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Global News



Racial Profiling?
Acceptable in some circumstances

A dark skinned German citizen travelling by train on a route regularly used by illegal immigrants to enter the country was asked for identification by police. The traveler refused and insulted the two involved police officers. He was then detained and taken to the police station where police found the person's German driver's license in his back pack.

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Police collection:Former East German Police ID card.

The traveler was charged with insulting police and subsequently complained that police had no right to check him based on his appearance.

The administrative court in Koblenz ruled that police may check persons on routes regularly used by immigrants based on their appearance when their experience has shown them to look similar to the illegal immigrants regularly encountered on the particular route.

NATIONAL ID

Among first world countries, the United States and Canada are somewhat unique in that they do not mandate a national identification card for its residents or citizens. As a matter of practicality, however, a majority of residents in each state possess either a state issued driver's license or identification card. This is similar to Canada where each province or territory issues its own Identification Card. Of the countries south of the United States (Caribbean Islands were not researched) nearly all have some form of national identification card.

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NATIONAL ID CARDS...

While it is essential to possess a national identification card in countries where they exist, not all residents/citizens of these countries have easy access to the civil registry or similar offices which issue the identification cards. Looking at Mexico, Central and South America, the Inter-American Development Bank published a report on National Identification Cards issued by various countries and also rated the ability to have access to the Civil Registry office in each country. The report noted that poverty or the remoteness of some of the inhabited areas of the country made it difficult to obtain an identification card which legitimizes the holder as a resident or citizen and gives them access to government services.

Of all countries in Latin America, **Chile** rates the best and stands out with the highest number of registrations by the Civil Registry and Identification Service (*Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificación*, SRCEI). With more than 450 locations across Chile, it maintains a wide variety of records and both the national identification card and passport have biometric information. The registry's birth registration rate is nearly 100% and all newborns are issued a RUN (*Rol Único Nacional*) number similar to the US social security number.

The report **Democratic Governance, Citizenship, and Legal Identity** can be accessed at:

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=2099936>

National identification cards have different names, depending on the issuing country. The most widely used acronym is the DNI or Documento Nacional de Identidad

(Argentina), or Documento Único de Identidad (D.U.I.) El Salvador. It can also be called a Tarjeta de Identidad, or Cédula documento de identidad (Colombia), or Cédula de Identidad (Costa Rica). National ID cards have a variety of functions, including their use to show eligibility to vote in a country's elections.



<http://www.ife.org.mx/portal/site/ifev2>

Mexico is an interesting example in that the ID card used universally is actually a voter ID card but as of 1 January 2011 has become an official national identification card.



http://www.ife.org.mx/portal/site/ifev2/Detalle_Credencial_para_Votar/?vgnnextoid=05e3b0bbb1a91110VgnVCM1000002c01000aRCRD

HIJAB AND IDENTIFICATION PHOTOS...

Along with the issuance of new more counterfeit proof identification documents, governments are confronted with the issue of religion based restrictions regarding the facial photographs of females. While the laws typically stipulate that the head must be uncovered in the photos taken for government identification cards, Muslim groups are objecting to this requirement and governments are moving to allow female Muslims to wear their hijab with only the front part of their face uncovered for the photograph. This is the case in Chile as it is in Spain, though this change has not exactly been welcomed in Spain, where persons such as a Muslim females will be able to indicate their religion and permitted to wear a head covering for their first DNI photo.

Las musulmanas podrán llevar velo en las fotos para el DNI electrónico

<http://www.20minutos.es/noticia/132370/1/velo/musulmanas/DNI/>

Los funcionarios denuncian que Interior les obliga a vulnerar la ley al permitir fotos con velo para carnés

http://www.lasprovincias.es/prensa/20070627/cvalenciana/funcionarios-denuncian-interior-obliga_20070627.html

The above article suggests that in Spain, only the eyes of Muslim women must be uncovered.

All Spanish speaking countries in South America have either updated or are working on improving and making more secure the formats of their national identification cards.

Venezuela is no exception, but that government's approach is unusual.

Cédula electrónica



THE VENEZUELAN ELECTRONIC ID CARD

After multiple scandals in which criminals, organized crime and corrupt officials have compromised the process of issuing national ID cards, the government has outsourced the entire process to the Albet Ingeniería y Sistemas company in Cuba. It was felt that this would make the process more secure.

<http://arman-do.info/Generales.aspx?Id=204&type=0>

The agreement to produce the cards in Cuba was initially kept secret, and the process requires Cuba to have access to the entire database of persons residing in Venezuela in order to print the new biometric identification cards. These cards, once issued, will also be required to vote in Venezuelan elections.

The new „E-ID card“ utilizes a combination of technologies from Spain, France, Portugal, Germany and the USA. The database comes from the “Oracle” system in the USA. Since 2004, Venezuela has been working to modernize their identification and passport system and in 2007 the first 5.6 million E-Passports were produced with German and Venezuelan technology.

CUBA and the Venezuelan National ID Card

On 31 July 2011, Tareck El Aissami, the Venezuelan minister for internal affairs, remarked that by the 2012 election, the existing national identification cards of all Venezuelan citizens would be replaced with the new and one of the most counterfeit proof identification cards in the world.

<http://www.correodelorinoco.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/WEB-CO-687.pdf>

Reader comments in various Venezuelan newspapers show significant disagreement with a process that ultimately has voters showing their eligibility to vote in Venezuela with an identification card issued by Cuba.

The E-ID card contains an electronic CHIP with the holder's full name, birth data, expiration date, finger prints, and tax related information. There are also discussions about adding the holder's health history and related information.

<http://www.el-nacional.com/noticia/317/23/Cedula-electronica-a-la-cubana.html>

It is not known to what extent or if the Cuban intelligence agency **Dirección General de Inteligencia (DGI)** will have access to the Oracle database with the personal information of all Venezuelans, and/or to the ID card production process.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Requiring voters to show some government issued identification when casting a ballot has aroused the ire of some civil rights groups and also resulted in various legal challenges in states where voters are required to show valid photo identification.

Dozens of states are currently working on legislation that would require voters to show photo ID and nine states have already enacted photo ID laws.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/05/us-usa-campaign-voterid-idUSBRE83400W20120405>

Considering the legal and political controversy regarding such requirements, it could be very informative to examine the voting requirements in countries to the south of the United States. A search for and review of the voting requirements in Mexico, Central and South America was quite illuminating. The research also revealed interesting differences in that some countries allow foreign permanent residents to vote in municipal, but not national, elections. This ability is, however, contingent on the reciprocal right of one country's citizens to vote in another country's municipal elections if they regularly reside there.

This practice is the norm in the European Union, where the citizen of any EU country may participate in the local elections of any other EU country if the person regularly lives or works there. Colombia is interesting in that it has reciprocal agreements with 8 foreign countries and 17,249 foreigners voted in the last municipal elections. The right of foreigners to vote depends on the length of their residency in Colombia and that length may be different depending on the home country of the foreign resident.

An interesting side note: In Chile a person with a criminal conviction resulting in confinement for more than 3 years may not become president. In the USA there is no such restriction.

VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS IN THE AMERICAS

	ID Req'd	Notes
Gutemala	X	
El Salvador	X	
Mexico	X	Credencial para Votar con fotografía (CPVF)
Honduras	X	
Nicaragua	X	
Panama	X	
Costa Rica	X	
Colombia	X	ID issued by Registro Nacional de Estado Civil.
Venezuela	X	New National ID required-issued by Cuba
Ecuador	X	Voting is required except for those over 65 or citizens who cannot read/write.
Peru	X	Voting is required. Fine based on economic status of district where voter resides
Bolivia	X	
Chile	X	Foreigners with 5+ years as permanent residents can vote.
Argentina	X	
Uruguay	X	Voting is required.
Brazil	X	Voting is required for persons 18-70
Paraguay	X	Legal residents of fifteen foreign countries can vote in municipal elections
Belize	X	Obtain photo ID when registering to vote; then used when voting
Guyana	X	
Suriname	UNK	http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Electoral/Sur/suriname.html - no info
French Guyan	X*	In towns over 5000 ID document must be shown; EU citizens can vote in municipal elections

DOWNTOWN DEGREE PROGRAMS

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Chandra SHEKAR of the Linguistics Department has joined the program GE faculty and is currently teaching LING 115 (Language and Culture) as an on line course.



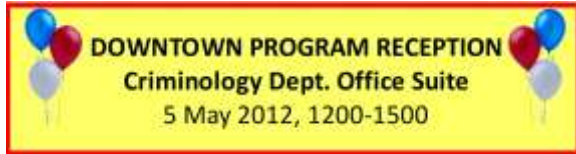
Dr. Chandra SHEKAR

NEW DOWNTOWN GRADUATE FACULTY

Dr. Jim SCHMIDTKE of the Craig School of Business introduced himself to the current graduate cohort at the Fresno county sheriff's office class room downtown and will be teaching part of the graduate Crisis Management course this summer. Dr. SCHMIDTKE brings particular expertise in the area of conflict management within organizations.



Dr. Jim SCHMIDTKE



All prior, current and future downtown program faculty, management/staff of Continuing and Global Education, faculty/staff of the criminology department, and all past, current, and interested future downtown program students are invited. West Hills College has agreed to send a representative to discuss the completion of lower division GE courses through their On Line program, or if someone is not available, WH will provide written/printed information regarding their GE offerings.

General information on the downtown program will be provided in Science II Room 108 at 1100. Food and beverages will be provided. Attendees may bring family members.

Parking is available behind the Science II Bldg and in the parking areas off Maple Ave just south of Barstow.

OPEN LECTURE

All interested newsletter readers are invited.

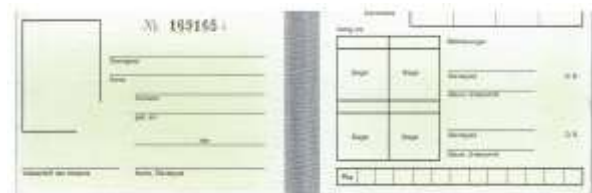
“Civil Rights and Liberties in the Homeland Security era and future developments.”

This lecture will be held by Dr. Keith Clement in Science II prior to the downtown program reception. Exact room number will be posted at the entry door to the criminology department main office. Additional information can be obtained by emailing Dr. Schweizer (haralds@csufresno.edu).

The lecture is part of the **CRIM 270 T Homeland & Border Security** course currently being taken by students in the downtown graduate program.

DR. SCHWEIZER’S POLICE COLLECTION

Dr. Schweizer is an avid collector of police badges, insignia, hats and related items from across the globe. One of the treasured items is an ID Card blank of the former East German (DDR) Volkspolizei, or People’s Police.



The ID card unfolds and inside contains basic information about the holder’s rank, last promotion, etc.

The ID card is very similar to the police and even KGB ID cards issued in the former Soviet Union.