

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

SUMMARIZED RESPONSE from PETITION ORGANIZERS

re: July 2019 Document from Akal Security Management Team

A PDF document attributed to the Akal Management Team titled “Akal Security – A Values-based, Ethically Responsible Business” began circulating through email and direct message on Friday, July 12, 2019. We waited to formulate a response until we confirmed the authenticity of the document, which is not on letterhead, not dated, and provides no contact information.

Having verified and reviewed the document, we have unease about its content. Our concerns are substantial enough that we are not shifting our position with regard to Akal Security and its contract with ICE, nor our position toward SSSCorp entities that may or may not benefit from or support Akal.

The statement, which is only the second public comment from Akal in the past year,

- declares that Akal *“has had zero involvement with border operations, enforcement action, immigration raids or the separation of families.”* Due to the labyrinthine system of government contracting and subcontracting and the size of the business, the full extent of Akal’s role/profit through contracts and subcontracts remains unknown.
- makes no mention of the financial link between Akal’s business and the nonprofit entities of SSSCorp. We restate our call for SSSCorp to create immediate transparency in its operations between the for-profits and the Kundalini Yoga/Sikh Dharma community. We want to know how funds travel and are distributed within the corporate structure, a process that is not clear to anyone outside the executive boards.
- ignores the implications of the border crisis and rapidly expanding migrant detention, which disproportionately affects Black and Brown communities. Even if Akal’s operations have been completely above board until now – and there are documented reports to the contrary -- Akal is a part of the mass deportation and incarceration infrastructure, and is therefore complicit in and profiting from the escalating mistreatment of migrant detainees.

Our petition, which was first published one year ago and now has more than 625 signatures from community members around the globe, clearly states our objectives for

- “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 communities of color including immigrants and now asylum seekers.”
- “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.”

We do not believe this statement addresses these concerns. We ask that the community continue to raise awareness, speak out, ask questions, and pursue answers about this issue. Learn about our grassroots effort at akalandice.weebly.com and join the discussion on the Akal and ICE Petition Page on Facebook.

Read our FULL RESPONSE at akalandice.weebly.com

Sign the petition (links on Facebook and website) | Share widely on social media | Stay informed

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