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June 24, 2020

Hello. My name is Yohanne Eugenio. I am 38 years old. My native country is the Philippines. I came to the United States since I was little. I was only 3 years old when my Dad brought me and my Mom to the States as Military dependents. My father is a retired United States Navy Veteran. My family and I only visited the P.I. a few times. Last time I went back to the P.I. was when I was only 12 y/o. It was a family vacation during the summertime. Other than that, I know nothing about the Philippines cause I was raised here in the US. I am the eldest among 5. I have 3 younger sisters, and ~~the~~ 1 younger brother. I also have 3 children. All 3 of my kids were born in Everett, WA. My entire family lives here in Washington State. Gosh I miss them so much!!! I was hoping to go home early this month. My last court hearing was early June. Unfortunately I need to stay here longer than expected. My eldest son petitioned for me for the "Adjustment of Status." I'm all he's got. What I mean by that is, his Dad passed away 2 days before I got locked up. That was almost 3 years ago. I've been in this Detention Center for 17 months now. This is the longest I haven't been able to be with

my family. My sister and my 3 children came to my Court hearing and the Judge shushed them away. I currently am fighting to keep my Greencard. I was a VAWA petitioner in 2003. Hopefully I will get out soon and rejoin my family again. My parents are getting old and have disabilities. It's my role as the oldest to take care of them as they have helped me take care of me and my family.

Like I said earlier, I have been detained in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA for 17 months now. I would like to share some of my experience here. I noticed ALOT of our rights are being silenced here. Being raised in U.S. I know that if someone is being mistreated we should always voice it out. However, the staff here take advantage of the fact that most of the detainees here can barely speak English or even read/write. When I see officers talking to Detainees in a ~~condensing~~ ^{condesending} way it bothers me alot and if I say something, I'll get in trouble. Staff members make detainees feel low and worthless. If we have a complaint, we let the officers know and all they say is "BELIEVE IT." Its ~~like~~ so insulting. Another thing I've witnessed is Officers seem to push us to work our "Volunteer" duties when it's "Voluntary"?! What I mean by that is they would

wake us up, interrupt our phone/video calls, or even when we are praying to work so they can log it in their books?! Where is our peace?!?

The medical staff here is a Joke!! I've been having the same medical issues for over a year. I have headaches followed w/ nosebleeds all year round. They keep telling me it's allergy season?!?? Allergy season is all year round? I've been having bleeding every time I have a bowel movement. It's been a year now. Every thing that they have given me doesn't work. I have eczema/psoriasis I have stressed it to them so many times and after a year they finally gave me the right medicine. I've also been experiencing chest pain. Internal Chest pain but all they had given me was an Icy/COLD cream to reduce the pain!! It still doesn't take the issue away. It just feels like every medical issue we all have, we end up with the same responses. Same medications. If we complain more about the pain, they ~~have~~ ^{give} us sleeping pills. What that tells me is "SHUT UP and SLEEP." The pain may subside only for a short while but the medical issue still exists!! And that right there is not RIGHT!!

What I would like to also share is this new "COVID '19 Protocols". They have this new cleaning

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Schedule where we can "volunteer" to sanitize the tables, sinks, phones, toilets, showers, workout equipment, handles every some few hours in between. I believe that the officers duty is to keep us safe. So I have voiced out that since ICE wants to bring in more people during this pandemic, it wouldn't be our responsibility to keep these units "germ free." ~~So~~ A lot of the detainees agreed with me and now officers are forced to sanitize our areas. Some officers are lazy to clean. They just spray the toilets, sinks, tables & showers and expect us to wipe it or leave it to dry. I believe I'm starting to get an allergic reaction to it. I started to break out in hives on my neck and arms. And I'm not the only one. There are a few of us here that feel we are being affected by this "disinfectant". Everyone in my unit has experienced headaches. I don't know if its the ventilation or the chemicals. We often smell the "Aroma of Tacoma" daily. It's not a pleasant smell. Headaches occur when our vents are blocked. They expect us to clean it but its on the ceiling. That's a safety issue?!

Right now all I know is from a Staff member is that 5 people who have been tested positive over the COVID-19 are here. We are all

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scared. Before you know it, it'll probably get into the units (the COVID) why? Here's another safety issue. Women SEG (Segregation) is joined with Quarantine Women in the same unit. That's just illegal if you ask me. It doesn't make sense and again, RIGHTS?! Where are our rights?!! Do we even have any in these walls???)!!!

If there is anything else you would like to know. I'm on board. Please help us get out of this place. Sometimes I ponder and think back on History. United States of America used immigrants for Slavery. That "\$1 a day" volunteer work brings me back to think about the past. It's sad how they run things here and use us to keep ourselves safe from "COVID" or keep ourselves healthy.

Thank you for listening -

Johanne August
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