

From: [Texas Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
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Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about
[Texas Department of Criminal Justice](#)

Public Comments

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Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

It has come to my attention that the State of Texas previously has, and currently does, actively recruit foreign nationals and sponsor work Visas to hire individuals from foreign countries to guard American citizens on American soil, under force of arms and threat of death. This, in a basic common-sense way, would seem to be fundamentally un-American, as well as unconstitutional. Specifically, the State of Texas actively recruits African nationals from Nigeria to come to Texas and become employed as correctional officers for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Herein, lies a myriad of practical issues created by this, including both language and cultural differences. A large majority of these imports speak English as a second language and broken at best, creating serious disturbances in basic communication methods between inmates and guards that can escalate rather quickly due to misunderstandings derived in the communication process. This can lead to unnecessary

disciplinary actions that could ultimately affect an individual's opportunity to make parole or contingent release on mandatory supervision. From a cultural standpoint, Nigerians are prone to esteem a uniform with a state emblem as a social status that automatically demands honor and respect. This mindset creates an overinflated ego and a self-imposed sense of authority that causes conflict with both the inmate population and the staff. Bottom line, the importing and sponsoring of foreign nationals to serve as correction officers guarding American citizens on American soil under force of arms and threat of death, would seem to violate the basic notice of requirement of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution; as well as the "cruel and unusual punishment" prohibition of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, I implore this committee to further investigate the percentage rate of foreign nationals currently and previously employed by the Texas Department of Corrections and enlighten the taxpayers who fund the payroll expenditures for these individuals. I can almost guarantee that the tax-paying citizens of the State of Texas do not know that the Texas Government is importing and subsidizing foreign nationals to act as prison guards in the State of Texas, and it would be very interesting to know their responses to such a disappointing state of current affairs.

Your Proposed Solution

1. Determine the amount of money being spent to recruit, hire, provide Visas, and housing for foreign nationals hired by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and refocus that money into strengthening local recruitment initiatives by expanding relationships with local colleges, the Texas Workforce Commission, and Vocational Schools, and Veteran Programs. Thereby initiating recruiting, hiring, training, and housing of American citizens. If TDCJ can go out of the country to hire people, they can also try going out of state.
2. Implement a Phased Reduction and Transition Plan by stopping contract renewals for foreign nationals to avoid abrupt or illegal terminations. Then focus on building contracts with alternative labor sources, such as law enforcement, EMS, and other local government agencies.
3. Transparency in stating on open commitment to hiring American Citizens by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and accountability to the Texas Legislature and other important stakeholders.
4. Quit using unconstitutional, un-American, and definitely un-Texan hiring practices and refocus those monies into recruiting and hiring American citizens to work for the state of Texas.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes