

IMMIGRATION **JUSTICE** CAMPAIGN



Immigration Detention: How It Works and How You Can Help End It

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U.S. Immigration Detention

- The largest system in the world
- Over 23,000 people held by ICE (July 2022)
- 180 detention centers in the U.S.
- Most detention facilities were built to be prisons or jails
- Due process and access to counsel are not guaranteed

Racism

- Racist history of U.S. immigration enforcement informs current system
- Latino immigrants make up 57% of immigrant population and 90% of deportations
- Black immigrants more likely to be shackled and six times more likely to be sent to solitary confinement
- [The Legacy of Racism in the U.S. Border Patrol](#)

Profit Motive

- ICE spending in 2021: \$8.3 billion
- ICE contracts with:
 - Private prison companies like The GEO Group and CoreCivic
 - Local governments that run county jails, etc.
- Cutting corners
 - Forcing immigrants to work for negligible pay
 - Horrible and dangerous conditions

Conditions

- **Medical abuse and neglect**
- **Dangerously low staffing levels**
- **Sexual assault and harassment**
- **Dirty facilities, non-working plumbing, insects in food, inadequate nutrition and water**
- **Racist abuse by staff**
- **Poor COVID procedures leading to outbreaks**
- **Excessive use of force and solitary confinement**
- **Threats of retaliation**

Example: Torrance County Detention Facility in New Mexico



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Example: Torrance County Detention Facility in New Mexico



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Example: Torrance County Detention Facility in New Mexico



Figure 1



Figure 2

WATCHDOG REPORT FINDS UNSAFE CONDITIONS
TORRANCE COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY



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Phone and Language Access Issues

- Getting on the phone to attorneys, friends, family is often difficult or impossible
- Interpreters are often unavailable, especially for languages other than Spanish
- Information about the immigration process often not translated

"He was standing in a crowded hallway talking on the phone, and the attorney had to ask very personal questions, and I'm thinking, 'There may be staff or other detainees listening.' That's not safe."

Legal Access Issues

- Attorneys are not guaranteed
- Even when attorneys are available, access is often blocked by ICE
- Often cost-prohibitive

"I got a call from his friend like, 'Where is this guy?' That's how I learned he'd been transferred to a detention center in another state in the middle of the night."

Representation Makes a Difference

- Of people in detention with attorneys, 45% are ultimately ordered removed from the U.S.
- For those without attorneys, 89% are ordered removed

Detention Must Be Ended and Replaced With Humane Solutions

- Detention cannot be reformed
- Alternatives to detention - different approaches exist
- Our preferred solution - protection-centered case management and legal support

IJC: What We Do

- **Pro bono legal support**
 - People in detention
 - People formerly subject to "Remain in Mexico"
 - Afghans who fled after the U.S. withdrawal
- **Advocacy**
 - Administrative
 - Legislative
 - Network of grassroots supporters

Join Our Advocacy

- Anyone can join the Immigration Justice Campaign as a grassroots advocate!
- Find opportunities on our action center: immigrationjustice.us/take-action

Volunteer

- We are looking for attorneys and interpreters
- Most opportunities are currently remote
- Go to our signup page to create an account and submit an application:
immigrationjustice.us/sign-up

Q&A

- Please drop your questions in the Q&A box

Our contact info:

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