



May 31, 2026

Bari Weiss
Editor-in-Chief
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Ms. Weiss,

You were brought to CBS News with a mandate to restore independent, principled journalism to one of America's most storied news organizations. In your [own words](#), that means journalism that presents the public with the facts, first and foremost. We are writing to you because we believe a [segment](#) that aired on CBS Sunday Morning this weekend fell significantly short of that standard.

CoreCivic operates the Dilley Immigration Processing Center (DIPC) in Dilley, Texas, under contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We were contracted by the Obama administration to build and operate this facility in 2014, specifically to serve immigrant families navigating the civil immigration process. On Sunday, May 31, CBS Sunday Morning aired a [segment](#) about conditions at this facility that was inaccurate, one-sided and directly contradicted by independently verifiable evidence we provided to CBS before broadcast.

After 8:00 p.m. Eastern/7:00 p.m. Central on Friday, May 29, CBS Sunday Morning producer Sara Kugel contacted CoreCivic seeking comment on a story set to air Sunday morning, May 31. Despite having a very short window to respond on a weekend, we replied quickly and comprehensively, providing independently verifiable evidence addressing every allegation raised in the inquiry. We followed up with still more information when Kugel raised additional points on Saturday, May 30. The emails are attached for reference, and we would encourage you to read the detail provided.

CBS Sunday Morning used one line of it, which was not even spoken (i.e., just flashed on the screen for approximately 5 seconds): "The conditions described in your inquiry do not reflect the operations, standards or care provided at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center."

What CBS chose not to use is worth examining. Among the evidence we provided was an on-record statement from Democratic Congressman Henry Cuellar, who visited the facility in May, sampled the food and water, and raised no concerns — comments that are publicly available on his [Facebook page](#). CBS Sunday Morning instead gave significant airtime to Democratic



Congressman Joaquin Castro calling for the facility's closure. Two Democratic congressmen with firsthand experience of the facility reached different conclusions. CBS chose to air one and ignore the other. We leave it to you to assess what that editorial choice reflects.

We also provided documentation of monthly independent water quality testing confirmed safe by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, a statement from CoreCivic's Chief Medical Officer detailing the clinically rigorous, pediatric-focused care provided at the facility, and a virtual tour available to anyone. None of it made air. The omission of water quality testing is particularly significant as those are the independent findings of both local and state agencies.

We also want to address a factual misrepresentation in the segment. The piece stated that "when President Trump reopened Dilley in 2025, a for-profit company, CoreCivic, was given a contract to run it." This is misleading. CoreCivic was contracted by the Obama administration to build and operate this facility in 2014, specifically to serve immigrant families navigating the civil immigration process. This is not a recent development. The company has also invested significantly in purpose-built infrastructure designed for children and families, and the facility is held to high federal standards that alternatives are simply not held to.

You have said that CBS wants to deliver journalism that is fair, fearless and factual. The facts were available to CBS Sunday Morning before this segment aired, despite CoreCivic being given little time to provide them. Those facts were ignored; we are asking that they be given the weight they deserve now.

We would like CBS Sunday Morning to share, on air and on its digital platforms, the independently verifiable evidence about conditions at DIPC that was available before this segment aired: the monthly water quality testing confirmed safe by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the statements from Rep. Cuellar about food and water, the documented food quality standards and the statement from CoreCivic's Chief Medical Officer detailing the care provided at this facility. We would also like our full response to be included on the webpage that hosts the video, as well as anywhere else it is posted.

We are posting this letter publicly on CoreCivic's website alongside the full response we provided to CBS Sunday Morning, so that anyone who saw the segment can review the evidence that was available to CBS before broadcast. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jose Rodriguez, Jr.
Facility Administrator, DIPC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 10:01 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: CBS NEWS Media Inquiry Regarding Dilley Immigration Processing Center

Good morning, Sara -

Yes, it's fair to say CoreCivic is denying these reports because they are false. We have provided independent sources that are verifiable. CBS Sunday Morning has not provided anything other than anecdotal evidence that doesn't seem to be substantiated.

The claims of worms and mold in food and water making residents ill are false. As our previous response documented, DIPC's water supply is tested monthly by the City of Dilley Water Department, confirmed safe by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and filtered at the facility to ensure consistent taste quality. Staff drink the same water and eat the same food.

As shared in our previous response, medical care is age-appropriate, comprehensive and readily accessible.

Democratic Congressman Henry Cuellar visited the facility on May 5, sampled the food and water, and raised no concerns. His comments begin at 4:44 in this publicly available [Facebook post](#). **He said, "I did taste the water, the water's ok...I did taste the food. It's ok."** He also talked about the health care provided at the facility.

Residents at DIPC have access to telephone and video calls.

Claims that our staff have confiscated or destroyed children's personal artwork and supplies are not true. Examples of children's artwork are displayed throughout the facility. Residents are permitted to decorate their rooms with personal items, provided they don't pose a health or safety hazard. Upon admission, all residents receive information about what personal property is allowed. Like all immigration processing centers, DIPC conducts routine inspections of living areas in accordance with federal standards, but these inspections do not involve confiscating or discarding children's artwork or supplies.

The virtual tour was recorded closer to when the facility opened. The facility has adapted to meet the varying requirements set forth by our government partners, but the physical layout and the conditions it depicts are substantially the same today and reflect the high standard of care we deliver.

Decisions regarding media access to ICE-contracted facilities are made by ICE, not CoreCivic. We would direct questions about media access policies to ICE Public Affairs at ICEMedia@ice.dhs.gov.

Requiring visitors to secure personal devices before entering a secure detention facility is standard security practice. More to the point, visitors of all kinds from elected officials to volunteers to family members come in the facility regularly.

We would ask that CBS Sunday Morning apply the same journalistic rigor to the allegations in this story that it would to any other, and that the independently verifiable record we have provided be given the weight it deserves.

Respectfully,



CoreCivic Facility Support Center
5501 Virginia Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
www.corecivic.com
PublicAffairs@corecivic.com - Media Inquiries

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 7:10 AM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: CBS NEWS Media Inquiry Regarding Dilley Immigration Processing Center

CAUTION: This email came from outside the organization. Attachments and links may contain viruses and other malicious software.

Thank you for getting back to us so quickly, Brian, especially on a Friday. I appreciate it.

I have a few follow ups:

When was the virtual tour recorded? Is it from 2014 when the facility first opened? Thank you for sending.

Once again, we consistently heard about the poor quality of food (worms and mold), quality of the water (making people sick, and leaving them to resort to paying for bottled water), lack of access to medical care and quality education. Guards making it difficult for children to communicate with the outside world, not allowing them to zoom, send letters, even ripping up pictures and even taking away art supplies as punishment.

Is it fair to say Core Civic denying these reports?

If these claims are false, why has media not been allowed on to the facility, and why are those allowed inside (like members of congress) required to turn in their phones before touring?

Thank you very much.

CBS News

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 10:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: CBS NEWS Media Inquiry Regarding Dilley Immigration Processing Center

External Email

Hello, Sara -

Thank you for allowing us to respond with the following statement for your reporting.

STATEMENT:

Nothing matters more to CoreCivic than the health, safety and well-being of the people in our care. The conditions described in your inquiry do not reflect the operations, standards or care provided at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center (DIPC).

The responsive information we have provided below is independently verifiable and directly contradicts the allegations in your inquiry. We would welcome the opportunity to review any evidence CBS Sunday Morning has gathered that it believes supersedes this record before broadcast.

DIPC gets the same clean drinking water the local utility supplies to the surrounding community. The City of Dilley Water Department conducts monthly independent tests on DIPC's water supply to verify its safety and cleanliness for drinking.

Consumer Confidence water quality reports, which are available for public review, are also provided annually by the City, consistent with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. State officials at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have also performed their own assessments, confirming that the water is safe and clean for consumption. As an added measure, locations where drinking water is accessed at the facility are equipped with filters to help ensure consistent taste quality.

We provide three nutritious meals daily at DIPC, including fruits and vegetables, with menus reviewed and approved by a registered dietitian. On religious dietary accommodations, DIPC provides halal, kosher and other religious dietary options

as appropriate. The suggestion that religious dietary needs are being denied is false and not consistent with our documented practices.

Staff routinely drink the water and eat the meals at DIPC.

The children and their families at DIPC receive health care that is clinically rigorous, federally overseen and delivered with dignity. Residents receive:

- **Timely medical evaluation by providers trained in pediatrics**, including general pediatricians, child and adolescent psychiatrists, therapists and psychologists.
- **Trauma-informed mental health screening** at intake, using validated clinical tools, with ongoing reassessment and access to continued support.
- Care from **an interdisciplinary team, including nurses, dentists, advanced practice providers and specialists**, operating within a medical home model to ensure continuity of care.

We would direct you to this [comprehensive statement](#) from CoreCivic's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kristen Dauss, which provides additional detail on the care provided at DIPC.

Democratic U.S. Representative Henry Cuellar recently visited the DIPC and comments on a number of these issues, including **food, water and medical care**, beginning at 4:44 in this Facebook [post](#).

Currently, **staff educators are facilitating age-appropriate educational programs** and activities for children housed at the facility. All educators are bilingual, and additional language services are available at the facility based on any needs. CoreCivic has finalized plans to further expand educational program offerings, with the expectation that all educational requirements will be fulfilled by mid-July.

We also encourage you to take this [virtual tour](#) of the facility.

We also point you to the following link, which directly **addresses many of the concerns** at DIPC you raised in your inquiry - <https://www.corecivic.com/news/setting-the-record-straight-dilley-immigration-processing-center>.

It's worth noting that family residential centers have operated under federal authority since the Obama administration, across administrations of both parties. CoreCivic does not set or enforce immigration law. What we do — and what we're committed to — is ensuring that every person in our care receives safe, humane and appropriate treatment while that law is administered. The record we have provided here reflects that commitment.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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5501 Virginia Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
www.corecivic.com
PublicAffairs@corecivic.com - Media Inquiries

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 7:04:08 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: CoreCivic Public Affairs <PublicAffairs@corecivic.com>
Subject: RE: CBS NEWS Media Inquiry Regarding Dilley Immigration Processing Center

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email came from outside the organization. Attachments and links may contain viruses and other malicious software.

Hi,

CBS Sunday Morning has been in touch with DHS about a story pertaining to the detention of children. DHS has provided us a comment, but we wanted to reach out to you to see if Core Civic has a response as well.

Families detained at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas have detailed lack of access to clean drinking water, medical care, adequate education, and food. Complaints about food range from bugs in food, to the denial of dietary religious accommodations. ***How does Core Civic respond to these reports about conditions inside the South Texas Family Residential Center?***

Thank you very much. Our report airs Sunday, our deadline is tomorrow afternoon.

[REDACTED]

CBS Sunday Morning

[REDACTED]

From: CoreCivic Public Affairs <PublicAffairs@corecivic.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 5:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: CBS NEWS Media Inquiry Regarding Dilley Immigration Processing Center

External Email

Good afternoon, Sara -

Thank you for contacting CoreCivic's Public Affairs team. All tour requests should be directed to ICE Public Affairs at ICEMedia@ice.dhs.gov and DHS Public Affairs at MediaInquiry@hq.dhs.gov.

Respectfully,



CoreCivic Facility Support Center
5501 Virginia Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
www.corecivic.com
PublicAffairs@corecivic.com - Media Inquiries

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 3:45 PM
To: CoreCivic Public Affairs <PublicAffairs@CoreCivic.com>
Subject: CBS NEWS Media Inquiry Regarding Dilley Immigration Processing Center
Importance: High

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email came from outside the organization. Attachments and links may contain viruses and other malicious software.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a producer with CBS Sunday Morning and I am writing to inquire whether Dilley offers media tours. If so, we would be interested in arranging access for an upcoming broadcast.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to schedule a call to discuss this further at your convenience.