

RAÚL DORADO | WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE?

The politically disenfranchised. The people who wake up early to make it to work on time. Essential workers who provide all the goods and services that keep this country going, yet whose names are purged from voter rolls and added to gang databases.

Parents who fear being deported and separated from their children. People who were displaced from their native countries by violence from American-manufactured firearms, or by severe drought or flooding as a result of global warming. Children crammed like sardines in between the concrete slabs of detention facilities.

Earth-tone people shouting in Spanish. Both indigenous and illegal. Trespassing on Taco Bell parking lots.

Raúl Dorado is an incarcerated author, advocate, and scholar-activist. While serving a Life Without Parole (LWOP) sentence, he earned a B.A. in Justice Policy Advocacy from Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Raúl is also the co-founder and Communications Director of Parole Illinois. He co-wrote pending legislation to reimplement a parole system in Illinois: "Earned Re-Entry HB3373/SB 2129."

While Raúl's formal education enables him to inform policy aimed at repealing punitive sentencing laws, his lived experience compels him to work to dismantle the very system that devalued his life and to bring an end to the inhumane practices of human caging and death by incarceration. Something you wouldn't know about Raúl by looking at him is that he has a heart arrhythmia.