

Visitations resume in Calif. immigration detention

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SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A volunteer visitation program has resumed at two Southern California immigration detention centers after being suspended over what an advocate decried as an effort to silence her blogging about the sites.

Christina Fialho, co-founder of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement, says sign-up sheets for detainees to meet with volunteers were posted again Tuesday at facilities in Santa Ana and Irvine.

Immigration officials say they authorized the visits to resume last month after telling volunteers they would need to heed media guidelines if they planned to blog about detainees.

Fialho had said immigration officials suspended the group in July because she blogged about conditions for transgender detainees at the Santa Ana Jail for the Huffington Post.

Fialho says she hopes to start more visitation programs to ease detainees' isolation.

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