
Activists defeat proposal to build new immigration detention center near Chicago, 2012

- [included participation by more than one social class](#) [1]
- [local community or neighborhood-level campaign](#) [2]

Timing

28 March

2012

to:

11 June

2012

Location and Goals

Country:

United States

Location City/State/Province:

Crete, Illinois

[View Location on Map](#)

Goals:

To ensure that the proposed immigrant detention center not be built in their town of Crete.

Methods

Methods in 1st segment:

- 001. Public speeches › At 1 April rally.
- 006. Group or mass petitions › Door-to-door petitioning campaign opposing the center.
- 038. Marches › 30 March 3-day protest march from Chicago to proposed building site.
- 047. Assemblies of protest or support › Marchers rally on 1 April at proposed meeting site.

Methods in 2nd segment:

- 006. Group or mass petitions › Door-to-door petitioning campaign opposing the center.

Methods in 3rd segment:

- 006. Group or mass petitions › Door-to-door petitioning campaign opposing the center.

Methods in 4th segment:

- 006. Group or mass petitions › Door-to-door petitioning campaign opposing the center.

Methods in 5th segment:

- 006. Group or mass petitions ›Door-to-door petitioning campaign opposing the center.
- 008. Banners, posters, and displayed communications ›No borders, no cages, and no Crete prison.
- 038. Marches ›Protestors march from Union Park to ICE headquarters in Chicago.
- 138. Sitdown ›In front of ICE headquarters in Chicago.

Methods in 6th segment:

- 006. Group or mass petitions ›Door-to-door petitioning campaign opposing the center.

Segment Length:

12.5 days

Classifications

Classification:

Defense

Cluster:

Human Rights

Group characterization:

- Crete and Chicago community members
- Immigrant rights activists

Leaders, partners, allies, elites

Leaders:

Concetta Smart of Concerned Citizens of Crete and Surrounding Communities

Partners:

Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Moratorium on Deportations, No Name Collective

External allies:

Not known

Involvement of social elites:

US Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. came out in solidarity with the movement

Joining/exiting order of social groups

Groups in 1st Segment:

- Concerned Citizens of Crete & Surrounding Communities
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Moratorium on Deportations
- No Name Collective

Groups in 2nd Segment:

Groups in 3rd Segment:

Groups in 4th Segment:

- Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Groups in 5th Segment:

Groups in 6th Segment:

Segment Length:

12.5 days

Opponent, Opponent Responses, and Violence

Opponents:

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Local government

Nonviolent responses of opponent:

Not known

Campaigner violence:

Not known

Repressive Violence:

None known

Success Outcome

Success in achieving specific demands/goals:

6 points out of 6 points

Survival:

1 point out of 1 points

Growth:

3 points out of 3 points

Total points:

10 out of 10 points

The Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) is a private company that receives government funding to run prison and detention centers for-profit. The CCA's immigrant detention centers are notorious for particularly bad living conditions.

In the summer of 2011, some community members of Crete, Illinois, near Chicago, learned of a plan to establish a CCA detention center in the southern suburbs of their city. Concetta Smart heard of the plan from the Restorative Justice Committee of the Joliet Roman Catholic Diocese. Smart worked with members of the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants to organize a house meeting. In November 50 people attended the meeting and formed Concerned Citizens of Crete and Surrounding Communities.

In February earlier that year, legislation had been introduced in the Illinois State Senate opposing private companies such as CCA, in the form of Senate Bill 1064. If passed, SB 1064 would prevent private prison companies from carrying out detention functions. Concerned Communities joined the effort to get the legislation passed in the Illinois General Assembly, which consisted of both a senate and a house of representatives.

By 28 March 2012, SB 1064 passed in the Senate and arrived in the House. Concerned Citizens initiated a door-to-door petition drive to support the bill, framing the center as something that would lower their property values.

On 30 March, Concerned Citizens, in conjunction with the Moratorium on Deportations Campaign and No Name Collective, organized a three-day march from the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Chicago to the proposed building site in the suburbs of Crete. The march culminated on 1 April, when the organization held a rally at the building site and organization leaders, as well as US Representative Jesse Jackson Jr., spoke.

Following the march and rally, Rep. Jackson Jr. announced that he would hold a town hall meeting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on 21 May. The meeting was postponed, however, due to alleged security concerns posed by the presence of NATO protestors (not directly related to detention center protestors).

In response to the announcement that the meeting was to be postponed, Moratorium for Deportation and the Concerned Citizens organized a march from Union Park to ICE headquarters office. The anti-detention center protestors alone comprised about 100 people, but as word of action spread they were joined by protestors from the Occupy Chicago movement as well as some anti-NATO protestors. They were able to successfully shut down rush-hour traffic with their march and the event culminated with a sit-down in front of ICE headquarters where protestors demanded "No borders, no cages, and no Crete prison."

Large numbers of police officers were present, but simply stood by and observed.

On 11 June the Board of Trustees voted to end negotiations with the CCA. The detention center was not built.

Research Notes

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