



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK

Day of the Dead | Action Guide

October 28 – November 5, 2017



About Day of the Dead National Actions

Since 2003, 176 people have died in immigrant detention, including 12 deaths in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody in the past year. From October 28 to November 4, DWN members and allies will mark the Latin American Holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, with a national week of action.

The Day of the Dead National Week of Action aims to honor the lives of those who have died in immigrant detention, as [recent investigations](#) have found that inadequate medical care has contributed to numerous deaths in detention. Last year was our first time coordinating these actions which brought together 12 different cities denouncing ICE's negligence. This year's goal is to have at least 15 cities across the country participate in the actions to highlight the 22 untimely deaths that have occurred since October 1, 2015, while amplifying the voices of those who have been directly impacted by the immigration detention system. As we continue to see the Trump administration push for an expanded detention and deportation system, it is crucial we highlight this year's deadly toll, which has increased since last year, which is emblematic of a corrupt and negligent system. It should also be noted that currently families like that of Vicente Caceres-Maradiaga, who died in ICE custody in May of this year, have not received full reports and autopsies regarding their loved one's death, further exacerbating the dehumanizing and cruel practices that characterize the U.S. immigration detention system.

Our National Demand

- An immediate review of the 22 deaths that occurred in ICE custody in fiscal years '16 and '17, and publication of these reviews by December 1, 2017

This week of action is also an opportunity to strengthen your local efforts, so feel free to incorporate your local demands too. For example, a demand for a local shut-down campaign demand could be:

- Any facility with a death in which a failure by the facility *in any way* contributed to the person's death must be shut down.

Target(s)

- ICE (Acting Director Thomas Homan) and local targets including local elected officials, if facility contract is an Intergovernmental Service Agreement, and/or relevant members of Congress.

How You Can Get Involved

Host an event that will amplify detention center deaths. These activities can include:

- Vigils
- Funeral
- Rally/demonstration
- Teach-ins
- Press conference
- Theatrical or artistic expressions
- Processions
- Direct actions

To learn more about your rights to protest, visit:

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-your-rights-are-violated-demonstration-or-protest?redirect=free-speech/know-your-rights-demonstrations-and-protests>

In order to make your action more effective, we recommend having the following:

- Megaphones/sound system
- Chant sheets (if it aligns with the purpose and mood of the event)
- Visuals (DWN will provide some posters for the actions)
- Marshals (and vests), if you're having a demonstration
- Police Liaisons (especially in case of civil disobedience)
- Legal observers - For information about legal observers, visit:
<https://www.nlg.org/legalobservers>

For more tips or support, contact DWN's organizing team at campaign@detentionwatchnetwork.org

Communications Support

Social Media

Social media is a critical tool to alert and engage your audience in a timely manner for your action.

Sample Tweets

Leading up to the Days of Action

- We are participating in the #DayofTheDead week of action w/ [@DetentionWatch](#). Join us! bit.ly/ActionDWN #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention
- Upcoming action for #DayofTheDead to honor immigrant lives & demand [@ICEgov](#) be held accountable for #DetentionDeaths bit.ly/ActionDWN
- Join us for the #DayOfTheDead to demand that immigrant lives are valued, remembered & celebrated bit.ly/ActionDWN #DetentionDeaths

During the Days of Action

- On this #DayoftheDead we are raising awareness about the lives lost in immigrant detention #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention #Not1More
- Immigration detention should not be a death sentence #DayoftheDead #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention #Not1More bit.ly/ActionDWN
- There have been 12 #DetentionDeaths this past year at the hands of [@ICEgov](#). They must be held accountable! #DayoftheDead #EndDetention

If you are hosting an action, remember to live tweet as it's occurring so that we ([@DetentionWatch](#)) can retweet you and follow along by using #DetentionDeaths and #EndDetention.

Talking Points

Day of the Dead

A day to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

- Rooted in indigenous traditions of Mesoamerica, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, brings awareness to the passing of loved ones through celebration and remembrance.
- The Latin American holiday is celebrated on November 1st and 2nd, with the most noteworthy festivals and celebrations happening in Central and Southern Mexico.
- People celebrate the lives of loved ones by creating altars decorated with marigolds, photos, special possessions and favorite foods that evoke their memory.

Immigration Detention

A sprawling and unjust system that wrongfully targets and inhumanely detains immigrants.

- No matter where someone came from or how they arrived in the United States, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Immigration detention is the unjust practice of incarcerating immigrants while they await a decision on their immigration status or potential deportation.
- In addition to targeting low income people of color, the government locks up asylum seekers, long-term residents who have been caught up in the criminal justice system, undocumented individuals, pregnant women and families with children – even babies—in abysmal conditions where a culture of human rights abuses permeates.
- For the past three decades, the government has put hundreds of thousands of immigrants behind bars at a massive human, financial and moral cost. Now, an already oppressive, inhumane and deadly system of detention has become even bigger, less transparent and less accountable under an explicitly anti-immigrant and racist administration.
- Immigration in the U.S. has become a financial market where people's lives are being treated as profit. Both private and public interests are deeply invested in the continuation of locking people up. The shameful financial incentives in immigration detention have led to skyrocketing detention numbers with taxpayers paying more than \$2 billion each year and families paying the ultimate price by being forcibly separated from loved ones.
- Trump's anti-immigrant agenda includes massively increasing immigration detention to over 51,000 people in detention every day. This means locking up the equivalent of the entire population of New Orleans over the course of a year.
- Immigration jails are grave and dangerous places where lives are at risk and people are dying.

Deaths in Detention

Immigration detention should not be a death sentence.

- Recent investigations into deaths in detention, [Fatal Neglect: How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention](#) and [Systemic Indifference: Dangerous and Substandard Medical Care in US Immigration Detention](#), have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers has contributed to numerous deaths.
- Since 2003, 176 men and women have died in immigration detention. This past fiscal year alone, there have been 12 deaths in detention centers at the hands of ICE.
- Medical standards developed and implemented by ICE have proven inadequate time and again leading to preventable deaths of people in their custody.

- No life is second hand. Medical care shouldn't be either.
- Contrary to ICE's claims, its [inspections process is a complete sham](#). It allows rampant abuses, substandard medical care, and other violations to continue undetected and unaddressed—sometimes with fatal consequences.
- In no uncertain terms, ICE has proven they are incapable of caring for people in their custody.
- ICE is an agency that regularly lies and actively hides information from the public. Most recently, [ICE requested to destroy detention death records](#), doubling down on their track record of being an unaccountable agency that lacks transparency and operates with near impunity.

Connecting Day of the Dead to Deaths in Detention

Bringing awareness to the lives lost in immigration detention.

- We are honoring the traditions of Day of the Dead, by remembering individuals that have died in immigration detention at the hands of the U.S. government.
- Immigrants are dying untimely deaths in government custody. With today's event we demand justice and that immigrant lives be valued, remembered and celebrated.
- Day of the Dead is about remembering the lasting impact of loved ones; no family deserves to wonder if their loved one's death while in the government's custody could have been prevented.
- Today we honor the lives of those lost to the unjust and inhumane detention system.

Take Action

We demand immigrant lives be treated with dignity and respect.

- ICE must be held accountable when someone in their custody dies. We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 22 deaths that have occurred since October 1, 2015 and publicly release the findings no later than December 1, 2017.
- For far too long, our representatives have said they care about our communities while simultaneously funding aggressive immigration enforcement and deadly immigration jails. Our elected officials must be held accountable to keep their promises and show that they stand with the immigrant community by requesting the death investigation directly.

#DetentionDeaths

- **Jean Jimenez-Joseph** died while in the custody of ICE at the Stewart Detention Center in Georgia. Reported as a suicide, Jimenez-Joseph spent 19 days in solitary confinement prior to his passing.
- The Adelanto detention center in California is the deadliest detention center this year. **Vicente Caceres-Maradiaga, Sergio Alonso Lopez and Osmar Epifanio Gonzalez-Gadba** all died this past fiscal year at the facility, which is notorious for its substandard medical care.

Press Materials

DWN can send your press materials to our media list if you submit them to cperez@detentionwatchnetwork.org the night before your event.

Media Advisory Template

For Immediate Release: Add date

Contact: Add local contact; Danny Cendejas, dcendejas@detentionwatchnetwork.org, 202-846-7062

[Day of the week]: Immigrant rights groups will hold a vigil to honor immigrants that have died in detention on Day of the Dead

Honoring the lives of those lost to the unjust and inhumane detention system, Detention Watch Network demands that ICE be held accountable

[CITY, STATE] – Marking the Latin American holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, [Add organization], Detention Watch Network (DWN), faith groups and other immigrant rights groups will hold a vigil at [Location/Detention Center] on [Date] to bring awareness to the untimely deaths of immigrants in government custody. [Recent investigations](#) into deaths in immigration detention have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers have contributed to numerous deaths. This past fiscal year alone, there have been 12 deaths in detention centers across the country at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 22 deaths that have occurred in the past two fiscal years and publicly release the findings by December 1st.

The vigil will embrace traditional elements of the Day of the Dead holiday, by including altars decorated in memory of those who have died in detention, musical performances, and stories shared from those who've been directly impacted by the detention system.

- **What:** [1-2 sentence description of the event, use catchy language that sells your event as new, different and important to a broad audience]
- **When:** [Day of the week, date and time]
- **Where:** [Location with address and directions, if necessary]
- **Who:** [List sponsoring organizations and speakers participating]

###

[Add your organization's boilerplate language]

Detention Watch Network (DWN) is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to expose and challenge the injustices of the United States' immigration detention and deportation system and advocate for profound change that promotes the rights and dignity of all persons. Founded in 1997 by immigrant rights groups, DWN brings together advocates to unify strategy and build partnerships on a local and national level to end immigration detention. Visit www.detentionwatchnetwork.org.

Press Release Template

For Immediate Release: Add date

Contact: Add local contact; Danny Cendejas, dcendejas@detentionwatchnetwork.org, 202-846-7062

Immigrant rights groups hold vigil for immigrants who have died in detention and demand ICE stop the deaths

Immigrants are dying untimely deaths in government custody, ICE must be held accountable

[CITY, STATE] – Marking the Latin American holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, [add local organizations], Detention Watch Network (DWN), faith groups and other immigrant rights groups held a vigil at [location] to bring awareness to the untimely deaths of immigrants in government custody. [Recent investigations](#) into deaths in immigration detention have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers have contributed to numerous deaths.

“In the last X years there have been X deaths at [Insert local detention center],” said [first and last name], [your title] of [your organization]. “Today we honored these lives and others that have been lost to the unjust and inhumane detention system by demanding that immigrant lives are valued, remembered and celebrated.”

The vigil featured formerly detained individuals who spoke about their horrific experiences while being in detention, musical performances and traditional elements of Day of the Dead, including altars in remembrance of those who have passed.

“[Quote from directly impacted person here].”

Since 2003, 176 people have died in immigration detention. This past year alone, there have been 12 deaths in detention centers across the country at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The shameful record of deaths amassed by ICE exposes their inability to guarantee the safety and health of people in their custody. ICE allows rampant abuses, substandard medical care, and other violations to continue undetected – sometimes with fatal consequences.

“ICE is allowing people to die in their custody. We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 22 deaths that have occurred since October 1, 2015 and publicly release the findings by December 1st,” said Danny Cendejas, DWN Organizing Director. “People are dying due to medical neglect with no accountability. The evidence is clear and indisputable; ICE needs to start shutting down detention centers now.”

###

[Add your organization’s boilerplate language]

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Día de Muertos | Guía de Acción

28 de Octubre – 4 de Noviembre, 2017



Sobre la semana de acción de Día de Muertos

Desde el 2003, 176 personas han muerto en centros de detención de inmigrantes, incluyendo 12 muertes bajo custodia de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) este año. Del 28 de octubre al 4 de noviembre los miembros y aliados de DWN marcarán el día tradicionalmente festivo en Latinoamérica, Día de los Muertos, una semana de acción nacional.

La Semana de Acción de Día de Muertos le rendirá homenaje a las vidas de aquellxs que han muerto dentro de los centros de detención de inmigración, [investigaciones recientes](#) han encontrado que la falta de atención médica adecuada ha contribuido a numerosas muertes en centros de detención. El año pasado fue nuestra primera vez coordinando estas acciones, las cuales tuvieron participación de 12 ciudades denunciando la negligencia de ICE. Nuestro objetivo este año es tener al menos 15 ciudades a nivel nacional participando en las acciones llamando atención a las 22 muertes prematuras que han ocurrido desde el 1ro de octubre del 2015, incluyendo la amplificación de las voces de lxs que han sido directamente impactadxs por el sistema de detención de inmigrantes. Así como vemos a la administración de Trump presionar para expandir el sistema de detenciones y deportaciones, es crucial que resaltemos el saldo mortal de este año, el cual refleja un incremento en muertes y representa un sistema corrupto y negligente. Cabe notar que actualmente familias como la de Vicente Caceres-Maradiaga, quien murió en custodia de ICE en mayo de este año, no ha recibido reportes completos sobre la muerte de su ser querido, exacerbando aún más el comportamiento cruel e inhumano que caracteriza al sistema estadounidense de detención de inmigrantes.

Nuestra Demanda

- Una revisión inmediata de las 22 muertes bajo custodia de ICE que ocurrieron en los años fiscales de 2016 y 2017 y la publicación de los hallazgos a más tardar el 1ro de diciembre del 2017.

Esta semana de acción presenta una oportunidad para fortalecer sus esfuerzos locales, sientase libre de incorporar demandas locales como parte de su acción. Por ejemplo, una demanda para una campaña local de cierre de un centro de detención puede ser:

- Cualquier centro de detención donde haya ocurrido una muerte a causa de errores cometidos por el centro en si debe ser cerrado.

Blanco(s)/Target(s)

- ICE (Director Interino Thomas Homan) y blancos locales incluyendo funcionarixs electxs, si el centro en cuestión tiene un Acuerdo Intergubernamental de Servicio, y/o miembrxs de Congreso pertinentes.

Como puedes involucrarte

Organiza un evento local que amplifique las muertes ocurridas dentro de los centros de detención. Estas actividades pueden incluir:

- Vigilias
- Funerales
- Rally/demostración pública
- Talleres públicos

- Conferencia de Prensa
- Expresiones teatrales o artísticas
- Procesiones
- Acciones Directas

Para más información sobre sus derechos en una protesta, visite:

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-your-rights-are-violated-demonstration-or-protest?redirect=free-speech/know-your-rights-demonstrations-and-protests>

Para que la acción o evento sea más eficaz, recomendamos tener lo siguiente:

- Sistema de sonido o Megáfonos
- Visuales (DWN proporcionará algunos carteles/posters para las acciones)
- Voluntarixs de seguridad/marshalls (con chalecos o ropa visible), si la acción es una demostración
- Intermediarix con la Policía
- Observadores legales - Para obtener información sobre los observadores legales, visite:
- <https://www.nlg.org/legalobservers>

Para más tips u apoyo, contacte al equipo de organizadores de DWN a través de campaign@detentionwatchnetwork.org

Apoyo con medios de comunicación

Medios Sociales

Los medios sociales son una herramienta crítica para alertar y atraer a su público de una manera oportuna para su evento local.

Tweets de Muestra

En los días previos a la semana de acción:

- Estamos participando en la semana de acción #DayofTheDead w / @ DetentionWatch. ¡Únete! bit.ly/DWNAAction #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention
- Próxima #DayofTheDead acción honrará las vidas de inmigrantes y demanda que @DHSgov se haga responsable de #DetentionDeaths bit.ly/DWNAAction
- Únase a #DayOfTheDead para exigir que las vidas de los inmigrantes sean valoradas, recordadas y celebradas bit.ly/DWNAAction #DetentionDeaths

En inglés:

- We are participating in the #DayofTheDead week of action w/@DetentionWatch. Join us! bit.ly/DWNAAction #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention
- Upcoming action for #DayofTheDead to honor immigrant lives & demand @DHSgov be held accountable for #DetentionDeaths bit.ly/DWNAAction
- Join us for the #DayOfTheDead to demand that immigrant lives are valued, remembered & celebrated bit.ly/DWNAAction #DetentionDeaths

Durante la semana de acción:

- En este #DiadeMuertos estamos elevando conciencia sobre las vidas perdidas en detención de inmigrantes #EndDetention #Not1More
- La detención de inmigrantes no debe ser una sentencia de muerte #DiadeMuertos #EndDetention #Not1More bit.ly/DWNAAction
- Ha habido 12 #DetentionDeaths este año a manos de @ICEgov. Ellos deben rendir cuentas! #DiadeMuertos #EndDetention
- 176 personas han muerto en detención de inmigrantes desde 2003. @ICEgov necesita para cerrar los centros de detención ahora, empezando por #LaSalle

En ingles:

- On this #DayoftheDead we are raising awareness about the lives lost in immigrant detention #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention #Not1More
- Immigration detention should not be a death sentence #DayoftheDead #DetentionDeaths #EndDetention #Not1More bit.ly/DWNAAction
- There have been 10 #DetentionDeaths this year at the hands of @ICEgov. They must be held accountable! #DayoftheDead #EndDetention
- 164 people have died in immigrant detention since 2003. @ICEgov needs to shut down facilities now, starting with #LaSalle #DetentionDeaths

Recuerde usar Twitter en vivo durante el evento. Nosotrxs (@DetentionWatch) podemos amplificar las publicaciones a través de un Retweet y seguir otros Tweets mediante el uso de #DetentionDeaths y #EndDetention.

Mensajes Claves

Día de los Muertos

Día para conmemorar y celebrar la vida de seres queridxs.

- Arraigo en tradiciones indígenas de Mesoamérica, el Día de los Muertos conmemora la muerte de seres queridxs a través de celebración y recuerdo.
- El día festivo Latinoamericano se celebra el 1 y 2 de noviembre, con las fiestas y celebraciones más notables en el centro y sur de México.
- La gente celebra la vida de los seres queridxs mediante la creación de altares decorados con flores de cempazuchitl, fotos, posesiones especiales y comidas favoritas que evocan la memoria de lxs fallecidxs.

Detención de Inmigración

Un sistema extenso que injustamente ataca e inhumanamente detiene a la comunidad inmigrante.

- Sin importar de donde alguien viene o la forma en que llegaron a los Estados Unidos, todxs merecen ser tratadxs con dignidad y respeto.
- La detención de inmigrantes es una práctica injusta que encarcela a los inmigrantes mientras esperan una decisión sobre su estatus migratorio o deportación potencial.
- Además de atacar particularmente a las personas de color y de bajos ingresos, el gobierno encierra a individuos que solicitan asilo, a residentes legales permanentes que han sido atrapados dentro del sistema de justicia penal, personas indocumentadas, mujeres embarazadas y familias con niños – incluyendo a bebés, en condiciones pésimas, donde existe una cultura de violaciones de los derechos humanos.

- Durante las últimas tres décadas el gobierno ha puesto a cientos de miles de inmigrantes tras las rejas con un costo masivo humano, financiero y moral. Ahora, un sistema de detención que lleva siendo opresivo, inhumano y mortal ha crecido, es menos transparente y es menos dispuesto a rendir cuentas bajo una administración explícitamente anti-inmigrante y racista.
- La inmigración en los Estados Unidos se volvió parte de un mercado donde las vidas de las personas se usan para generar ganancia. Tanto los intereses privados y públicos han invertido profundamente en la práctica continua de encerrar a la gente. Los incentivos vergonzosos económicos de la detención de inmigrantes han conducido una subida rápida de los números de detención en que los que contribuyentes de impuestos tienen que pagar más de \$ 2 mil millones cada año y las familias terminan pagando el precio más alto al ser separados por la fuerza de sus seres queridos.
- La agenda anti-inmigrante de Trump incluye un incremento masivo de centros de detención de inmigrantes para detener a más 51,000 personas cada día. Esto equivale a detener a la población entera de la ciudad de Nueva Orleans a lo largo de un año.
- Las cárceles de inmigración son lugares graves y peligrosos donde las vidas de muchos están en riesgo y la gente está muriendo.

Muertes en Detención

La detención de inmigrantes no debe ser una sentencia de muerte.

- Las recientes investigaciones sobre las muertes en detención, como [Negligencia Mortal: ICE pasa por alto las muertes en los centros de detención](#), han encontrado que la atención médica inadecuada dentro de los centros de detención ha contribuido a numerosas muertes.
- Desde el año 2003, 176 hombres y mujeres han muerto dentro de centros de detención. Durante el año fiscal que acaba de pasar, se produjeron 12 muertes en centros de detención de ICE.
- Normas médicas desarrolladas e implementadas por ICE, han demostrado una y otra vez que son inadecuadas y han sido responsables de muertes prevenibles de las personas bajo su custodia.
- Ninguna vida es de segunda mano. La atención médica tampoco debe serla.
- Contrario a las declaraciones de ICE, [su proceso de inspecciones es una farsa completa](#). Permite el encubrimiento y la continuación de abusos rampantes, atención médica deficiente, y otras violaciones, que veces tienen consecuencias fatales.
- En términos muy claros, ICE ha demostrado que son incapaces de cuidar de las personas bajo su custodia.
- ICE es una agencia que miente regularmente e intencionalmente esconde información del público. Recientemente, [ICE pidió permiso para destruir records sobre muertes en centros de detención](#), recalcando su reputación como una agencia que no rinde cuentas y que no tiene transparencia y la cual opera de forma casi impune.

#DetentionDeaths

- **Jean Jiménez-Joseph** murió en custodia de ICE en el centro de detención de Stewart en Georgia. Reportado como un suicidio, Jiménez-Joseph pasó 19 días aislado antes de morir.
- El centro de detención de Adelanto en California ha sido el más mortífero este año. **Vicente Caceres-Maradiaga, Sergio Alonso López y Osmar Epifanio Gonzalez-Gadba** todos murieron en este centro de detención durante el año fiscal que acaba de culminar, cabe notar que este centro se destaca por ofrecer cuidado de salud deficiente.

Conectando el Día de los Muertos con las muertes en detención

Dando a conocer las vidas perdidas dentro de los centros de detención de inmigrantes.

- Estamos honrando las tradiciones del Día de los Muertos, recordando a las personas que han muerto dentro de la detención de inmigrantes a manos del gobierno de EE.UU.
- Los inmigrantes están muriendo muertes prematuras en custodia del gobierno. Con el evento de hoy valoramos, recordamos y celebramos las vidas de los inmigrantes y exigimos justicia.
- Este Día de los Muertos tratamos de recordar el impacto permanente de los seres queridos, ninguna familia tiene que pasar preguntándose si la muerte de su ser querido, mientras estaba en la custodia del gobierno, se podría haber evitado.
- Hoy honramos las vidas de los que se perdieron en el sistema de detención injusta e inhumana.

Toma Acción

Exigimos que las vidas de lxs inmigrantes sean tratadas con dignidad y respeto.

- ICE debe tomar responsabilidad cuando alguien muere bajo su custodia. Exigimos que ICE lleve a cabo una investigación sobre las 22 muertes que han ocurrido desde el 1ro de octubre del 2015 y que dé a conocer públicamente los hallazgos a mas tardar el 1ro de diciembre del 2017.
- Durante mucho tiempo, nuestrxs representantes han dicho que les importan nuestras comunidades mientras al mismo tiempo le dan fondos a agencias migratorias agresivas y centros de detencion mortales. Nuestrxs funcionarixs electxs deben de rendir cuentas y mantener sus promesas comprobando que estan a favor de las comunidades inmigrantes al pedir investigaciones sobre las muertes directamente.

Materiales de Prensa

DWN puede mandar sus materiales y comunicados de prensa a nuestra lista de contacto de medios si los envía a Carly Pérez, cperez@detentionwatchnetwork.org.

Plantilla de Aviso a los Medios / Media Advisory Template

For Immediate Release: Agregue la fecha

Contact: Agregue contacto local; Danny Cendejas, dcendejas@detentionwatchnetwork.org, 202-846-7062

[Dia de la Semana]: Immigrant rights groups will hold a vigil to honor immigrants that have died in detention on Day of the Dead

Honoring the lives of those lost to the unjust and inhumane detention system, Detention Watch Network demands that ICE stop the deaths and end detention

[CITY, STATE] – Marking the Latin American holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, [Add organization], Detention Watch Network (DWN), faith groups and other immigrant rights groups will hold a vigil at [Location/Detention Center] on [Date] to bring awareness to the untimely deaths of immigrants in government custody. [Recent investigations](#) into deaths in immigration detention have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers have contributed to numerous deaths. This year alone, there have been 12 deaths in detention centers across the country at the hands of

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 22 deaths that have occurred in the past two fiscal years and publicly release the findings by December 1st.

The vigil will embrace traditional elements of the Day of the Dead holiday, by including altars decorated in memory of those who have died in detention, musical performances, and stories shared from those who've been directly impacted by the detention system.

- **What:** [1-2 sentence description of the event, use catchy language that sells your event as new, different and important to a broad audience]
- **When:** [Day of the week, date and time]
- **Where:** [Location with address and directions, if necessary]
- **Who:** [List sponsoring organizations and speakers participating]

###

[Add your organization's boilerplate language]

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Plantilla de Comunicado de Prensa / Press Release Template

For Immediate Release: Agregue la fecha

Contact: Agregue el contacto local; Danny Cendejas, dcendejas@detentionwatchnetwork.org, 202-846-7062

Immigrant rights groups hold vigil for immigrants who have died in detention and demand ICE stop the deaths

Immigrants are dying untimely deaths in government custody, ICE must be held accountable

[CITY, STATE] – Marking the Latin American holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, [add local organizations], Detention Watch Network (DWN), faith groups and other immigrant rights groups held a vigil at [location] to bring awareness to the untimely deaths of immigrants in government custody.

[Recent investigations](#) into deaths in immigration detention have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers have contributed to numerous deaths.

“In the last X years there have been X deaths at [Insert local detention center],” said [first and last name], [your title] of [your organization]. “Today we honored these lives and others that have been lost to the unjust and inhumane detention system by demanding that immigrant lives are valued, remembered and celebrated.”

The vigil featured formerly detained individuals who spoke about their horrific experiences while being in detention, musical performances and traditional elements of Day of the Dead, including altars in remembrance of those who have passed.

“[Quote from directly impacted person here].”

Since 2003, 176 people have died in immigration detention. This year alone, there have been 12 deaths in detention centers across the country at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The shameful record of deaths amassed by ICE exposes their inability to guarantee the safety and health of people in their custody. ICE allows rampant abuses, substandard medical care, and other violations to continue undetected – sometimes with fatal consequences.

“ICE is allowing people to die in their custody. We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 22 deaths that have occurred since October 1, 2015 and publicly release the findings by December 1st,” said Danny Cendejas, DWN Organizing Director. “People are dying due to medical neglect with no accountability. The evidence is clear and indisputable; ICE needs to start shutting down detention centers now.”

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[Add your organization’s boilerplate language]

Detention Watch Network (DWN) is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to expose and challenge the injustices of the United States’ immigration detention and deportation system and advocate for profound change that promotes the rights and dignity of all persons. Founded in 1997 by immigrant rights groups, DWN brings together advocates to unify strategy and build partnerships on a local and national level to end immigration detention. Visit www.detentionwatchnetwork.org