



Ending Torture. Seeking Justice for Survivors

ANNEX: Allegations of abuses by Private Security Contractors (“PSCs”) providing Immigration services in the UK

**Submission to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration
INQUIRY INTO THE USE OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION**

October 2014

USA		
Geo Group PLC		
Allegations	Findings/Decisions/Reports	Sources
On 26 April 2001, Gregorio De La Rosa was beaten to death by two other inmates while guards and supervisors looked on. Prison officials destroyed video footage of the incident and lied about critical evidence in an attempt to protect themselves from prosecution/litigation.	Wackenhut Corrections Corporation (now Geo Group Inc.) was sued by De La Rosa's family and ordered to pay \$42.5m in punitive damages by a Texan court of appeal. The court delivered a scathing assessment of the company's conduct in relation to De La Rosa's death, describing it as 'clearly reprehensible and disgusting display of disrespect for the welfare of others and for the state's civil justice system'.	Wackenhut Corrections Corporation and Warden David Forrest v Gregorio De La Rosa, Sr, Appeal from the 404th District Court of Willacy County, Texas, 2 April 2009 http://tx.findacase.com/research/wfrmDocViewer.aspx/xq/fac.20090402_0002766.TX.htm/qx .
Geo Group was accused of systematic abuse and neglect of detainees at Walnut Grove Youth Facility.	Following a comprehensive investigation of management between 2003-2011, the US Justice Department found a pattern of systematic, egregious and dangerous practices at Walnut Grove exacerbated by a lack of accountability and controls. It noted widespread examples of sexual abuse of detainees by staff, use of excessive force, inadequate protection to detainees, deliberate indifference to youth at risk of self-injury and deliberate indifference to the medical needs of youth. Geo Group reached a settlement agreement with current and former detainees in relation to their treatment at Walnut Grove.	US Department of Justice, Investigation of the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility, 20 March 2012, http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/walnutgrovefl.pdf . Depriest v Epps, United States District Court Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division, 26 March 2012 https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/order.pdf .
Administrator of Walnut Grove Youth Facility, William Grady Sims, was accused of having sex with a female inmate in his custody in 2009, and instructing her to lie to investigators by denying that they had sex.	Sims pleaded guilty to federal witness tampering and was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment, six months of home confinement, and two years of supervised release.	US Attorney's Office, 'Former mayor of Walnut Grove sentenced for federal witness tampering', 24 April 2012, http://www.fbi.gov/jackson/press-releases/2012/former-mayor-of-walnut-grove-sentenced-for-federal-witness-tampering .

Mismanagement at Coke County Juvenile Justice Center	Texas authorities cancelled a contract with Geo Group to manage the centre after auditors found rampant mismanagement following an unannounced audit. They found: filthy cells that reeked of faeces and urine, insects in food; instances of racial discrimination; the denial of proper hygiene ; and inadequate access to education.	The Texas Youth Commission, 'Coke County Juvenile Justice Center Audit', 02 October 2007, http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/img/10-07/1006tyccokeaudit.pdf .
In December 2012, Jesus Manuel Galindo, a prisoner at Reeves County Detention Center died from an epileptic attack after being placed in solitary confinement as punishment for allegedly complaining about his medical condition. Galindon's death set off a riot at the prison that caused USD\$20m in damage.	Galindo's family filed a wrongful death suit against the operator of the prison, Geo Group which was eventually settled for an undisclosed amount.	The Texas Observer, 'The Percos Insurrection: how a private prison pushed immigrant inmates to the brink', 8 October 2009, http://www.texasobserver.org/the-pecos-insurrection/ .
G4S PLC		
In 2010, allegations of sexual hazing and lewd behaviour by 16 guards at the US embassy in Afghanistan emerged (ArmourGroup acquired by G4S plc in April 2008)		Reuters, U.S. says 16 guards removed in Afghan embassy scandal, 10 September 2009; http://www.reuters.com/article/2009/09/10/us-afghanistan-usa-embassy-idUSTRE5896QK20090910 .
South Africa		
G4S PLC		
The South African government is investigating claims of torture at the G4S-run Mangaung prison.	Reports suggest that unqualified staff hired by G4S had forcibly injected inmates with anti-psychotic medication and used electric shocks to subdue them. Researches at Wills University, Johannesburg say that they have collected accounts of electric shocks, beatings and forced medication from 30 prisoners during a year-long investigation.	The Guardian, 'G4S-run prison in South Africa investigated over abuse claims', 28 October 2013, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/28/g4s-run-prison-south-africa-investigation
In September 2013, South African authorities took over the running of Manguang facility from G4S because of the "worrying deterioration of safety and security" and findings it had " lost effective control over the prison " in the wake of a series of stabbings, riots, strikes and a hostage taking. A department spokesperson also criticised G4S for dismissing 330 wardens for taking part in an illegal staff and replacing them with unqualified staff.	G4S stands accused, inter alia, of contributing to a deterioration of safety and security at the prison by replacing staff who had been sacked with unqualified workers.	The Guardian, 'South Africa takes over G4S prison after concerns', 9 October 2013, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/09/g4s-sacked-south-africa-prison-mangaung
Israel		
G4S PLC		
There are allegations that G4S, contrary to the OECD Guidelines, has breached the obligation to respect human rights of those affected by their activities.	The initial assessment by the OECD is that this is a serious issue that warrants further investigation.	Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, 'Corporate accountability for alleged human rights violations in action: UK NCP Initial Assessment of LPHR's complaint against G4S',

		<p>2 June 2014; http://lphr.org.uk/index.php/corporate-accountability-for-alleged-human-rights-violations-in-action-uk-ncp-initial-assessment-of-lphrs-complaint-against-g4s/;</p> <p>See also Leigh Day: http://www.leighday.co.uk/News/2014/June-2014/UK-Trade-body-investigation-into-G4S-over-alleged/;</p> <p>The Telegraph: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/suppor tservices/10870997/G4S-probed-by-UK-watchdog-over-West-Bank-security-contracts.html</p>
<p>Allegations of that children at Al Jalame prison are being subject to solitary confinement for days or even weeks; shackled, by hands and feet, to a chair while being questioned, sometimes for hours; are insulted; subject to sleep deprivation; and coerced into signing confessions.</p>	<p>G4S equips the prison.</p>	<p>Harriet Sherwood 'The Palestinian children – alone and bewildered – in Israel's Al Jalame jail Special report: Israel's military justice system is accused of mistreating Palestinian children arrested for throwing stones', 22 January 2012; http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/22/palestini an-children-detained-jail-israel.</p> <p>Guardian, 'G4S must end its complicity in Israel's abuse of child prisoners', 4 June 2014; http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/04/g4s-complicity-israel-abuse-child-prisoners.</p>
<p>Iraq</p>		
<p>In 2009, Danny Fitzsimons, a British G4S contractor shot dead two of his workmates, Briton Paul McGuigan and Australian Darren Hoare, during an argument between the three men. He also wounded an Iraqi security guard while attempting to flee from the scene. He had prior criminal convictions and a history of mental illness, known to G4S when he was hired.</p>	<p>Fitzsimmons was convicted of two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.</p>	<p>Asser Institute, 'Danny Fitzsimons – case summary', International Crimes Database, 28 February 2011; http://www.internationalcrimesdatabase.org/Case/984/Fitzsimons/.</p>
<p>Australia</p>		
<p>G4S PLC</p>		
<p>On 27 January 2008, aboriginal elder Mr Ward died from heat stroke during a four hour journey in the back of a prison van with no air-conditioning. The temperature inside the van, which was thought to have been more than 55 degrees celcius, rendered Mr Ward unconscious. The drivers did not stop to check on Mr Ward at any point during the journey.</p>	<p>G4S was convicted of failing to ensure that the safety and health of a non-employee was not adversely affected by the work undertaken, and by that failure, causing the death of Mr Ward. It was fined \$285,000, the largest amount imposed on an employee in Western Australia for a workplace offence. The two drivers were also convicted of offences relating to the death of Mr Ward and fined \$11,000 and \$9000 respectively.</p>	<p>Department of Commerce, Prosecution Details – G4S Custodial Services Pty Ltd; Date of conviction: 12 Aug 2011; http://prosecutions.commerce.wa.gov.au/prosecutions/view/1349.</p>

<p>In February 2014, one Iranian asylum-seeker died and several others were injured during a riot at Australia's offshore detention centre on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. It is believed that employees of G4S, then operators of the detention centre, contributed to the violence. Two former-guards have been charged with murder. In addition, local authorities and the Australian government have commenced separate investigations into the incident, looking at, inter alia, G4S' responsibility for what occurred. Meanwhile, one of the asylum-seekers injured during the riot has brought a claim for compensation against the Australian Government and G4S.</p>	<p>The investigation is ongoing.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Manus unrest: two guards charged with murder', August 19 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/19/manus-unrest-two-guards-charged-murder-reza-barati.</p>
<p>An Iranian asylum seeker was repeatedly beaten and racially vilified during his four years (2000 – 2004) in immigration detention at Port Headland, Woomera, Curtin and Baxter. Abdul Amir Hamidi sued the Commonwealth of Australia for failing in its duty of care to provide him with adequate mental or physical care.</p>	<p>The Australian Government settled Mr Hamidi's claim for an undisclosed amount. There were reports that the Government would pursue the former operators of the detention centres (including G4S) in a cross-claim, alleging the operators breached their contract by exposing the Government to legal action but there has been no news of any further developments as of October 2011.</p>	<p>Canberra Times, 'Govt suing detention operators', 10 October 2011, http://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/govt-suing-detention--operators-20111010-1v59v.html.</p>
<p>Four inmates at Port Phillip Prison committed suicide by hanging within a six-month period (October 1997 and March 1998).</p>	<p>A coroner's report found: G4S contributed to the deaths by not heeding warnings about possible hanging points in the cells and thereby failing to provide a safe environment at Port Phillip Prison.</p>	<p>'Damning report into Victoria's privatised prisons', Transcript, 27 April 2000, http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/stories/s121810.html.</p>
<p>GSL (acquired by G4S Group PLC in 2008)</p>		
<p>In November 2005, Ian Westcott died from an asthma attack in his Port Phillip Prison cell after the emergency intercom button in his cell failed to work.</p>	<p>A coronial inquest found prison operator (G4S) failed to take proper measures to ensure the functionality of its archaic emergency intercom system used by prisoner to communicate after lockdown. The coroner concluded that Mr Westcott's death was preventable and that G4S contributed to his death. Mr Westcott's family instituted negligence proceedings in the Victorian Supreme Court, settled by G4S later on for an undisclosed figure.</p>	<p>Sydney Morning Herald, 'Cry in a dark prison cell echoes in a failed system', 29 May 2011, http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/cry-in-a-dark-prison-cell-echoes-in-a-failed-system-20110528-1f9u3.html.</p>
<p>In May 2005, a vulnerable prisoner at Port Phillip Prison was the victim of an obscene practical joke orchestrated by inmates and prison guards. Fellow prisoners coerced Kirk Ardern into inserting what he was told was a package of contraband drugs and cash into his rectum. Prison guards conducted a strip-search of Ardern, revealing that the package was in fact a sausage, before subjecting him to a mock interrogation.</p>	<p>Four guards were sacked and two were counselled over the incident. Prison operator G4S was fined \$200,000 by local authorities and agreed to pay a large sum of damages to Ardern for physical and psychological injuries.</p>	<p>Sydney Morning Herald, 'Prisoner wins pay-out over wardens' sausage prank', 8 June 2008, http://www.theage.com.au/national/prisoner-wins-payout-over-wardens-sausage-prank-20080607-2nac.html.</p>

GEO Group plc		
Allegations of cruel treatment in a children's detention centre.	Geo Group lost its Australia contract in 2003 amid a commission's findings that detained children were subjected to cruel treatment. An Australian government audit reported that the contract had not delivered "value-for-money."	Nina Bernstein, 'Companies Use Immigration Crackdown to Turn a Profit'; 28 September 2011 http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/29/world/asia/getting-tough-on-immigrants-to-turn-a-profit.html?_r=4&pagewanted=all& .
Serco Group PLC		
In August 2013, a Serco employee at Perth immigration detention centre was stood down following allegations that he asked an Iranian detainee several times to perform sexual acts several in exchange for a mobile phone, money or extra food. Shortly after making the allegation the detainee was transferred to another detention centre in what he claims was an attempt to cover up the alleged sexual harassment case.	The Serco guard accused has been stood down pending investigation. Immigration Minister Scott Morrison stated that the incident had been referred to the police, however the detainee told ABC News that he had not been interviewed as of 16 August 2014.	ABC News, 'Perth asylum seeker says he will be moved to Christmas Island after making sexual harassment complaint', 16 August 2014, http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-15/asylum-seeker-says-he-is-being-transferred-to-christmas-island/5673684
In November 2013, allegations emerged that a Serco employee at the Christmas Island detention centre was maintaining a sexual relationship with an asylum-seeker.	In October 2013, Serco confirmed that a male employee had been dismissed following an investigation. It was also revealed that members of an emergency response team were reassigned after having been found to have been drinking alcohol whilst on call.	Sydney Morning Herald, 'Asylum seeker worker sacked after affair with detainee', 16 November 2013, http://www.smh.com.au/national/asylum-seeker-worker-sacked-after-affair-with-detainee-20131116-2xnba.html
Serco was accused of failing in its duty of care to asylum seekers and unsatisfactory management of the detention centres between March 2010 and June 2011.	Serco was 'fined' \$14.8m for failing in its duty of care to asylum seekers and underperformance. The Department of Immigration withheld the amount from monthly payments to Serco over the course of 13 months. Due to the confidential nature of the agreement between the Australian government and Serco there has not been a detailed expose of Serco's conduct. A number of factors could explain the reduction in monthly payments including: failure to provide activities or report major incidents; not giving access to visitors, interpreters or legal representatives; poor building conditions and food safety, escapes; and failure to secure perimeter fences.	Sydney Morning Herald, 'Detention centre company fined \$14.8m', 23 November 2011, http://www.theage.com.au/national/detention-centre-company-fined-148m-20111122-1nsx4.html
3 men committed suicide within a 10 week period whilst being held at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre in 2010.	A coronial inquest into the suicides of three detainees at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre has heard of inadequate training and mental health services and an absence of hope	ABC News, 'Coroner Concludes Hearing into Detention Suicides', 16 September 2011, http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2011/s3319935.htm
In March 2012, an Aboriginal prisoner at Acacia Prison was taken to hospital with suspected brain bleeding and died a few days later.	A coronial inquest found that prison operator Serco failed to take notice of the man's deteriorating condition for up to six hours after he first started showing signs of distress. The Coroner considered that the man would have received earlier attention if prison guards had conducted a daily hygiene inspection.	ABC News, 'Coroner calls for changes after inmate's death', 13 October 2012, http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-10-13/coroner-finds-contractor-failed-to-notice-sick-prisoner/4311438/?site=indigenous .

<p>Serco guards at Darwin Immigration Centre and Brisbane Immigration Transit Centre were disciplined for posting offensive anti-Muslim material on Facebook between January 2012 and August 2014.</p>	<p>The first guard was suspended and the second guard was sacked.</p>	<p>The Age, 'Detention officer stood down after 'wife-beater' comments', 11 January 2011, http://www.theage.com.au/national/detention-officer-stood-down-after-wifebeater-comments-20120110-1ptib.html. New Matilda, 'Immigration detention guard sacked after inquires about anti-Muslim Facebook photo', 20 August 2014, https://newmatilda.com/2014/08/20/immigration-detention-guard-sacked-after-inquiries-about-anti-muslim-facebook-photo.</p>
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UK		
Serco Group PLC		
Allegations	Findings	Sources
<p>On 9 August 2009, 14-year old Adam Rickwood took his own life at Hassockfield secure training centre. After an argument with a guard, Adam was restrained and held face down on the ground before being escorted back to his cell. A guard then used the 'nose distraction technique' in response to fears that Adam was trying to bite his fingers whilst being escorted back to his room.</p>	<p>An inquest jury found that Adam Rickwood was subjected to unlawful restraint and force during an altercation, which directly contributed to his decision to take his own life. The jury also found there to be an unlawful regime in place, resulting from serious system failure before and after Adam's death.</p>	<p>BBC News, 'Unlawful force contributed to death of boy, 14, in cell', 27 January 2011, http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-12297125.</p>
<p>In January 2013, Her Majesty's Inspectorate conducted an unannounced visit of Thameside prison and found high use of force and one of the most restrictive regimes the inspector had ever seen.</p>	<p>The Inspectorate's report : Serco staff resorted to restrictive mechanisms to curb prison violence but had made little effort to evaluate the success of its strategy. At the time of visit, 60% of inmates were locked up all day, with only vague plans to restore the prison to normality.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 'Report on an unannounced inspection of HMP Thameside', 14-17 January 2013; http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/prison-and-yoi-inspections/thameside/thameside-2013.pdf.</p>
<p>On 2 July 2011, Muhammad Shukat suffered a heart attack at Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre. His roommate pressed the emergency buzzer for assistance 10 times over a period of almost two hours. Staff did respond and did carry out health checks, but did not call an ambulance until after Shukat had suffered a cardiac arrest.</p>	<p>An inquest jury found that neglect by Serco staff contributed to Shukat's death. Staff failed to call 999 soon enough, to administer CPR or have a working defibrillator available.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Detention centre failures contributed to death of asylum seeker, inquest finds', 25 May 2012, http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/may/25/detention-centre-death-asylum-seeker.</p>
<p>In July and September 2010, the claimant (F) was detained at Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre staffed by Serco and was restrained in ratchet handcuffs or closet chains on four occasions when he attended hospital for treatment.</p>	<p>The High Court held that Serco breached Article 3 ECHR because it applied restraints when unnecessary. It had failed to appreciate that restraints should only be applied during treatment, or more generally while the claimant was an in-patient if it was regarded as necessary because no other option was reasonably practicable.</p>	<p>England and Wales High Court (Administrative Court) Decisions, FGP v Serco [2012] EWHC 1804, 5 July 2012 http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2012/1804.html.</p>

<p>In August 2013, Her Majesty's Inspectorate conducted an unannounced visit of Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre and noted a number of shortcomings in the care provided to detainees.</p>	<p>The Inspectorate made a number of adverse findings about Serco's management of the centre, including inadequate reception procedures, excessive security, a lack of intelligent individual risk assessment, run-down facilities and poorly-managed services</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 'Report on an unannounced visit of Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre', 5-16 August 2013, http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/14.01.16-HMIP-Harmondsworth-IRC-5-16-August-2013.pdf.</p>
<p>On 29 October 2013, a 23 year old female detainee at Yarl's Wood alleges she had sexual contact with 3 Serco guards. She stated on more than one occasion she made it clear to the guards that she did not consent. She claims that, within days of informing Yarl's Wood management of her allegations, steps were taken to try and deport her.</p>	<p>Three Serco staff members were dismissed as a result of the allegations. It was subsequently revealed that other staff members were dismissed over allegations of improper sexual contact with female detainees at the centre. The UK Border Agency's professional standards unit that, though the behaviour was 'unprofessional', the alleged victim did not indicate to its investigator that her sexual contact with guards was "anything other than consensual", raising questions about whether women in such vulnerable positions can ever give consent when detained.</p>	<p>Sky News, 'Yarl's Wood guards sacked over 'detainee sex'', 29 October 2013, http://news.sky.com/story/1160864/yarls-wood-guards-sacked-over-detainee-sex The Guardian, 'Detainees at Yarl's Wood immigration centre "facing sexual abuse"', 14 September 2011, http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/14/detainees-yarls-wood-sexual-abuse</p>
<p>In April 2009, allegations emerged that children held in Yarl's Wood were subjected to mistreatment and neglect.</p>	<p>The Children's Commissioner for England found that children held in Yarl's wood were being denied urgent medical treatment, handled violently and left at risk of serious harm.</p>	<p>The Independent, 'Inside Yarl's Wood: Britain's shame over child detainees', 26 April 2009, http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/inside-yarls-wood-britains-shame-over-child-detainees-1674380.html.</p>
<p>On 30 March 2014, a Jamaican detainee at Yarl's Wood, Christine Case, died from a massive pulmonary thrombo-embolism. Detainees claim that staff denied her medical assistance before her death.</p>	<p>The Immigration Minister has promised to conduct a full investigation into the allegations surrounding Christine Case's death.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Immigration minister pledges full investigation over Yarl's Wood death', 1 April 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/apr/01/immigration-sercogroup.</p>
<p>G4S Plc</p>		
<p>On 12 October 2010, Jimmy Mubenga, a 46-year-old Angolan man died on a plane at Heathrow airport while being heavily restrained by three G4S staff members who were trying to restrain him.</p>	<p>An inquest jury found Mubenga was unlawfully killed by the G4S guards restraining him. The coroner overseeing the inquest raised concerns in her report about evidence of pervasive racism among G4S detention staff tasked with removing detainees, lack of scenario specific training and evidence of the use of dangerous restraint techniques. After reviewing the evidence, the Crown Prosecution Service determined that the three guards should face manslaughter charges.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Jimmy Mubenga coroner issues damning report on deportations', 4 August 2013, http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/aug/04/jimmy-mubenga-coroner-report-deportations.</p>
<p>In March 2013, Her Majesty's Inspectorate conducted an announced visit of Brook House Immigration Removal Centre and found 'one of the least safe immigration detention facilities' ever inspected.</p>	<p>The Inspectorate's report criticised the lack of robust safety procedures, inconsistent risk assessments, inadequate reception arrangements, lack of any drug strategy and the inadequate services available to detainees.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 'Report on a full announced inspection of Brook House Immigration Removal Centre', 15 - 19 March 2010, http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/immigration-removal-centre-inspections/brook-house/Brook_House_2010_rps_.pdf.</p>
<p>On 28 June 2008, 15 year old Gareth Myatt at Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre after two officers used the Home Office approved 'seated double embrace restraint'. The restraint caused 'positional</p>	<p>Jurors ruled that the death was accidental, but found that failure of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to review the medical safety of restraint techniques contributed to Gareth's death.</p>	<p>BBC News, 'Criticism over youth jail death', 28 June 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/6250406.stm.</p>

<p>asphyxia', causing Gareth to choke on his own vomit. Concerns regarding the safety of the techniques used at Rainsbrook were raised in a letter from the Youth Justice Board's monitor in 2002. No changes were brought about in response to this letter.</p>		
G4S/Serco Group PLC		
<p>In 2014, the UK Government transferred suppliers of housing accommodation of asylum seekers from 13 specialist suppliers to 3. G4S and Serco, 2 of the 3, had no previous experience in this area.</p>	<p>Public Accounts Committee of MPs report highlighted overcrowded and substandard accommodation and severe delays in the transfer which caused 'disruption and confusion for a very vulnerable group of service users'.</p>	<p>The Independent, 'Home Office 'bungled' G4S and Serco Asylum Centre Contracts', 24 April 2014, http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/home-office-bungled-g4s-and-serco-asylum-centre-contracts-9279081.html.</p>
GEO Group UK Ltd		
<p>On 31 August 2011, Brian Dalrymple died in immigration detention after suffering a cardiac arrest associated with high blood pressure. Shortly before his death, he was moved from Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre to Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre. Medical records of his high blood pressure and diagnosis for schizophrenia were not passed on to staff at Colnbrook.</p>	<p>An inquest jury returned a verdict of death by natural causes compounded by neglect. Its report described the medical record keeping throughout Dalrymple's time at Harmondsworth as 'shambolic'. Staff received limited medical health awareness training and felt unequipped to deal with the vulnerable people they had to look after. GEO Group agreed to a significant financial settlement with Dalrymple's family.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Inquest blasts immigration centre's shambolic records in US man's death', 27 June 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/27/inquest-immigration-centre-shambolic-us-tourist-death.</p>
<p>On 10 February 2013, an 84-year-old dementia patient and detainee at Hammondsworth Immigration and Removal Centre died in hospital while wearing handcuffs, which were only removed after his heart stopped.</p>	<p>The chief inspector of prisons, Nick Hardwick, decried the 'shocking loss of humanity' and accused Geo Group staff of handcuffing elderly, vulnerable and incapacitated detainees in an 'excessive and shocking manner'. The prisons and probation ombudsman has launched an investigation into the death of Dvorzac Alois.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Detention centre castigated over death of elderly man', 16 January 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jan/16/harmondsworth-elderly-man-died-handcuffs.</p>
<p>On 8 November 2012, Prince Kwabena Fosu died at Harmondsworth. Allegations of ill-treatment were later made by other detainees, involving Prince was restrained by guards in the segregation unit and held naked in his unheated cell.</p>	<p>A post-mortem found no evidence of violence, restraint or suicide.</p>	<p>Institute of Race Relations, 'Another Death at Harmondsworth', 8 November 2012, http://www.irr.org.uk/news/another-death-at-harmondsworth/.</p>
<p>Bereket Yohannes died at Harmondsworth, then ran by Global Solutions Limited (GSL), on 19 January 2006. Bereket was found hanged on the day he was to be deported, despite his claim that he had not yet received a decision on his asylum application.</p>	<p>The inquest jury found that Bereket Yohannes took his own life.</p>	<p>Refugee Council, 'Shock as another detained asylum seeker takes his own life', 27 January 2006, http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/681_shock_as_another_detained_asylum_seeker_takes_his_own_life.</p>

<p>Mr. Grabyte, a Lithuanian asylum seeker committed suicide in Harmondsworth on the day he was to be removed from the UK. Liberty successfully had the internal report into his death released into the public domain.</p>	<p>A negligence claim taken by the family against the Home Office and the private firm which ran Harmondsworth was settled in 2005. In December 2005 Liberty filed papers with the European Court of Human Rights arguing that there has not been an effective investigation into his death. Case was struck out.</p>	<p>Liberty Press Release, 'Memorial for asylum seeker who committed suicide whilst in detention', 30 January 2006 https://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/news/press-releases/memorial-asylum-seeker-who-committed-suicide-whilst-detention.</p>
<p>Tascor Ltd</p>		
<p>Maruis Betondi alleges he was assaulted during an enforced removal to Cameroon, suffering severe injuries to his eyes and face. Immigration sources denied the allegations, saying they were 'self-inflicted'. Investigations were launched by both Scotland Yard and the UK Border Agency.</p>	<p>On 8 February 2013, a doctor instructed by Medical Justice examined Mr Betondi. Dr Charmian Goldwyn said the "number, pattern and distribution of injuries is in my opinion typical of their attribution to deliberate blows to the face caused during a recent assault". Gareth Mitchell, a solicitor who specialises in cases involving immigration detainees, said legal action was a possibility. He said he would be pressing for a "full and independent investigation". In March 2010, an independent review, commissioned by the Home Office, criticised the way immigration, escort and security staff used handcuffs to restrain asylum seekers and said private sector security firms had "inadequately" managed the use of force.</p>	<p>BBC News, 'Asylum seeker alleges assault during Heathrow deportation', 8 February 2013 http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21384435.</p>
<p>Tahir Mehmood died in Penine House STHC on 26 July 2013. This was the first death in a short-term holding centre.</p>	<p>Tahir Mehmood's death followed a 'medical episode'.</p>	<p>Institute of Race Relations, Manchester: Death in Immigration Detention, 31 July 2013, http://www.irr.org.uk/news/manchester-death-in-immigration-detention/.</p>
<p>Mitie Group PLC</p>		
<p>On 2 August 2011, Ianos Dragutan, a 35-year old Moldovan man, hanged himself in a shower cubicle at Campsfield.</p>	<p>Allegations of poor health and safety at Campsfield. An inquest found that Ianos Dragutan took his own life.</p>	<p>Our Kingdom, 'Investigating Mitie, the market leader in UK immigration detention', 4 September 2011, https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/phil-miller/investigating-mitie-market-leader-in-uk-immigration-detention. Institute of Race Relations, 'Deaths in Immigration Detention: 1989 – 2004, no date, http://www.irr.org.uk/news/deaths-in-immigration-detention-1989-2014/.</p>
<p>Allegations of stamping and beating up a detainee who spoke to the media about the Campsfield fire, started by a detainee in an attempt to take his own life. The detainee stated that Mitie staff had been more concerned with ensuring no one had escaped than ensuring all detainees were accounted for. The detainee alleges that one guard 'tried to choke him for 15 minutes'.</p>	<p>A Home Office Professional Standards Unit investigation found that, though there was no CCTV footage in the cell where the alleged mistreatment took place, but that footage from outside the cell showed staff were inside for 9 minutes using 'control and restraint techniques'. The investigation claims these techniques were employed because the detainee struggled so much, and 'exhausted' the staff. It was also revealed after the fire at Campsfield that the centre had no sprinklers installed.</p>	<p>Our Kingdom, 'Investigating Mitie, the market leader in UK immigration detention', 4 September 2011, https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/phil-miller/investigating-mitie-market-leader-in-uk-immigration-detention</p>

Various Operators		
<p>On 22 August 2014, a Guardian article revealed that private operators of immigration detention centres were exploiting detainees for cheap labour, saving millions of pounds.</p>	<p>The Office insists that detainees have a choice whether or not to work and inspectors have praised the practice of allowing them to work while they await removal from the UK.</p>	<p>The Guardian, 'Private firms 'are using detained immigrants as cheap labour', 22 August 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/22/immigrants-cheap-labour-detention-centres-g4s-serco.</p>
<p>A Medical Justice Report details a number of case studies documenting abuse in IRCs and by escorts on flights during deportations. The report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A male victim of gang rape by soldiers in his home country, who was handcuffed while undergoing an internal examination - A female who was handcuffed prior to surgery and the handcuffs being reapplied before she had come round from the anaesthetic. - Witness reports from flights describing the excessive use of force to restrain and humiliating/distressing treatment including, in one case, a woman being restrained and wearing only her underwear in her seat. - The handing over of removed persons to security personnel/police upon arrival in their country of origin. 	<p>The Medical Justice Report found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was use of inappropriate and dangerous methods of force employed that led to unnecessary injury. - Assaults on detainees have occurred after a planned removal has been aborted. - There was continued use of force even after the detainee has been restrained. - Handcuffing is often used inappropriately and deliberately used to cause harm and injury. 	<p>Medical Justice, "Outsourcing Abuse, the use and misuse of state sanctioning force during the detention and removal of asylum seekers", 14 July 2008 http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/outourcing%20abuse.pdf.</p>