

## **Interview History**

INTERVIEWER: Amanda Díaz – undergraduate student at the University of Puget Sound’s History department for her Summer Research project.

### TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Time: Thursday, August 3rd 3PM

Place: Seattle, WA at the Public Library in the International District

Total number of recorder hours: 41:57 minutes

Persons present during interview: Amanda Díaz and Many Uch

### CONDUCT AND PROCESSING OF INTERVIEW:

This interview is part of the Summer Research Richard Bangs Collier Scholarship at the University of Puget Sound for the project titled, *The American Creed: Immigration and Detention in Tacoma*. The interview was conducted in English.

Amanda Díaz prepared for this interview by taking the HIS 387: History of US Immigration course taught by Prof. Andrew Gomez in the History department. Amanda has also presented at President Crawford's Inauguration Symposium about the private-immigration detention center in Tacoma, the Northwest Detention Center. She also founded the club called Advocates for Detained Voices, a club that works with a local nonprofit to provide legal and counselling services for families affected by the NWDC.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Records relating to the interview are located in the Archives at Collins Memorial Library at the University of Puget Sound.

**Table of Contents- MANY UCH**  
Thursday August 3rd in Seattle, WA

- (1:07)- Many discussing his immigration to the US from Cambodia during the Vietnam War discussing the effect of the Khmer Rouge occupation
- (3:44)- Experience in the INS building detained there since 1997 right after his release date from prison. Many discusses the overcrowding and the terrible living conditions.
- (7:15)- Indefinite detention era after 1996, held there without a release date
- (10:10)- Reasons for people immigrating to the United States
- (12:10)- Every forms of resistance like Hunger Strikes to get new uniforms or getting pillows, to receive more time with the ICE officer to learn more about their case. Many discusses his strategies as an organizer inside the INS building like contacting newspapers, building coalitions, and receiving options from the circuit court and finding common ground across groups .  
“It wasn't about fighting to be free but fighting the suffering I had to go through”
- (18:25)- Sent him to Kent Regional Justice Center due to overcrowding in the detention centers and county jails getting money and profiting from immigration detention. Many discusses the mix of the two populations, people serving time and immigrants detained, but the inmates having more privileges like having access to vending machines, church .
- (22:10)- Small riot to protest the privileges that inmates would receive over the immigrants who were detained in the same facility.  
“I only got sent to the hole for a week or 14 days”
- (24:20)- Asking officers/guards for favors like printing certain documents for immigrants to study their cases
- (26:00)- Visitation in a glass window and families speak through a slot
- (26:50)- Many discusses how his life has changed as a result of his detention and prison years and his connection to the work he is currently doing through his organization Restoring Hope Beyond Barriers.
- (33:30)- Activism continuing outside Many's detention and some of the internal challenges he faces with checking himself on his own internalized oppressions and learning and relearning he still has to do today.
- (35:50)- Supporting incarcerated Asian Pacific Islander men to talk through issues like sexism and racism and how to help them work their issues while being incarcerated.