

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) Rap Sheet

CCA is the largest private-prison company in the U.S., housing about 80,000 federal and state prisoners in 66 facilities across 19 states and the District of Columbia. A publicly-traded company, CCA reported net income of \$157 million on \$1.67 billion in revenues for 2010. It has no contracts with the Arizona Department of Corrections, but houses federal inmates and inmates from Hawaii, California and Washington at six prisons in Eloy and Florence.

CCA in Arizona: A Series of Unfortunate Events

- The Inspector General for the State of California (which houses prisoners in CCA's Red Rock, LaPalma, and Florence Correctional Center in Arizona) slammed CCA last December for **serious security flaws** and improper treatment of inmates. Inspectors found **faulty alarms** and **malfunctioning security cameras**, prisoners evading metal detectors, and discovered that CCA was **not checking the arrest records of employees or screening out those with gang affiliations** ("Prison firm optimistic about Arizona bid despite incidents," *The Arizona Republic*, 8/8/11).
- A lawsuit filed on behalf of Hawaiian prisoners in CCA's Saguaro Correctional Center argued that **officers stripped and beat prisoners**, in some cases hitting their heads against tables while their hands were cuffed behind their backs. Officers and even the warden **threatened the prisoners and their families**. The officials then **destroyed the evidence of the beatings**, including videotapes, and falsified reports. An additional suit was filed last month claiming that beatings and threats have continued in retaliation for prisoners filing the suit ("Private Prison Beatings Continue, Men Say," *Courthouse News*, 7/27/11).
- A prisoner in CCA's Saguaro Correctional Center **strangled his cellmate** while the prison was in lockdown in June 2010. Saguaro houses Hawaiian prisoners in Arizona and was also the site of the stabbing death by two inmates who now face the death penalty in Arizona although Hawaii has no death penalty. Prisoners claim the prison is **'greatly understaffed.'** ('HI inmates complain about CCA' *Hawaii News Now* 6/17/10).
- A prison employee suffered a broken nose and cheekbones as well as eye socket damage during a **30 inmate brawl over an Xbox** owned by an inmate at Saguaro Correctional Center ('Prison Employee seriously injured' *KITV4* 7/30/10)
- CCA's Eloy Detention Center, which houses immigrant detainees, had the **most deaths of any immigration detention center in the country**. According to the ACLU, **nine deaths have taken place** in Eloy Detention Center--most were caused by **inadequate or delayed medical attention** ('Lost and Ignored' *Tucson Weekly* 2/11/10).
- While correctional officers working for state prisons receive \$18-\$20 an hour, **CCA employees are paid less to do the same job**, earning only \$10-\$12 an hour. CCA employees also **receive 240 less hours of training than those employed by ADOC** ('CCA criticized by union, praised by Florence officials' *The Daily Courier* 12/18/09)
- **A CCA employee pled guilty to drug charges** in April for attempting to give prison inmates cocaine at the Central Arizona Detention Center in Florence ('Arizona corrections officer caught buying cocaine for inmate' *ABC15* 4/21/10).

CCA: Pay to Play

- CCA employs Highground Public Affairs Consultants whose president is **Governor Jan Brewer's top political advisor** Chuck Coughlin ('Ties that Bind' *In These Times* 6/21/10).
- Governor Brewer's spokesman Paul Senseman was previously employed by CCA and his wife is currently employed as a **lobbyist for the corporation** ('Ties that Bind' *In These Times* 6/21/10).
- **CCA has given money to Governor Brewer's past campaigns** such as Prop.100 and **stands to benefit greatly from SB1070**. As more undocumented people are turned over to ICE it is likely that they will be sent to one of CCA's three detention facilities in Arizona ('Governor Brewer's CCA Ties Burn Like Neon' *Phoenix New Times* 7/29/10).
- CCA is the chief employer in Eloy. Its employees include the **Mayor of Eloy, who worked as a guard and now has a lucrative landscaping contract with the company** ("Prison firm optimistic about Arizona bid despite incidents," *The Arizona Republic*, 8/8/11).
- Nationally, **CCA spent \$4.4 million lobbying** Congress, the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other government bodies from January 2008 through April of last year ("Prison firm optimistic about Arizona bid despite incidents," *The Arizona Republic*, 8/8/11).

CCA Lets Loose

- **An inmate from a Tennessee CCA prison escaped** in June 2009 with the help of his cousin. While attempting to flee to Louisville, he **shot police officer**, Sgt. Mark Chesnut six times. The police officer now suffers from life-altering injuries ('KY man found guilty in officer shooting' *AP* 9/22/10)
- A woman accused of assaulting a police officer **escaped from a CCA facility in Youngstown, Ohio** the same day she arrived there ("CCA inmate escapes," *AP* 5/11/10).

Welcome to Gladiator School

- There have been 23 assaults since July 2009 at CCA's Idaho Correctional Center. In the month of April alone there were six reported incidents. These incidents range from **weapons found in showers, homemade alcohol, stolen items, and multiple fights requiring serious medical attention**. The ACLU filed a federal prisoner civil rights action against the Idaho Correctional Center. The law suit **included 23 assaults and claims that the correctional center has created a culture of violence** prompting the prison to be nicknamed 'gladiator school' by the inmates ('Assaults at ICC Accelerate' *Boise Weekly* 6/2/10).
- A former inmate has filed a lawsuit against CCA in Boise claiming that he **suffered brain damage during an attack that lasted so long that the attacker had to stop, catch his breath and drink water before he continued**. Corrections officers at the Idaho Correctional Center failed to step in even during this lull. The inmate was taken to the hospital where he was diagnosed with traumatic subarachnoid brain hemorrhage ('Inmate Sues CCA' *AP* 4/27/10).

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