



FIRST TEN

to Communities Not Cages



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK

Acknowledgements

This report was authored by Setareh Ghandehari, Luis Suarez, and Gabriela Viera of Detention Watch Network (DWN) with support from Liz Castillo, Marcela Hernandez, Stacy Suh, and Silky Shah. Additional review and edits were provided by the following DWN members and partners: Adelante Alabama Worker Center, AVID in the Chihuahuan Desert, California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, Centro Legal de la Raza, Grassroots Leadership, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, La ColectiVA, Project South, RAICES Texas, Sanctuary DMV, Shut Down Berks Coalition, Shut Down Etowah, and Tsuru for Solidarity.

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Cover Image: Fernando Lopez
Design: Carly Pérez Fernández

Translation was provided by Gabriela Márquez-Benítez of DWN with support from Bárbara Suarez Galeano, Irene Alba-Hernández, Félix Acuna and María Alejandra Salas-Baltuano.

About Detention Watch Network

Detention Watch Network is a national coalition of organizations and individuals building power through collective advocacy, grassroots organizing, and strategic communications to abolish immigration detention in the United States. Founded in 1997 by immigrant rights groups, DWN brings together advocates to unify strategy and build partnerships on a local and national level.

About the Communities Not Cages Campaign

DWN launched the Communities Not Cages campaign in 2018 as a vehicle to support local organizing and coordinate a national strategy to shut down detention centers, stop the expansion and construction of new facilities and ultimately abolish immigration detention in its entirety. Currently, there are 23 ongoing local shut down or anti-expansion campaigns that are part of the national Communities Not Cages effort.

About First Ten to Communities Not Cages

"First Ten to Communities Not Cages" is the next phase of DWN's national Communities Not Cages Campaign demanding the shut down of 10 immigration detention facilities in the first year of the Biden administration. The 'First Ten' detention centers are emblematic of how the immigration detention system as a whole is inherently abusive, unjust and fatally flawed beyond repair. The Biden administration must shut down detention centers immediately and end detention contracts. The 'first ten' detention centers provide a roadmap of where to start.

Introduction

The United States operates the world's largest immigration detention system with a network of over 200 detention centers across the country. The system, run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has always been cruel, inhumane and deadly as shown by an [extensive](#) and [well documented](#) history of abuse and neglect. The facts are undeniable. People in detention, their loved ones and communities have been sounding the alarm and organizing to shut down detention centers across the country. Today thanks to this tireless work of directly impacted communities, organizers and advocates more people than ever before are demanding that the inherently flawed immigration detention system be abolished.

Detention Watch Network (DWN) members have been organizing for years to achieve this vision by bringing attention to the abuses inside detention centers locally, amplifying the voices of detained people demanding their freedom, calling for the shutdown of individual facilities and halting ICE's efforts to expand the detention system in their communities. In October 2018 communities across the country came together with DWN to form the [Communities Not Cages campaign](#) to amplify these local demands. Despite many wins stopping construction of new facilities, the detention system continued to balloon under the Trump administration with over 50,000 people detained at its height in the summer of 2019.

The situation deteriorated further the following year. Fiscal Year 2020 was the [deadliest year](#) for those in ICE detention since 2005, with 21 lives tragically lost. As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the United States in 2020, [conditions](#) inside ICE detention became even more dire. Advocates and [medical professionals](#) called for the release of all people from detention amid the [pandemic](#). And despite facing retaliation, a growing number of people inside detention are [bravely speaking out](#) to bring attention to their situation, releasing videos, writing letters, and participating in hunger strikes and labor strikes. One of the official responses to the pandemic was the Title 42 border closure, which led to a massive drop in the number of people in ICE detention, currently hovering around 14,000. That summer, the country experienced the [largest racial justice protest](#) in history sparked by the police killing of George Floyd. Together these events led many in the immigrant rights movement to more closely examine immigration detention, its links to the criminal punishment system, and the [disproportionate impact](#) the system has on Black migrants. More groups began to [recognize](#) that immigration detention is fundamentally [incompatible](#) with a just immigration system. Today with fewer people in detention than before, there is an opportunity to shut down individual detention centers with little harm to those currently detained to build momentum towards real transformation.

As President Biden begins to [undo](#) four years of racist and xenophobic immigration policies, it is important to remember that the problem is bigger than Trump's executive orders. These policies are the [continuation](#) of a [framework](#) created long before the Trump administration took office, including an unjust and immoral detention system that was already plagued by egregious conditions. We demand not only a rollback, but decisive and bold action to end immigration detention, beginning with shutting down the following ten facilities that are emblematic of a system that is rotten to the core:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01 Adelanto Detention Facility | 06 T. Don Hutto Residential Facility (Hutto) |
| 02 Berks County Family Residential Center | 07 Irwin County Detention Center |
| 03 South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley) | 08 Karnes County Family Residential Center |
| 04 Etowah County Jail | 09 Mesa Verde Detention Center |
| 05 Farmville Detention Center | 10 Otero County Processing Center |

The facilities on this list exemplify everything that is wrong with ICE's detention system. Irwin County Detention Center (Irwin) in Georgia exhibits some of the most severe cases of abuse characteristic of facilities across the country, including most recently reports of gynecological procedures being performed without informed consent on the women detained there. Irwin, along with Etowah County Jail in Alabama, represent facilities throughout the system that are located in rural areas where people are detained far from community with little access to legal support in horrific conditions, including inadequate food and lack of outdoor recreation. In addition to sharing the same systemic abuses noted above, Farmville Detention Center in Virginia and Otero County Detention Center have experienced some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in ICE detention because of ICE's continued practice of transfers and failure to release people during the pandemic, demonstrating the agency's disregard for the health of people in its custody.

Across the country local communities have long pushed for closure of detention facilities, like at Adelanto Detention Facility and Mesa Verde Detention Center in California, and T. Don Hutto Residential Facility in Texas, which have extensive and well documented histories of sexual, physical and mental abuse and medical neglect. But ICE circumvented these community efforts by engaging in dubious contracting practices to lock in long term contracts despite local opposition.

Finally, we highlight all three of the family detention centers in the U.S. detention system where the same types of systemic abuses are reported, Berks County Family Residential Center in Pennsylvania, and Karnes County Family Residential Center and South Texas Family Residential Center (also known as Dilley) in Texas. The current family detention program is the largest since the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in the 1940s. No one should spend a single minute in detention, but the effects are particularly devastating for children.

These ten facilities represent every facility across the country where medical neglect is common, physical and sexual abuse are widely reported, basic necessities are lacking, food is rotten, access to counsel and support is restricted, and immigrants needlessly suffer. This list represents a beginning, a first ten to communities not cages.



Photo: Fernando Lopez

01

Shut Down the Adelanto Detention Facility

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity: 2,690 people
- Operator: The GEO Group
- Location: 10250 Rancho Rd, Adelanto, CA 92301
- ICE Field Office: Los Angeles, CA
- Congressional District: CA-08

About Adelanto

The Adelanto Detention Facility (Adelanto) is an example of the perverse financial incentives at play in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention system. The facility has been detaining people since 2011 when the City of Adelanto entered into a contract with ICE and the GEO Group Inc (GEO) to detain 975 people. At the time, the City of Adelanto was suffering from budget shortfalls and saw the contract with ICE as an economic opportunity. However, like other local governments, the city found that the contract for ICE detention [did not generate long-term revenue](#), keeping it at the brink of bankruptcy. Since then, ICE has [expanded](#) the facility to detain 2,690 people, making the Adelanto Detention Facility the largest ICE detention center in the United States.

History of Abuse at Adelanto

[Advocates](#), the [California Department of Justice](#), and the [Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General](#) have documented the long list of human rights abuses at Adelanto, including inadequate health care, [sexual assault](#), use of solitary confinement, and mistreatment. These abuses are not unique to Adelanto, though between 2010 and 2016, the facility was in the top five facilities with the most complaints to ICE's reporting line for sexual and physical abuse. Alarmingly, seven immigrants have died at the facility since it opened. In 2017, three people died within three months, including [Osmar Epifanio Gonzalez-Gabda](#), [Sergio Alonso Lopez](#), and [Vicente Caceres Madariaga](#). There have been at least [seven attempted suicides](#) at the facility underscoring the severity of conditions.

Most recently, in a failed attempt to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility staff [confirmed using a toxic chemical disinfectant](#) inside the facility, causing people to develop bloody noses, burning eyes, and persistent cough.



Photo: Alonso Yáñez/La Opinión

Organizing to Shut Down Adelanto

For more than nine years, the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, the Shut Down Adelanto Coalition and local community members have advocated to shut down the facility and to stop proposed expansions. Local organizations including Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, California Youth Immigrant Justice Alliance, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and Freedom for Immigrants successfully fought for passage of [state legislation](#) to curb [detention](#) in California. State bill AB32, which passed in October 2019 would have phased out the Adelanto contract. In response, ICE circumvented the new state law by entering into a 15-year contract with the GEO Group to continue detaining immigrants at Adelanto before the bill went into effect in January 2020.

Adelanto has a long history of people detained bravely organizing for their freedom and demanding the shut down of the facility through hunger strikes and sit-ins. ICE and GEO guards have violently retaliated with physical abuse, the use of rubber bullets, toxic chemicals, solitary confinement and transfers. These instances of inside organizing have been impactful in advocating for state legislation, encouraging intervention by members of Congress and shedding light on the abuses at this facility.

“

I write a request to see doctor every day, but I haven't been able to see one for six weeks. I've asked for medicine, but the only thing they have given me is ibuprofen.

”

— [Jibirine Yaro Amadou](#),
[Cameroonian detained at Adelanto](#)



Photo: Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Adelanto

The Adelanto Detention Facility exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. ICE has been jailing immigrants at Adelanto for ten years now and during that time ICE and the GEO Group have capitalized on the city's economic instability to expand the hazardous detention center to one of the largest in the country. However, ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of Adelanto, as a first step towards the abolition of the inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit:
[Inland Coalition for Immigration Justice.](#)

02

Shut Down the Berks County Family Residential Center

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity:
96 people
- Operator:
Berks County
- Location:
1040 Berks Rd,
Leesport, PA 19533
- ICE Field Office:
Philadelphia, PA
- Congressional
District: PA-09

About the Berks County Family Residential Center

The Berks County Family Residential Center (Berks) is one of three family detention centers in the United States. Berks has been in operation for well over a decade through a contract between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Berks County. Despite President Obama ending the practice of family detention at the Hutto Detention Center in Texas in 2009, Berks [remained open](#) and families continued to be detained. The [current family detention program](#) is the largest since the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in the 1940s with a combined capacity for over 3,000 people. The system disproportionately [targets Black families](#). Family detention, like all immigration detention, is on the wrong side of history.

History of Abuse at Berks

Family detention centers have a [well-documented](#) history of negligence and abuse, including inadequate medical and mental health care, children losing weight, inappropriate disciplinary tactics including threats to separate families if children misbehave. The Shut Down Berks Coalition has [documented Berks' history](#) of abuse which includes verbal and sexual abuse and [extreme medical neglect](#), including guards ignoring instances of fever, vomiting, skin rashes, and respiratory illnesses. In 2014, a guard at Berks [pleaded guilty to sexually abusing](#) a 19-year-old mother and asylum applicant.

Numerous studies have shown the psychologically damaging effects of family detention; medical and child welfare [professionals](#) have noted again and again that it is [especially harmful to children](#), leading to post-traumatic stress disorder, emotional and mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, and weight loss among other physical, emotional and behavioral health problems.



Photo: Shut Down Berks Coalition

Organizing to Shut Down Berks

People have been [organizing](#) to shutdown Berks since 2015 when groups successfully prevented the facility from nearly doubling its capacity. Since then, the [Shut Down Berks Coalition](#) has demanded the federal government [end all family detention](#) and has [pressured Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf](#) to issue an emergency order to shut Berks down. The families held inside have also been organizing to demand their freedom. In 2015 mothers participated in [a work stoppage](#) to demand freedom for their children and closure of Berks. In 2016 mothers [launched](#) hunger [strikes](#) that garnered national attention and inspired parents detained in other family detention facilities. The children detained at Berks have also engaged in various efforts, including a powerful [2016 school strike](#), to fight for liberation.



We left our homes in Central America to escape corruption, threats, and violence. We thought this country would help us, but now we are locked up with our children in a place where we feel threatened, including by some of the medical personnel, leaving us with no one to trust.

— [Letter from 22 mothers held at Berks in 2016](#)



Photo: Shut Down Berks Coalition

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Berks

The Adelanto Detention Facility exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. ICE has been jailing immigrants at Adelanto for ten years now and during that time ICE and the GEO Group have capitalized on the city's economic instability to expand the hazardous detention center to one of the largest in the country. However, ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of Adelanto, as a first step towards the abolition of the inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit: [Shut Down Berks Coalition](#).

03

**Shut Down the South Texas
Family Residential Center (Dilley)**

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity:
2,400 people
- Operator:
CoreCivic
- Location:
300 El Rancho Way
Dilley, TX 78017
- ICE Field Office:
San Antonio, TX
- Congressional
District: TX-23

About Dilley

The South Texas Family Residential Center, also referred to as Dilley, is one of three family detention centers currently operating in the United States. It was opened in 2014 when President Obama [dramatically expanded](#) family detention, after initially reducing it in his first term. To circumvent any opposition and to build the facility quickly, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) [added a rider](#) onto their agreement with Eloy County to run the Eloy Detention Center in Arizona (900 miles from Dilley). Eloy County subcontracted out operations for Eloy and Dilley to CoreCivic. In 2018 a 19-month old girl, Mariee, died after being held at Dilley. When her mother filed a \$40 million lawsuit against Eloy County given their role in the contract, the county quickly ended the ICE agreement for Dilley. Rather than close the facility due to the concerns raised about treatment of children, ICE signed a new agreement with Frio County, where Dilley is located, to detain immigrant families in removal proceedings. Frio County in turn immediately contracted operations of the facility to CoreCivic. The [current family detention program](#) is the largest since the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in the 1940s with a combined capacity for over 3,000 people. The system disproportionately [targets Black families](#). Family detention, like all immigration detention, is on the wrong side of history.

History of Abuse at Dilley

Like all ICE detention, family detention centers have a [well-documented](#) history of negligence and abuse, including inadequate medical and mental health care, children losing weight, inappropriate disciplinary tactics including threats to separate families if children misbehave. At Dilley, there have been reports of foul water and [negligent medical treatment](#), with hospitals confirming that children are consistently released from Dilley with health issues they dubbed “[Dilley-ish](#).” As mentioned, in 2018 one girl, Mariee, [tragically died](#) after leaving the facility. In 2019 a guard was accused of [physically assaulting](#) a 5-year-old at Dilley.

Numerous studies have shown the psychologically damaging effects of family detention; medical and child welfare [professionals](#) have noted again and again that it is [especially harmful to children](#), leading to post-traumatic stress disorder, emotional and mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, and weight loss among other physical, emotional and behavioral health problems.



Photo: Mike Ishii

Organizing to Shut Down Dilley

Families held inside Dilley have been bravely speaking up about their treatment. In 2018, mothers who had been separated from their children and later reunified to be detained together at Dilley wrote [public letters](#) detailing their experiences.

Dilley is located about 40 miles from the site of the Crystal City Internment Camp, where Japanese American families were held indefinitely during World War II. In 2019, Grassroots Leadership and Japanese American civil liberties groups, which later became Tsuru for Solidarity, took action in solidarity with the families being held at Dilley recognizing the pattern of history repeating itself. Japanese American survivors who were incarcerated at Crystal City returned to the site of the camp on a pilgrimage and then went to Dilley where they hung [30,000 origami cranes](#), a Japanese symbol for transformation, healing and nonviolence, around the fences at Dilley. Tsuru for Solidarity, Grassroots Leadership, RAICES Texas and others continue to call for the shutdown of Dilley.

“

After 62 days of not knowing anything of my son I saw him and they gave him back to me and then transferred us to Dilley together. We have been here for 30 days and we continue to suffer without being able to enjoy our freedom or be with our family.

— [Letter from mother held at Dilley in 2018](#)

”



Photo: Steve Pavey

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Dilley

The South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley) exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. Dilley is entering its seventh year of detaining immigrant families. It is one of three detention centers in the United States jailing families navigating their immigration cases. The system does not need to exist and communities across the country are organizing to end it and build a better future. The only just solution that truly centers the wellbeing of children and their families is to allow people to navigate their cases outside of detention in the community.

We demand the immediate closure of Dilley, as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit:
[Tsuru for Solidarity](#) and [RAICES Texas](#).

04

**Shut Down the Etowah
County Jail**

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity:
357 people
- Operator:
Etowah County
Sheriff's Office
- Location:
827 Forrest Ave,
Gadsden, AL 35901
- ICE Field Office:
New Orleans, LA
- Congressional
District: AL-04

About Etowah

The Etowah County Sheriff's Office began detaining immigrants at the Etowah County Jail (Etowah) in 1997. The conditions at this remote facility are widely known to be among the worst in the country with the longest average length of stay for people detained there. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) itself looked to end the Etowah contract in 2010, but [politicians intervened](#) to block this move in the interest of local revenue, despite the facility's chronic issues. Six years later, in its first "super recommendation" [memo](#), the civil rights office of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [called on ICE again](#) to close the facility to no avail. Often transferred hundreds of miles to the isolated facility, people continue to be jailed indefinitely at Etowah, far from loved ones and any legal services to support them in attaining their freedom.

History of Abuse at Etowah

Etowah demonstrates some of the most egregious systemic inadequacies that plague the detention system. Its remote location is compounded by limited phone access and "video visitation" policies. One person detained at Etowah [told advocates](#) that after his wife spent hundreds of dollars and 15 hours traveling to visit him, a guard denied the visit. He was then put in solitary confinement for over 20 days for subsequently yelling at the guard. Etowah also offers [zero access](#) to outdoor recreation while indoor recreation consists mostly of access to a cement room referred to as "the sweatbox." Despite the obvious threats to the mental wellbeing of people in custody, [multiple reports](#) from the DHS emphasize the limited and ill-equipped mental health services available at the facility.

One of the most common grievances for people in ICE detention is the quantity and quality of the food served, and these complaints are almost universal at Etowah. It's particularly striking in this instance given the [notoriety of a case](#) involving the county sheriff in 2018, who was discovered to have pocketed \$750,000 over three years under a state law that permits sheriffs to keep "surplus" food funds. While the sheriff helped himself to three-quarters of a million dollars in alleged surplus, and [potentially millions overall](#), immigrants at Etowah were [left with meager servings](#) of often rotting food, while sometimes waiting up to 13 hours for their next meal.



Photo: Fernando Lopez

Organizing to Shut Down Etowah

Community organizers and the people detained at Etowah have protested the longstanding human rights abuses at the facility for years. Since its launch, [the Shut Down Etowah campaign](#) has held regular vigils, tribunals, and other direct actions outside the facility, centering the loved ones of the people detained and often coordinating with protests already happening on the inside, including ongoing hunger strikes. This desperation for freedom peaked when at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, three individuals with flu-like symptoms were transferred to the facility. In a [livestreamed video](#), a group of men threatened to commit suicide due to ICE's continue disregard for their health and safety amid a pandemic.

In typical ICE fashion, the agency response to this activism has been retaliatory suppression. After the video of the protest in March was released, the facility was placed on lockdown, meaning the people inside were only allowed to leave their cells ten at a time for one hour each day. Several months before this incident, [ICE had suspended](#) Etowah's already limited visitation program indefinitely in response to a community rally at the facility. This kind of retaliation that cuts off even the smallest lifelines for people in detention exposes ICE's inherent cruelty and severe incapability of caring for the people in its custody.

“

The hard part is that you get exhausted after those hunger strikes. You just hope that somehow authorities and people are going to finally listen or understand that these are not animals living in those quarters, they're people. But what comes after is silence and the crackdown on inmates.

— [Person formerly detained at Etowah](#)

”



Photo: Fernando Lopez

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Etowah

Etowah County Jail exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. In 2015, [DHS leadership wrote a memo](#) lamenting ICE's neglect to address the serious deficiencies found at Etowah during on-site visits. ICE continued to insist through internal inspections that the facility complied with "rigorous detention standards." Etowah is a prime example that regardless of the amount of oversight conducted, complaints filed, and recommendations made, ICE is rotten to its core and incapable of improvement. Its immigration detention system does not need to exist and communities across the country are organizing to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of Etowah, as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit: [Shut Down Etowah](#).

05

Shut Down the Farmville Detention Center

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity: 722 people
- Operator: Immigration Centers of America
- Location: 508 Waterworks Rd, Farmville, VA 23901
- ICE Field Office: Washington DC
- Congressional District: VA-05

About Farmville

The Farmville Detention Center (Farmville) first opened in 2010, two years after Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reached an agreement with the town of Farmville and the private prison corporation, Immigration Centers of America (ICA). The expansion was a response to an [increase in the detained population due to](#) President Obama's draconian Secure Communities program. Previously dependent on the disappearing manufacturing industry, Farmville entered into the contract with ICE to boost its economy, despite [protests](#) from people across the state marching on Town Hall to oppose construction plans. Ultimately, profits from the facility make up only two percent of the [town's budget](#) and its true legacy has been countless lawsuits and investigations filled with rampant abuse allegations.

History of Abuse at Farmville

Due to ICA's keenness to turn a profit without regard for the health and safety of the people it detains, the Farmville facility has experienced some of the most severe consequences from the overcrowding that plagues ICE's detention system. Even before the facility was officially in use, ICA successfully [lobbied](#) to detain 300 more people at a time than was originally planned to maximize its early profits. Moreover, while the facility [self-reports](#) a capacity of 722 people, accounts of overcrowding have [recorded](#) the population sometimes nearing 800 people with many sleeping in four-stack bunk beds or on unfixed cots and mattresses stationed in living quarters—exacerbating an environment already vulnerable to disease outbreaks.

In June 2019, a [mumps outbreak](#) that ultimately infected hundreds of immigrants in ICE detention across nearly 60 facilities overtook Farmville—a foretelling of how COVID-19 would ravage the facility just a year later. In both cases, ICE and ICA aggravated the propagation of disease through practices widely known to cause the spread in order to increase profits. At the height of the pandemic, the agency [transferred](#) 74 people to Farmville from facilities in states that were epicenters for the virus. These transfers happened in part to [facilitate the travel of ICE agents](#) who were deployed in Washington, D.C. to suppress the racial justice uprisings of 2020. Immediately after, Farmville experienced the largest COVID-19 outbreak in the entire detention system, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [scathing report](#) about the facility. By mid-July, [93 percent](#) of the people inside Farmville had tested positive for COVID-19, including James Hill, a Canadian immigrant, who tragically died less than a month later.



Organizing to Shut Down Farmville

During the mumps outbreak in 2019, immigrants inside Farmville organized a [hunger strike](#) to protest for their freedom. Guards responded by attacking strikers with pepper spray and placing them in solitary confinement for extended periods of time, resulting in a [lawsuit](#) against ICE and ICA. Another [hunger strike](#) formed less than a year later at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with nearly 100 people demanding release from Farmville. They met the same torturous fate of pepper spray, rubber bullets, and solitary at the hands of facility guards.

A coalition of advocates in the state—Free Them All VA—formed to amplify [demands for release from immigrants detained at Farmville](#). The coalition campaigned for months and succeeded in persuading federal representatives to call for the release of everyone from the facility. However, advocates experienced [suppression](#) as well, facing arrests and receiving a broad search warrant for their communications to indict people who participated in protests outside the homes of government officials. This violence and suppression in coordination with private corporations and other law enforcement entities expose the lengths to which ICE will go to continue its abusive incarceration of immigrants.



People's rights basically disappear when they enter the ICA-Farmville Detention Center in ICE custody. Their main focus is filling beds in the dorm and earning money. Detainees are just a source of income for ICA. As someone who was previously detained at ICA-Farmville, I want to share my story about the suffering I lived at Farmville. I can help speak up for those who cannot speak up while they are still being detained and still suffering racism, violence, mental abuse, oppression, poor health conditions, and hunger.

— [Alex, formerly detained at Farmville](#)



Photo: La ColectiVA

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Farmville

The Farmville Detention Center exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. ICA promotes this system for profit and is aggressively seeking to expand its role in it, [hiring](#) 34 lobbyists over six years to market its cause. However, ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of Farmville, as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit: [La ColectiVA](#), [Sanctuary DMV](#), and [Free Them All VA Coalition](#).

06

Shut Down the T. Don Hutto Residential Facility

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity: 512 people
- Operator: CoreCivic
- Location: 1001 Welch St. Taylor, TX 76574
- ICE Field Office: San Antonio, TX
- Congressional District: TX-31

About Hutto

The T. Don Hutto Residential Facility (Hutto) opened as a family detention center for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2006 through an agreement with Williamson County, Texas where the facility is located. Three years later it was converted into an adult detention center for women. Since then, the facility has operated in open contention with the surrounding community, leading ICE to use dubious contracting practices to keep the facility open. In 2020, [ICE awarded](#) a new 10-year contract to CoreCivic, the private prison corporation that had been operating the facility and was at the center of its extensive history of abuse, to ensure its continued operation for yet another decade.

History of Abuse at Hutto

Advocates have long documented [widespread abuse](#) at Hutto, including a serious pattern of sexual assault and harassment by facility guards. Many women have come forward with [testimonies](#) detailing abuse they suffered while detained at Hutto, contributing to the more than [1,200](#) sexual abuse complaints filed by adults in ICE detention between 2010 and 2017. One guard at Hutto was [convicted](#) for the sexual assault of at least eight women. The facility has also faced litigation for [allegations of forced labor](#) after it was found that women were doing facility upkeep for \$2 an hour as part of a cost-cutting strategy—an iteration of prison labor commonly practiced at ICE facilities.

Interviews with women detained at Hutto have revealed severe retaliatory practices, at times for “offenses” as innocuous as playing cards or hugging. Women have been transferred without notice or placed in solitary confinement for extended time as a “disciplinary” response. A [hunger striker](#) in 2015 was isolated for more than 36 hours for engaging in protest. The facility justified the decision by claiming it was for medical purposes, but she received no medical attention during that time.



Photo: Grassroots Leadership

Organizing to Shut Down Hutto

For nearly 15 years, community organizations like Grassroots Leadership have been organizing to uplift the stories of those detained at Hutto and shut it down. In 2018 formerly detained women, advocates, and county residents led a months-long [campaign](#) calling for its closure, including a march joined by hundreds which forced the Williamson County Commissioners Court to vote on whether to renew the county's facility contract with ICE. The [county voted](#) almost unanimously against renewal and no longer contracts with ICE. However, instead of closing the detention center, ICE circumvented the community's win by immediately entering into a direct contract with CoreCivic to keep the facility open. The terms of the contract, including its length, were kept secret from the community.

The women inside Hutto have also relentlessly organized for their release over the years, from [hunger strikes](#) to [letter-writing campaigns](#) led by mothers who had been separated from their children. In 2020 as the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic loomed large, over [100 Cameroonian women](#) at the facility staged a sit-in in front of Hutto's medical clinic to protest the medical neglect throughout their prolonged detention. Immediately following the demonstration, dozens of the women that participated were [transferred](#) to another facility, further confirming the threat of transfers away from legal services and community support as a retaliation practice by ICE. Still the women at Hutto continue to organize for their freedom.

“

The medical department is very rude to us, they tell us we're pretending to be sick even when someone is in serious pain, they laugh and mock at your medical condition, they give wrong medication to patients and they don't attend to you when you really need medical attention.

— [letter from Cameroonian immigrants detained at Hutto](#)

”



Photo: Grassroots Leadership

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Hutto

The T. Don Hutto Residential Facility exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. ICE has been jailing immigrants at Hutto for 15 years now, despite years of opposition from community members and the extra-legal tactics it's taken to keep the facility open. These devious and purposely opaque practices are status quo for ICE operations, motivated only by the continued incarceration of immigrants. However, ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of Hutto, as a first step towards the abolition of the inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit: [Grassroots Leadership](#).

07

Shut Down the Irwin County Detention Center

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity: 694 people
- Operator: LaSalle Corrections
- Location: 132 Cotton Dr, Ocilla, GA 31774
- ICE Field Office: Atlanta, GA
- Congressional District: GA-08

About Irwin

The Irwin County Detention Center (Irwin) is a 1,201-bed for-profit jail in rural Georgia that began detaining immigrants for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in December 2010. It is operated and staffed by the private prison corporation, LaSalle Corrections, which runs seven other immigration detention facilities throughout the South. Irwin is one of four detention centers in the state and exhibits some of the most acute cases of the immigrant abuse characteristic of ICE's detention system in Georgia and throughout the country. Despite passing its last two internal [ICE inspections](#), Irwin has been the subject of multiple reports condemning the state of affairs at the detention center over the last several years and is currently undergoing federal investigation and litigation for a variety of reported [human rights abuses](#).

History of Abuse at Irwin

Irwin displays many of the [severe deficiencies](#) that plague detention facilities located in rural areas, including extremely restricted access to phone services for communication with loved ones or legal and political contacts to help with their case. Meanwhile, food servings are meager and often rotten, with consistent accounts of foreign objects like hair, rocks, or even nails found in the food. To compensate and afford extra minutes on the phone or overpriced food in the commissary, many immigrants participate in Irwin's "work program," which pays them only \$1 per full day of work. ICE and LaSalle are exploiting the labor of the people they detain to perform the duties necessary for the facility to function, while subsequently charging them inflated prices in the commissary for basic needs.

Irwin has recently gained national attention after Project South, Georgia Detention Watch, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, and South Georgia Immigrant Support Network filed a federal [complaint](#) with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). It included accounts from whistleblower, Ms. Dawn Wooten, and immigrants detained at Irwin regarding the rampant human rights abuses at the facility, including [lack of COVID-19 precautions and non-consensual invasive gynecological procedures on detained immigrant women](#). These efforts resulted in a federal investigation and a class action lawsuit involving 40 women against both ICE and the contracted gynecologist accused of conducting unwanted or unnecessary procedures. The women who spoke out faced retaliation from ICE, some receiving removal orders shortly after—a repeated tactic employed by ICE to deport or attempt to deport immigrants involved in active cases against them.



Organizing to Shut Down Irwin

Georgia has a powerful history of resistance against deportations and detention. Across the state, advocates have been fighting for years for the dignity of immigrant communities and the closure of detention centers in Georgia. These efforts included supporting and advocating alongside detained immigrants inside Irwin, organizing [direct actions](#), publishing [reports of human rights abuses](#), several [letters](#) to the Georgia Congressional Delegates, [class action lawsuits](#), and [advocacy with the United Nations](#) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Detained people have also engaged in mass organizing against the state's immigration detention facilities. In April 2020, about a month into the coronavirus pandemic, people detained in both the men's and women's units at Irwin staged a [hunger and work strike](#) to protest its unsafe conditions and to demand people be released. That month women detained at Irwin also released a [powerful video](#) documenting conditions inside the facility and expressing their demands. Just a few months later, advocacy groups on the local, state, and national levels all mobilized behind the demand to close the Irwin facility in response to the OIG complaint. The impact of the years-long campaign to shut down Irwin is undeniable—even Members of Congress risked traveling during the pandemic to conduct an on-site visit, after which several [echoed](#) the demand for closure.

“

We are all recording this video with fear that they will retaliate against us, isolate us, that they cut all communication with our families...we are scared. We are doing everything possible for ourselves, making masks out of socks, but we know that this is not enough. We need someone to listen to us please. We are only asking for help. We are only fighting for our lives.

— [Women detained at Irwin in 2020](#)

”

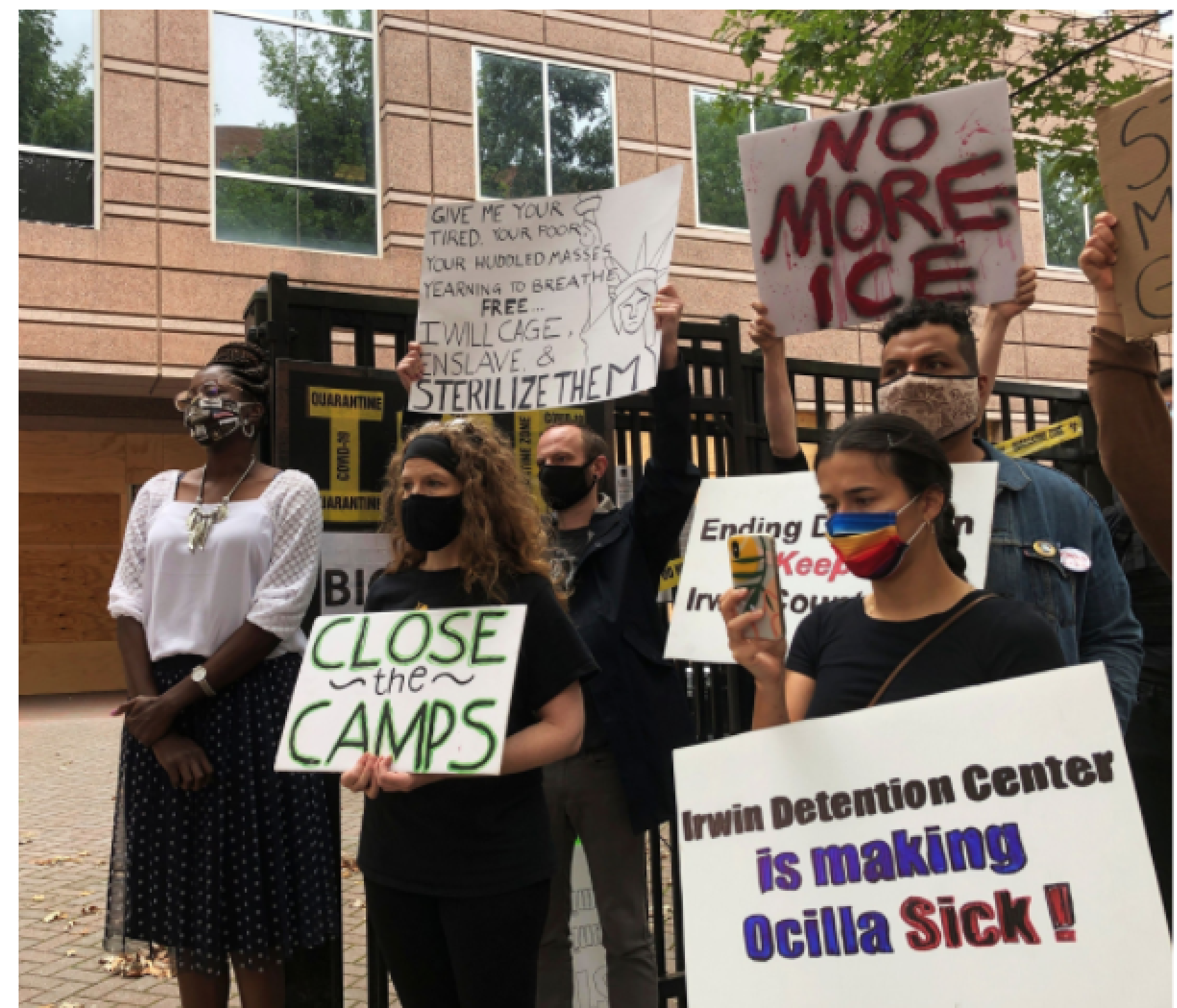


Photo: Georgia Detention Watch

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Irwin

The Irwin County Detention Center exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. Following the powerful organizing for the closure of Irwin, local advocates learned that the Stewart Detention Center, an “all-male” facility two hours away that is currently one of the deadliest detention centers in the country, is now [detaining women](#). The closure of Irwin is necessary, but it must result in the release of people detained there—not their transfer to other ICE facilities in the state--and should serve to open the door for the closure of all the detention centers in Georgia and across the country. ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of Irwin, as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, follow the [organizing toolkit](#) and visit: [Georgia Detention Watch](#), [Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights](#), [Project South](#), and the [South Georgia Immigrant Support Network](#).

08

Shut Down the Karnes County Family Residential Center

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity:
830 people
- Operator:
The GEO Group
- Location:
409 FM 1144,
Karnes City, TX
78118
- ICE Field Office:
San Antonio, TX
- Congressional
District: TX-15

About Karnes

The Karnes Family Residential Center (Karnes), which began operating in 2011 as an adult only detention facility, is one of three family detention centers currently operating in the United States. Initially, the Obama administration opened Karnes, which is operated by the GEO Group, to showcase what “humane detention” could be. The practice of incarcerating families mostly ended in 2009 only to be [revived in 2014](#) under President Obama, when Karnes was converted into a family detention center to detain immigrant families in removal proceedings. The [current family detention program](#) is the largest since the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in the 1940s with a combined capacity for over 3,000 people. The system disproportionately [targets Black families](#). Family detention, like all immigration detention, is on the wrong side of history.

History of Abuse at Karnes

Like all ICE detention, family detention centers have a [well-documented](#) history of negligence and abuse, including inadequate medical and mental health care, children losing weight, inappropriate disciplinary tactics including threats to separate families if children misbehave. In [particular at Karnes](#) there have been reports of [sexual abuse, extortion and harassment](#), and [rancid food](#).

Numerous studies have shown the psychologically [damaging effects of family detention](#); medical and child welfare [professionals](#) have noted again and again that it is [especially harmful to children](#), leading to post-traumatic stress disorder, emotional and mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, and weight loss among other physical, emotional and behavioral health problems.



Organizing to Shut Down Karnes

Families held inside Karnes have been bravely speaking out about their treatment. In 2015 [mothers at Karnes](#) staged [two hunger strikes](#) demanding their release. In 2018 [dozens of fathers](#) who had just been reunited with their children after being separated at the border peacefully requested information about their cases. Instead of providing that information, armed agents stormed into the parents' rooms and once again [forcefully separated sixteen fathers](#) from their children, despite a nationwide federal court injunction prohibiting separations. In doing so, the parents and children were told they would never see each other again. This is not the first time that violence has been wrought upon families in detention and it is likely not to be the last. It is emblematic of why the entire detention system must be abolished.

“ My son cries every day, he doesn't want to eat, he's very worried and he's only 6 years old...What worries me is that we are restrained from our freedom as human beings. Our children are crying.

— [Father participating in hunger strike at Karnes in 2018](#)



The Biden administration must immediately shut down Karnes

The Karnes County Residential Center exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. Karnes is entering its seventh year of detaining immigrant families. It is one of three detention centers in the United States jailing families navigating their immigration cases. The system does not need to exist and communities across the country are organizing to end it and build a better future. The only just solution that truly centers the wellbeing of children and their families is to allow people to navigate their cases outside of detention in the community.

We demand the immediate closure of Karnes, as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit: [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#) and [RAICES Texas](#).

09

**Shut Down the Mesa Verde
Detention Facility**

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity: 1,800 people, including annexed Golden State and Central Valley Facilities
- Operator: The GEO Group
- Location:
 - Mesa Verde: 425 Golden State Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 - Golden State Annex: 611 Frontage Rd, McFarland, CA 93250
 - Central Valley Annex: 254 Taylor Ave, McFarland, CA 93250
- ICE Field Office: San Francisco, CA
- Congressional CA-23

About Mesa Verde

The Mesa Verde Detention Facility (Mesa Verde) opened in 2015 when the City of McFarland contracted with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and The GEO Group (GEO) to detain 400 people. Since then [McFarland community members have opposed](#) the city's commitment to detention profits over the safety and wellbeing of the region's grape field and dairy farmers, many of whom are targeted by ICE and detained at Mesa Verde. In 2020, the McFarland City Council [approved the expansion](#) of two former state detention centers for use by ICE, adding an additional 1,400 beds. The Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility and the Central Valley Community Correctional Facility are now annexed to the Mesa Verde facility contract.

History of Abuse at Mesa Verde

Mesa Verde exemplifies the systemic abuse that plagues the detention system. The [California Department of Justice](#) and [ICE Office of Detention Oversight](#) inspectors have found instances of sexual abuse and assault, use of force and restraints, and inadequate access to legal counsel.

Mesa Verde's human rights abuses have led people at the facility to stage numerous protests, including [hunger](#) and [labor](#) strikes and sit-ins. ICE has tried to discredit hunger strikers by attempting to [cover up](#) dangerous conditions at the facility. In response to ICE and GEO's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, 200 people detained at Mesa Verde launched a hunger strike in April 2020 with a petition titled "[Detention into Death Sentence](#)." Immigrants detained in the facility shared their fear of dying due to COVID-19 because of their own medical vulnerabilities, the restrictive environment, and the failure of facility staff to use personal protective equipment. A month later, Choung Woohn Ahn, a 74-year-old man who was at great risk of COVID-19 complications due to lung disease and heart-related issues [died by suicide](#) while in solitary confinement. Although ICE was aware that Mr. Ahn was at risk of suicide, they violated their own standards by failing to continuously monitor him. In 2019 Sofia Bahena, a 64-year-old grandmother, was detained by ICE while on her way to work. Although ICE was actually targeting another passenger in the car, Sofia was a "collateral arrest." She spent six months at Mesa Verde, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite her attorney's request that she be released due to her age and underlying medical conditions that make her vulnerable to the virus. During her time at Mesa Verde, ICE refused proper medical care, including much needed medication for her eyes. In 2020 she joined a [lawsuit against ICE detention centers](#) in California for their failure to adequately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and was subsequently released without explanation. Also last year, ICE kept Alton Edmondson, a Black immigrant from Jamaica, [in solitary confinement for three weeks, and for one of those weeks, deprived him of a bed](#). Although ICE claimed Mr. Edmondson was in solitary confinement under quarantine, he repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19.

Organizing to Shut Down Mesa Verde

The people detained at Mesa Verde and the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance along with Centro Legal De La Raza, Pangea Legal Services, Estamos Unidos, Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants, and Kern Youth Abolitionists have been organizing to call attention to the abuses inside the facility, demanding shutdown and the release of all people detained. In June 2020 dozens of immigrants detained at Mesa Verde launched [a hunger strike in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement](#), uplifting the disproportionate detention and deportation of Black immigrants. Several hunger and labor strikes have taken place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic by people detained inside Mesa Verde to bring awareness to their conditions and demand release. The negligence on behalf of GEO resulted in a severe COVID-19 outbreak at the facility.



We have been kidnapped by ICE and detained in four dorms of the Mesa Verde Detention Facility in Bakersfield, California. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we have been sounding the alarm about the dangerous conditions inside this facility. We have written letters, recorded videos, and even gone on hunger strike. Unfortunately, nothing has changed. We are still in danger and still afraid for our lives.

— [Letter from Hunger strikers in Dorms A, B, C and D at Mesa Verde](#)



The Biden administration must immediately shut down Mesa Verde

The Mesa Verde Detention Facility exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. ICE has been jailing immigrants at Mesa Verde for six years, despite years of opposition from the local immigrant farmworker community. ICE's actions to rapidly expand the Mesa Verde Detention Facility despite an ongoing global pandemic are another example of the agency's callousness. However, ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of the Mesa Verde Detention Facility as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit:
[California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance.](#)

10

Shut Down the Otero County Processing Center

Communities across the country are uniting to protect immigrant family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors by calling to shut down ICE detention centers. The Adelanto Detention Facility is emblematic of how the detention system is fatally flawed beyond repair. Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community – not behind bars in immigration detention.

Quick Stats

- Capacity: 1,089 people
- Operator: Management Training Corporation
- Location: 26 McGregor Range Rd, Chaparral, NM 88081
- ICE Field Office: El Paso, TX
- Congressional District: NM-02

About Otero

The Otero County Processing Center (Otero) opened as an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in 2008. The facility is owned by Otero County and operated by the private prison corporation, Management and Training Corporation (MTC). It is located in the rural border community of Chaparral and is one of two facilities managed by MTC in a joint complex with the Otero County Prison Facility, which detains people for the U.S. Marshals Service, New Mexico Corrections Department, and in county custody. Most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, MTC shamefully [attempted to renegotiate](#) its contract to manage Otero by threatening to terminate their agreement if the county did not find avenues to increase the number of people in detention.

History of Abuse at Otero

Otero has a long history of using disciplinary solitary confinement and hostile treatment of detained people by staff. [Reports](#) of racial slurs and degrading language are common. There are numerous instances of staff harassing and humiliating LGBT individuals detained at the facility. In a [2018 report](#) by Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee and Freedom for Immigrants, documenting over 200 complaints of abuse made between 2015 and 2018, four critical issues emerged: unhealthy living conditions; abuse and exploitation; social isolation and mental anguish; barriers to justice and legal access.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Otero has been one of the ICE facilities with the [most confirmed COVID-19 cases](#). The propagation of the virus was linked to transfers of people in and out of the facility, MTC’s unwillingness to work with the New Mexico Department of Health, and lack of testing. In a facility with well-documented evidence of inadequate medical care, people detained fear for their lives. Unannounced inspections by the [Office of the Inspector General](#) and interviews by ICE’s [Office of Detention Oversight](#) have found daily medical records missing, denials or delays for medical attention, and continuous outbreaks of chickenpox. [At least five people have died](#) due to complications arising from medical neglect at Otero.



Photo: Jordyn Rozensky

Organizing to Shut Down Otero

Community organizations and people detained at Otero have been [organizing for years](#) to shut down the facility. Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention in the Chihuahuan Desert (AVID), with volunteers in Las Cruces, El Paso and surrounding communities have been leading a program for detained immigrants and advocating alongside people detained for their rights and freedom. People inside Otero have organized numerous hunger strikes and been met by violent retaliation including physical abuse, the use of prolonged solitary confinement, and [transfers to the nearby El Paso Service Processing Center](#) to be force-fed.



We denounce ... the constant threat by the officials of the center to punish us in individual cells of punishment with the goal of repressing us and psychologically torturing us with the objective of making us have fear and making us deport ourselves to our country of origin from which we fled for the danger our lives were in, we denounce the racial discrimination ... because we are Latinos. We have looked for help with the ICE officials and they do not resolve our problems on the contrary, they reveal themselves as racist, xenophobic and bullies just like the officials of this center.

— [Protest letter from detained people held at Otero in 2019](#)



Photo: Jordyn Rozensky

The Biden administration must immediately shut down Otero

The Otero County Processing Center exemplifies the egregiously poor conditions and culture of violence that plague the entirety of ICE detention resulting in [system-wide abuses](#), including death. ICE has been jailing immigrants at Otero for 12 years, despite opposition from the local community in Chaparral. [MTC's demands](#) for the county to guarantee the facility remains at capacity exposes the perverse financial incentives that exist throughout the system. However, ICE's immigration detention system does not need to exist and [communities across the country are organizing](#) to end it and build a better future.

We demand the immediate closure of the Otero County Processing Center as part of a first step towards the abolition of this country's inherently cruel and unjust immigration detention system.

For more information and calls to action related to this facility, visit:
[Avid in the Chihuahuan Desert.](#)