



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

## **AFSC West Region News – February 2021**

*Highlights of work from around the region*

*Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. We look forward to connecting with you regarding our shared work for peace and justice. Thanks for your interest and support; please send feedback to [WestNews@afsc.org](mailto:WestNews@afsc.org).*



*ArteVism fellow Ariana Cruz-Araiza*

*Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno*

### **Video highlights experiences of youth in the Central Valley**

Four fellows with AFSC's Pan Valley Institute have created **[More Than a Bread Basket](#)**, a film showing the diversity and cultural richness of their communities while examining the struggles faced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). PVI Director Myrna Martínez Nateras **said** one of the goals of the fellowship program was to "empower and foster civic engagement and community building through artistic expression among Latinx and Indigenous youth in the Central Valley."

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*Founded in 1917, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is an international Quaker organization that works on many social justice issues, including immigration, mass incarceration, youth civic engagement, and human rights in Palestine/Israel. With programs in 24 states and 15 countries, AFSC engages communities experiencing marginalization in the pursuit of shared security, based not on arms or coercion, but rather on creative nonviolence, sustainable economics and respect for all peoples.*



*Arizona Program, Tucson*

## Legislative work centers voices of people inside prison

AFSC Arizona values healing and restoration as the means to safer communities. But many Arizona statutes are outdated and run afoul of these values. Our **Reframing Justice** reform efforts aim to update or eliminate harmful legislation that hurts our families and communities. This year we centered the stories of people currently incarcerated in our legislative advocacy efforts. People inside sent us their stories and calls for change.



*Xochitl Oseguera, Vice President of Moms Rising/Mamas Con Poder, delivering petitions to Regions Bank. FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER*

*Economic Activism Program, Oakland*

## Working to end funding for private prisons

AFSC's Economic Activism Program is pleased to share this **news** of Regions Bank of Alabama ending its relationship with CoreCivic, the world's largest private prison corporation. "We were involved in engaging with the bank as investors, along with others, and doing the research exposing this bank as one of the ones that provide ongoing credit to **CoreCivic**," said Dov Baum of AFSC. Nine other banks have already taken **similar steps**. Learn more by visiting the **Investigate website**.



67 Sueños, Oakland

## Demanding the closure of all private prisons

From [Instagram](#): The Biden administration recently announced an end to private prison contracts. THIS IS HUGE! Without people fighting every day, this achievement would never have happened. However, the order did not mention Homeland Security detentions, which has a long track record of human rights violations. We demand the closure of all private prisons across the nation, even when they, too, hide behind different names like detention centers, facilities and reformatories!



A portion of a mural memorializing Anastasio Hernandez Rojas and his family at Barrio Logan Heights Chicano Park. Photo: Pedro Rios

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

## International tribunal to hear the case of Hernandez Rojas

Pedro Rios of AFSC shares an important [development](#) in the case of Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, whose 2010 killing by the Border Patrol was covered up. Recently, Anastasio's family, with support from Alliance San Diego, filed testimony from three former DHS employees in support of their case in front of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. This is the first case the international tribunal is hearing about an extrajudicial killing by U.S. law enforcement.





*Healing Justice Program, Oakland*

## **AFSC joins partners in backing new Racial Justice Act for All**

Fatimeh Khan of AFSC shares this [press release](#) from Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) announcing the introduction of the California Racial Justice Act for All, AB 256. This bill extends the protections provided in last year's AB 2542, a first-of-its-kind law in the state prohibiting the use of race, ethnicity, or national origin in sentencing and convictions. AFSC joins eight other organizations in [sponsoring](#) the legislation.



*Farming for Social Change Gathering 2017 (Photo: AFSC New Mexico)*

*People of the Land Program, Albuquerque*

## **Farming for social change**

AFSC has a long history of supporting traditional and sustainable farming practices that build economic and environmental justice, [writes](#) Sayrah Namaste and AFSC colleagues. Recently, Sayrah and New Mexico Program Co-Director Patrick Jaramillo joined colleagues from New Orleans and North Korea to [look at farming efforts](#) in several locations across the U.S. and internationally. They explored how AFSC is working to combat climate change and build peace through food security.


Alivio Laboral de Oregon, Foro Comunitario - Feb 2021 (1) - Protected View - PowerPoint

PEDRO SOSA

Pedro Sosa

**ALIVIO LABORAL DE OREGON**

## Apertura: Tierra Kalapuyana



Los kalapuyanos no pertenecian a una sola entidad tribal homogénea, sino a múltiples subdivi Tiesiones autónomas que hablaban tres idiomas estrechamente relacionados. Los tres idiomas eran: Kalapuya del norte (o Tualatin-Yamhill), Kalapuya central (o río Santiam-Marys (Chenapinefu)) y Kalapuya del sur (o Yoncalla), que pueden haber sido mutuamente entendidos.

*Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington*

### Panel discusses quarantine assistance and labor relief in Oregon

Pedro Sosa of AFSC recently joined this Spanish and indigenous languages [Facebook Live](#) discussion of quarantine assistance and labor relief in Oregon. Pedro begins speaking at the 8:54 mark and describes the Kalapuyana people and their languages. Pedro also lifts up the life of [Antonio Bernabé](#), a staunch defender of the rights of immigrant workers.



*Roots for Peace (R4P) Program, Los Angeles*

### Update from the South Los Angeles community farm

Members of the South LA community farm are practicing a long-term sustainability plan, producing fresh foods, and helping develop a local food system. People are creating a compost hub for their communities and are hosting workshops to guide new members on how to run the urban farm. Members have organized themselves into different work groups to collectively upkeep the farm and share the responsibilities. Follow Roots for Peace on [Instagram](#).



*Hilda Martinez Murillo (photo: Gabriela Flora)*

*Immigrant Rights Program, Denver*

## **Border Patrol re-detained Colorado mom and activist**

Despite new enforcement priorities, [Border Patrol recently re-detained Hilda Martinez Murillo](#), a mother and community leader as she was about to be reunited with her family. You can see her speaking via phone from jail in New Mexico in our virtual “Love Knows No Borders” detention center vigil [here](#) along with the loves ones of other people impacted by detention and deportation.

Hilda has been a leader with the Colorado office’s project, the Not1more Deportation table, for two years. AFSC Colorado coordinated with Hilda, other organizations, and lawyers to win her release. Upon release Hilda issued a call to Congress to demilitarize the border and end detention. “At the Border Patrol station where I was held from February 4 to 5, I was denied the opportunity to speak to my lawyer and also denied medical attention for 24 hours,” Hilda said. “No one should be treated like this.” Coverage includes [Denver Channel](#) and [KDVR](#).

## **Short takes**

In this [opinion piece](#), Pedro Rios of AFSC writes that truth and reconciliation commissions could help the US move beyond polarization.... Read [AFSC’s statement](#) on the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons....Check out the winter issue of AFSC’s [Alumni newsletter](#)....Explore AFSC’s new [Under the Mask website](#) for information on how governments are using COVID-19 to impose authoritarian policies – and how civil society is organizing in resistance.

## **Your support matters**

Your gifts of time and money make a real difference. Please be in touch with any West Region program by visiting [afsc.org](#), and support the AFSC West Region by [donating](#) today. Please share this subscription [link](#) for this newsletter with others. Thank you!