



## Guide to the Nevada CURE Records

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Maharis, Mercedes, 1942-
<b>Title:</b>	Nevada CURE Records
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00799
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1998 to 2009
<b>Physical Description:</b>	16.0 Cubic Feet (29 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	19.0 Linear Feet (29 boxes)
<b>Physical Location:</b>	Materials are stored in the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval Unit (LASR). Advanced notice may be required to access these materials.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Nevada CURE Records are comprised of correspondence, administrative records, case files, and research files created and collected by Mercedes Maharis from 1998 to 2009. Maharis was the founding director of Nevada CURE and co-author of the Spartacus Project Report. The collection also includes correspondence from inmates to Maharis expressing their grievances with prison personnel and the Nevada Department of Corrections as well as correspondence between Maharis and attorneys representing inmates in legal cases. This collection also contains copies of articles from <i>Las Vegas Tribune</i> that describe issues surrounding the treatment of inmates within the Nevada prison system.

### Preferred Citation

Nevada CURE Records, 1998-2009. MS-00799. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Background

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Nevada CURE (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants) is the local branch of CURE, the international grassroots organization dedicated to reforming the criminal justice system and providing rehabilitative resources and opportunities to inmates. Nevada CURE also supports and advocates on behalf of prisoners who have been negatively affected by Nevada's criminal justice system.

Mercedes Maharis is the former director of Nevada CURE and co-author of the Spartacus Project Report. She began teaching meditation in the Nevada state prison system in 1997. This led to Maharis advocating for inmates' rights and the beginnings of the Nevada chapter of CURE. They presented the Spartacus Project Report to state leaders and at the December 5, 2000 Board of Prison Commissioners meeting. She co-authored the Spartacus Project Report along with Donald Hinton, Sr., a prisoner advocate whose son was incarcerated at the Indian Springs prison. The Spartacus Project Report was distributed to the Las Vegas offices of Governor Kenny Guinn, Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa, and Secretary of State Dean Heller. The report alleged that the Nevada Department of Prisons (NDOP) lacked responsibility in administering care for prisoners in a humane way and mismanaged Nevada taxpayer dollars. The Spartacus Project Report and Nevada CURE advocated for more humane treatment of inmates.

Sources:

"Report rips treatment of inmates," Las Vegas Sun, March 9, 2001. Accessed June 16, 2016, <http://lasvegassun.com/news/2001/mar/09/report-rips-treatment-of-inmates/>.

Tom Gorman, "An Unlikely Advocate Seeks Prison Reform," Los Angeles Times, August 18, 2000. Accessed June 16, 2016. <http://articles.latimes.com/2000/aug/18/news/mn-6526>.

Nevada Cure, accessed June 16, 2016, <http://www.nevadacure.org/>.

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants, accessed June 16, 2016. <http://www.curenational.org/>.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Nevada CURE records is comprised of correspondence, administrative records, case files, and research files from approximately 1998 to 2009. The records in this collection were primarily created and collected by Mercedes Maharis, director of Nevada CURE and co-author of the Spartacus Project Report, a report co-authored by Maharis and Donald Hinton Sr. that alleged widespread abuse and mismanaged records in the Nevada prison system. The collection represents the formation of Nevada CURE as an advocacy organization and the creation of the Spartacus Project Report. The collection also includes correspondence from inmates to Maharis expressing their issues with prison personnel and the Nevada Department of Corrections as

well correspondence between Maharis and attorneys representing inmates in legal cases. This collection also contains copies of the *Las Vegas Tribune* that include articles describing the issues surrounding the treatment of inmates within the Nevada prison system.

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## Arrangement

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These records are organized into two series:

Series I. Nevada CURE files, 1998-2009

Series II. Prisoner correspondence, 1998-2009

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. With the exception of the *Las Vegas Tribune* newspaper files, access to the material is restricted to onsite use only and reproductions of any kind are not permitted (photocopies, photographs, scans, etc.). Collection is open for unrestricted research use after January 1, 2040 per donor agreement.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2015 by Mercedes Maharis; accession number 2015-0103.

### Processing Note

Materials were processed by Tammi Kim in 2016. Thermofax papers have been copied onto bond paper for protection of content. In 2021, Sarah Jones updated the access notes per Peter Michel's (Division Director) direction based on the original agreement between UNLV General Counsel and the donor in 2015. Collection may be viewed by researchers but not reproduced by any means (photocopies, photographs, etc.).

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## Names and Subjects

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- Women social reformers -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
  - Community activists -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
  - Prison administration
  - Nevada Chapter of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants
  - Nevada. Department of Prisons
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## Collection Inventory

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### Nevada CURE files, approximately 1998 to 2009

Physical Description: 4.00 Cubic Feet (4 boxes)

Physical Description: 5.60 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: Records in this series are comprised of administrative and research files documenting the formation of Nevada CURE as an organization and the creation of the Spartacus Project Report from approximately 1998 to 2001. Materials include correspondence between Mercedes Maharis and various individuals, such as attorneys in Nevada representing inmates on legal cases, as well as organizations, such as the Nevada Department of Prisons. Records in this series also includes copies of inmate medical records and copies of the Spartacus Project Report. This series also includes copies of the *Las Vegas Tribune* which contain specific articles about issues related to the Nevada prison system.

Arrangement Note: Materials remain in the order they were received.

Access Note: Collection is open for research. Access to this series is restricted to onsite use only and reproductions of any kind are not permitted (photocopies, photographs, scans, etc.). Collection is open for unrestricted research use after January 1, 2040 per donor agreement.

Title/Description	Containers
Research, case files, information about Nevada CURE and Project Spartacus, approximately 1998-2001	box 1 box 2 box 3 box 4

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### Prisoner correspondence, approximately 1998 to 2009

Physical Description: 13.3 Cubic Feet (24 boxes)

Physical Description: 11.0 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: Records in this series are comprised of correspondence collected by Mercedes Maharis to support the Spartacus Project Report which alleged widespread abuse and mismanaged record-keeping in the Nevada prison system. The majority of correspondence in this series are from inmates writing to Maharis about their experiences and issues with the state prison system and prison wardens.

Arrangement Note: Materials remain in the order they were received.

Access Note: Collection is open for research. Access to this series is restricted to onsite use only and reproductions of any kind are not permitted (photocopies, photographs, scans, etc.). Collection is open for unrestricted research use after January 1, 2040 per donor agreement.

Title/Description	Containers
Nevada Department of Corrections, approximately 1998-2002	box 6
	box 7
	box 8
	box 9
Correspondence A-G, probably 1999-2001	box 10
Correspondence H-Z, probably 1999-2001	box 11
Ely State Prison, probably 1999-2001	box 12
	box 13
	box 14
	box 15
	box 16
High Desert Correctional Center , probably 1999-2001	box 17
	box 18
Lovelock Correctional Center, probably 1999-2001	box 19
Lovelock Correctional Center, Southern Nevada Correctional Center, probably 1999-2001	box 20
Southern Nevada Correctional Center, Jean, probably 1999-2001	box 21
Northern Nevada Correctional Center, probably 1999-2001	box 22
	box 23
Southern Desert Correctional Center, probably 1999-2001	box 24
	box 25
Oversized letters, probably 1999-2001	box 26
Medical records, probably 1999-2001	box 27
Prisoner complaints, probably 1999-2001	box 28
	box 29

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*Las Vegas Tribune*: articles about prisoner brutality, approximately 1998 to 2001 box 5

Access Note: Material is open for research.