#CommunitiesNotCages

Campaign Explainer

The #CommunitiesNotCages campaign amplifies the longstanding local organizing of Detention Watch Network members, advocates, and allies across the country, while building a nationally coordinated strategy to stop the expansion and ultimately abolish immigration detention in its entirety.

This campaign contributes to the growing call to #AbolishICE by centering on concrete demands to dismantle the infrastructure of detention that's a core function of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) operations. By targeting a core factor of this administration's xenophobic and nativist project, the actual infrastructure of the immigrant detention system, we are eating away at ICE's current and future abilities to carry out their dehumanizing agenda. As with other initiatives to fight against the carceral state, we recognize that the work of stopping expansion and closing down existing facilities often turns into a "whack a mole" situation. This is why we aim to bring together these fights across the country, to show that where there is an attempt to expand this system, there is a coordinated and strong resistance. This effort recognizes the long legacy of shutdown and anti-expansion work in the U.S. since the creation of this form of incarceration, and borrows from these histories and experiences to continue building a movement to end the detention of immigrants.

What types of detention expansion does #CommunitiesNotCages focus on?

Anti Expansion

- 24 sites of current proposals
- Mainly concentrated in Texas (4) and the Midwest (MI, IL, MN, and UT)

Shut Down Efforts

Current campaigns: Adelanto (CA), NWDC (WA), Stewart (GA), Etowah (AL), NJ Facilities

Anti-Metastasis

Stopping the current push by ICE to embed their practices into other government agencies, including US Marshals, Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Defense.

What resources does #CommunitiesNotCages provide?

The campaign supports local fights by coordinating national calls for participants to share updates, lessons and analysis. The campaign also offers local fights access to webinars, toolkits, support for advocacy strategies, messaging materials, comms support, direct action support, and regional convenings, as well as art work and on-the-ground support.

How can I support this effort?

The campaign site lists upcoming events for local campaigns, as well as petitions and other ways to support specific local/regional fights.

For more information visit:

http://bit.ly/communitiesnotcages