the past two decades have led to inconsistencies of administrative policies and lack of funding for personnel, judges, and humanitarian aid. The collapse of economic stability in countries south of the U.S. border – conditions often caused or made worse by U.S. policy affecting those regions -- has made many families desperate for safer, more stable lives through the legal process of asylum. The hateful rhetoric and policies of the Trump administration exploit fear and misinformation about migrants to further an isolationist, White Nationalist agenda (as stated by Dr. Fania Davis, 2019 Peace Prayer Day keynote speaker and recipient of the Siri Singh Sahib Corporation Award for Social Justice). These factors have contributed to a humanitarian crisis combined with an anti-immigrant sentiment on a scale unprecedented in U.S. history.

16. Why do you keep calling it a prison? It's just where we keep people who are trying to come in illegally.

Seeking asylum is a legal process recognized by both U.S. and international law. Present day immigrant detention is part of a multi-billion dollar for-profit prison system. In relation to other private companies that hold ICE contracts, Akal is very small. However, it still profits from what is called the prison-industrial complex, a vast matrix of incarceration infrastructure that disproportionately and unjustly affects Black and Brown individuals and communities. In addition, Akal maintains that they guard “only adult male detainees” convicted of a crime under U.S. law and that “90 percent of detainees who are transferred to Krome come from state and federal jails/prisons where they were serving time.” However, since many current laws criminalize behavior that targets marginalized groups, we do not believe the circumstance of already serving time represents a justification for profiting from human detention.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

17. Why are you making your personal views a community-wide issue?

We are fortunate to have grown into a global and diverse community, which makes Akal's connection to ICE a community-wide concern. There are many people of color in our sangat directly impacted by this issue. Our association with an agency/system that is essentially terrorizing communities of color makes our brothers and sisters in those populations feel unsafe and discarded by our spiritual family. For them, the silence from leadership is deafening. Some have already left and others are grappling with feelings of betrayal and abandonment by the teachers and friends they have trusted.

18. Why are you causing so much conflict within our community?

We do not believe that with our effort we are "causing" conflict. Rather we believe we are bringing much-needed awareness to an existing unacceptable business relationship that impacts our spiritual activities, karmic debt, and moral standing.

19. Yogi Bhajan did not believe in airing dirty laundry in public. Don't you care that you are hurting the community?

Yogi Bhajan warned that everything would come out in the Aquarian Age, there would be no more secrets. We do not believe that transparency and open discussion are unhealthy. Yogi Bhajan was also a Piscean leader who established a primarily Piscean structure to accomplish the goal of seeding the teachings in the West. With approximately 28,000 KRI certified teachers around the world, those efforts have been successful. We believe it is now time to evolve our community from a Piscean to an Aquarian model and believe that this honors Yogi Bhajan's legacy.

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

ORIGIN TO JULY 17, 2019

June 2018: Instagram post alleges Akal is involved in child separations at the US border. Kimberly Nao informs Fatehbir Kaur of the social media post.

June 2018: Fatehbir Kaur begins inquiries about the rumors by reaching out to Akal. Explanations are vague.

June 26, 2018: Akal releases an official statement (PDF available at akalandice.weebly.com) which does not provide any concrete information supporting their claim of no involvement nor does it condemn the zero-tolerance policy.

July 2018: Petition and website published by Fatehbir Kaur after repeated inquiries yield no clearer answers. The petition asks that Akal sever ties with ICE and that the SSSCorp establish full transparency in the funding stream between the for-profit and non-profit entities.

July/August 2018: A small group of supporters – including but not limited to Kim Nao, Richard Carl (Darshan Nam), and Satyajeet (Monica Avila) -- begin to share about the petition on social media. Interest among teachers/community is sparse and trolls are active. Teachers of color are mocked for speaking out and attacked with racial slurs by some members of the group. The group admin does not do anything about the harassment.

August 26, 2018: “Questions about Akal Security” by Phillip Tanzer published on Medium. The article contains extensive research and explanations of complicated government contracts and subcontracts between Akal and DHS/ICE.

September 13, 2018: Online petition emailed to SSSCorp with 202 signatures from people around the world.

September 27, 2018: Fatehbir Kaur is invited to the Khalsa Council meeting in Espanola to present about the petition effort. Discussion lasts 2.5 hours with wide-ranging opinions. (A video rendering of that PowerPoint presentation is available through the A&I website)

September 27, 2018: Both SSSCorp officials and Akal Security officials request a copy of the PowerPoint sent to them by Fatehbir Kaur. She replies immediately and emails the file.

October 24, 2018: Fatehbir Kaur posts an update to the A&I website detailing the events at the meeting, including the lack of response at that time from Khalsa Council, SSSCorp and Akal Security.

February 15, 2019: Sikh Coalition (not part of SSSCorp) joins immigration attorneys and civil rights activists for a day of action protesting treatment of Sikh and Cuban detainees at the ICE El Paso TX Processing Center.

March 2019: During in-person meeting with Satyajeet Kaur, Akal Senior Vice President Simran Singh states that Akal is pursuing new contracts, including additional ICE contracts.

May 25, 2019: Fatehbir Kaur posts an original video, “Child Separations and Kundalini Yoga,” to YouTube (link available through A&I website). The video gets about 400 views prior to Summer Solstice.

June 15, 2019: Dr. Fania Davis is the keynote speaker at Peace Prayer Day. She declares, “I stand in solidarity with those within the community who are raising these questions and I pray that a just resolution consistent with the peacemaking values of the Sikh community will come out of these discussions.”

June 17, 2019: Community discussion re: Akal and ICE held on site at the Yogi Bhajan house. Notes were taken but have not yet been provided.

June 25, 2019: Petition now has 411 signers and growing.

June 26, 2019: Sangeet Raj Kaur posts in Kundalini Yoga Teachers Facebook Group that she’s receiving questions about Akal being connected to ICE and people walking away. The post explodes and builds

close to 300 comments in 3 days. Several online “working groups” form in the community, including a group of researchers, attorneys, and people with experience in government contracts who commit to tracking down concrete information about Akal’s practices and money trail.

July 4, 2019: Fatehbir Kaur announces Day 1 of global sadhana meditation with *Humee Hum, Tumeer Tum* for the First Aquarian Sutra.

July 6, 2019: Fatehbir Kaur and Dr. Kimberly Nao facilitate the first Q&A about the petition, held at Invincible Hall in Los Angeles and shown on Facebook live. The video gets 1.4K views in two days.

July 11, 2019: Richard Carl with Amandeep Singh hosts the first Q&A from NYC. The video immediately gets around 400 views.

July 11, 2019: Guru Singh sends a statement to Fatehbir Kaur publicly denouncing Akal’s work with ICE, which is published on the A&I Petition page and the A&I website. The statement draws both praise (for being the first prominent teacher to take a stand) and criticism (for some inaccuracies about Akal’s involvement with 3HO/non-profits), but it causes an immediate response and activates new levels of discussion.

July 11, 2019: Petition has nearly 600 signatures (300 of which have been added since summer solstice).

July 12, 2019: Fatehbir Kaur posts personal statement clarifying that petition effort has no connection to Gursant Singh, who has a decades-long grievance against Yogi Bhanjan and 3HO.

July 12, 2019: A statement begins to circulate from the Akal Management Team. This is passed person-to-person but not on letterhead, not dated, not sent directly to Fatehbir Kaur, and not available anywhere online.

July 12, 2019: Petition supporters participate in the Lights for Liberty Vigil in Los Angeles at the Metro Detention Center.

July 12, 2019: Guru Singh “likes” the Akal and ICE petition page and responds to people’s comments about his statement.

July 14, 2019: First follow-up/strategy meeting held in Los Angeles to discuss next steps.

July 15, 2019: Simran Singh of Akal verifies that the statement is real and was intended for release after Fatehbir Kaur sends an email inquiry.

July 17, 2019: Petition organizers release a summarized and full response to the Akal statement (available on the website and Facebook page).

RESOURCE GUIDE

Links to these & other resources are available at akalandice.weebly.com/research--reporting.html

FILM, VIDEO, PODCASTS

- “13th” by Ana DuVernay, available on Netflix
- For recordings of livestream discussions, please visit the Akal and ICE Petition page on Facebook.
- “Child Separations and Kundalini Yoga” General information video produced by Fatehbir Kaur and posted to social media May 2019
- “Akal and ICE: Presentation to Khalsa Council” video rendering of September 2018 presentation by Fatehbir Kaur and posted to social media May 2019

NEWS ARTICLES

- *Questions About Akal Security* by Phillip Tanzer
- *The Billion-Dollar Business of Operating Shelters for Migrant Children* The New York Times
- *US migrant centres: Photos show "dangerous" overcrowding* BBC
- *Family Separation May Have Hit Thousands More Migrant Children Than Reported* The New York Times
- *Trapped in Gangland: How the MS-13 Crackdown Shattered Immigrant Lives* ProPublica (winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing)
- *When A Child Is Taken From A Parent* The Center for Investigative Reporting (Reveal)
- *Inside the Secret Border Patrol Facebook Group Where Agents Joke About Migrant Deaths and Post Sexist Memes* ProPublica
- *Thousands of migrant youth allegedly suffered sexual abuse in U.S. custody* Axios
- *“Could You Please Check His Status?”: Records Show How A US-Born Marine Ended Up In ICE Custody* BuzzFeed News
- *‘You Have to Pay With Your Body’: The Hidden Nightmare of Sexual Violence on the Border* The New York Times

RESEARCH, THINK TANKS, & ACADEMIC STUDIES

- *May 2019 Redacted DHS Inspector's Report on dangerous conditions at detention centers*
- *Deportation and family separation impact entire communities, researchers say* Science Daily
- *Section 1325 USA Facts*
- *What You Should Know About the Prison-Industrial Complex* ThoughtCo
- *Key facts about US immigration policies and proposed changes* Pew Research Center
- *An Interactive Timeline: U.S. Immigration Policy, Past and Present* The Choices Program, Brown University
- *Undocumented Immigrants* The Marshall Project
- *Federal Action on Immigration, 2017-2019* National Conference of State Legislatures
- *Primer: U.S. Policy on Refugees and Asylum Seekers* America Action Forum
- *An Overview of U.S. Refugee Law and Policy* American Immigration Council

BOOKS

- “The New Jim Crow” Michelle Alexander
- “Freedom Is a Constant Struggle” Angela Davis
- “Radical Dharma” Rev. angel Kyodo williams, Lama Rod Owens, with Jasmine Syedullah

ADVOCACY GROUPS

- *Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services* RAICES
- *Immigrants Rights* ACLU
- *Mass Incarceration* ACLU
- *Prison Abolition* The Marshall Project
- *School-to-Prison Pipeline* Rethinking Schools
- *Close the Camps*

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Akal Security – a for-profit company established by Yogi Bhajan in 1980, currently contracted with ICE to guard Krome, an immigrant detention facility in Miami, FL.

Asylum – The United States recognizes the right of asylum for individuals as specified by international and federal law. Asylum is a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international law definition of a “refugee.” The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future “on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” Congress incorporated this definition into U.S. immigration law in the Refugee Act of 1980. [Sources: American Immigration Council and Wikipedia] In July 2019, the Trump administration and Attorney General William Barr worked to drastically change the process of seeking asylum in the US, including changing the distinction of who would qualify as a member of a persecuted group and attempting to force a so-called “Safe Third Country Agreement” with Guatemala. [Sources: The Hill and The New York Times]

Board of Directors – due to the complex history and legal structure of the SSSCorp, the term “board of directors” may have numerous connotations in the context of the Akal Security and ICE discussion. We continue to seek from SSSCorp and to provide to our supporters clarification regarding the decision-making parties in charge of the Akal/ICE relationship.

CBP – Customs and Border Protection

CoreCivic – along with GEO Group, one of the two largest private immigrant detention companies contracted with ICE.

DHS – Department of Homeland Security, oversees ICE, CBP, and USCIS

Folx -- a gender neutral collective noun used to address a group of people

GEO Group – along with CoreCivic, one of the two largest private immigrant detention companies contracted with ICE.

ICE – Immigration and Customs Enforcement

INS – Immigration and Naturalization Service, dissolved in 2003 after DHS took over immigration and border

Khalsa Council -- an international body of Ministers of Sikh Dharma committed to serving and upholding the spirit of Khalsa in service to humanity. The International Khalsa Council was established in 1974 by Siri Singh Sahib Bhai Sahib Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogiji with the vision that it would provide leadership and inspiration for our Dharma and for our global communities. [Source: Sikh Dharma International website] Fatehbir Kaur was invited to present information about the petition effort at the Fall 2018 meeting in Espanola, NM.

Krome – Krome Service Processing Center, an ICE immigrant detention facility in Miami, FL, guarded by employees of Akal Security

Prison-Industrial Complex -- a combination of private-sector and government interests that profit from increased spending on prisons. Rather than a covert conspiracy, the PIC is criticized as a convergence of self-serving special interest groups that openly encourage new prison construction, while discouraging the advancement of reforms intended to reduce the inmate population. [Source: ThoughtCo]

Safe Third Country Agreement – a term used to describe a requirement that an asylum seeker may be refused entry if they are first granted asylum by another country. The US and Canada have had such an agreement since 2004. However, the current administration is attempting to force Guatemala, Mexico and other countries south of the US border into these agreements as well. The new agreements are involving countries that have little to no infrastructure to handle an influx of migrants turned away from the US. In addition, many of the migrants currently who are part of the border crisis are fleeing conditions in those countries.

SSSCorp – Siri Singh Sahib Corporation, the executive board that oversees both for-profit and nonprofit entities. Under current organizational structure, the for-profits and nonprofits usually have more than one board of oversight. The relationship between the various entities is complex.

USCIS – United States Citizenship and Immigration Service