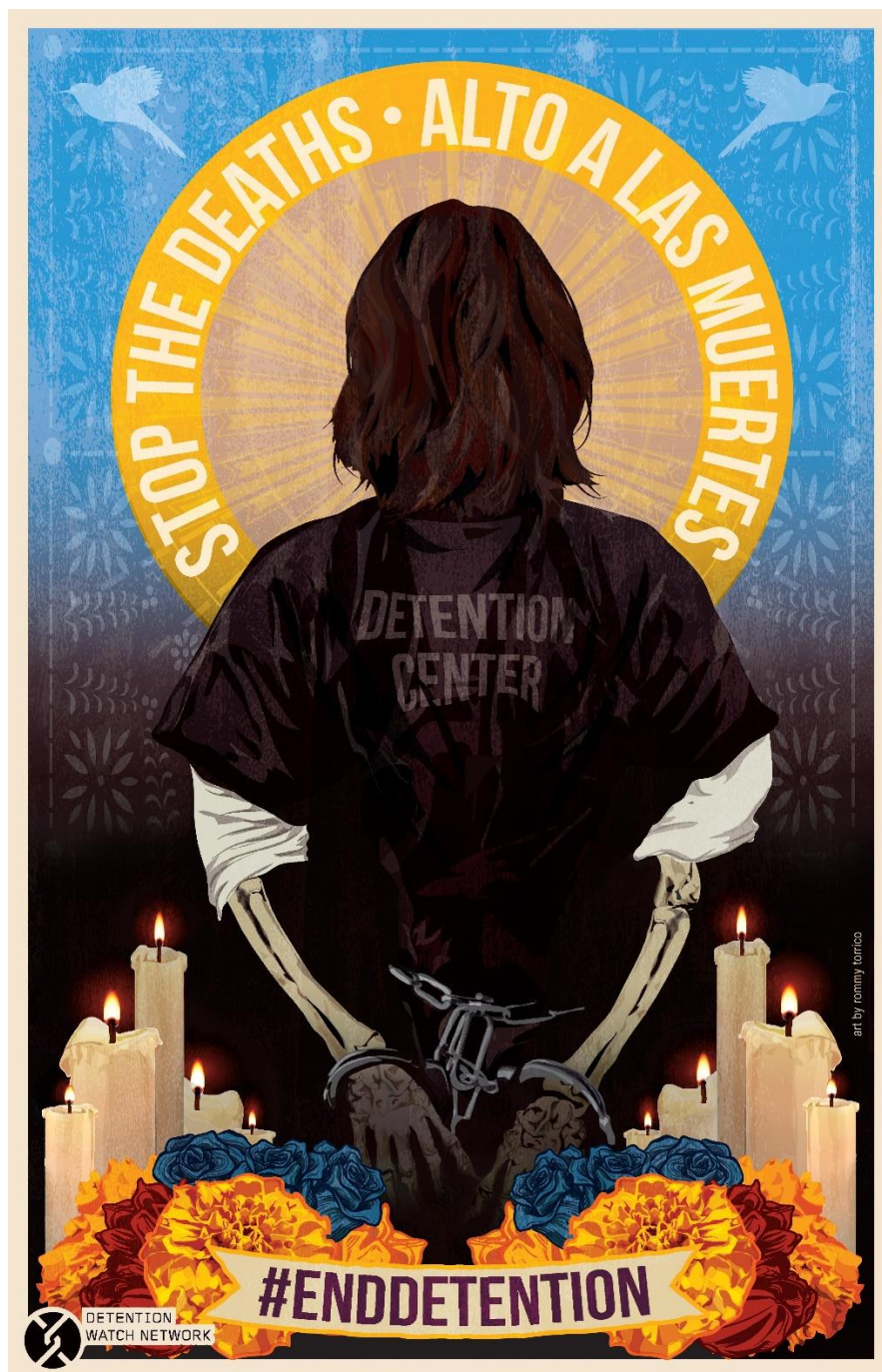




DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK

Day of the Dead | Action Guide

October 26 – November 4, 2016



About Day of the Dead National Actions

Since 2003, 164 people have died in immigrant detention, including 10 deaths in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody this year alone. From October 26 to November 4, DWN members and allies will mark the Latin American Holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, with national actions.

The Day of the Dead National Action aim to honor the lives of those who have died in immigrant detention, as [recent investigations into deaths in detention](#) have found that inadequate medical care has contributed to numerous deaths. Our goal is to have at least 10 cities across the country participate in the actions to highlight the 10 untimely deaths that have occurred this year, while amplifying the voices of those who have been directly-impacted by the immigration detention system.

Our Demands

- An immediate review of the 10 deaths in ICE custody this fiscal year, and publication of these reviews by January 30, 2017
- The immediate shut down of LaSalle Detention Center, where three of this year's deaths have occurred

Target(s)

ICE (Director Sarah Saldaña) and local targets including local elected officials, if facility contract is an Intergovernmental Service Agreement.

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
- Visuals (DWN will provide some posters for the actions)
- Marshals (and vests), if you're having a demonstration
- 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 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

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

Current Moment

People locked up in immigration detention reaches a record breaking high.

- With detention numbers starting to rise this summer, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is currently detaining a record breaking high of over 40,000 people. The skyrocketing detention numbers are unprecedented and are estimated to climb to 47,000 people in detention by June of 2017.
- The appalling number of people behind bars has resulted in ICE scrambling to enter into and renew contracts with notorious private prison companies and county jails for increased detention capacity. This includes renewing the Dilley Family Detention Center in Texas which is run by the private prison company, Corrections Corporation of America.
- This action from ICE is particularly concerning amidst the growing call to end the use of private prisons and scale back incarceration, which includes:
 - This summer's announcement by the Department of Justice to end contracts with private prisons used for immigrants, also known as shadow prisons.
 - The Department of Homeland Security's pending investigation on the use of private prisons for ICE detention.
- ICE officials disclosed that "they're scraping the bottom looking for beds" raising concerns that the new contracts may not conform to detention standards, which could lead to more deaths.

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.

- 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.
- Immigration in the U.S. has become a financial market where people's lives are being treated as profit.
- 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](#) have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers has contributed to numerous deaths.
- Since 2003, 164 men and women have died in immigration detention. This year alone, there have been ten 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—sometimes with fatal consequences.
- In no uncertain terms, ICE has proven they are incapable of caring for people in their custody.

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 ten deaths that have occurred this year and publicly release the findings no later than January 30, 2017.
- Facilities where people have died in detention must be shut down as a first step towards ending the inhumane detention system in its entirety. This starts with shutting down LaSalle Detention Center in Louisiana where there have been three deaths this year alone.

#DetentionDeaths

- **Manuel Cota-Domingo** died while in ICE custody at Eloy Detention Center after an eight-hour delay in transferring him to the emergency room.
- **Fernando Dominguez-Valdivia** contracted and died from pneumonia--a preventable and treatable illness--during his 82 days in immigration detention.
- **Victor Ramirez Reyes** died of a treatable condition at Elizabeth Detention Center as the result of grossly substandard medical care. Mr. Ramirez received double doses of his medications on a daily basis because medical staff did not follow proper protocols.

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; Carly Perez, cperez@detentionwatchnetwork.org, 202-846-7059

[TUESDAY]: 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 10 deaths in detention centers across the country at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 10 deaths that have occurred this year and publicly release the findings by January 30th.

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; Carly Perez, cperez@detentionwatchnetwork.org, 202-846-7059

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, 164 men and women have died in immigration detention. This year alone, there have been 10 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 10 deaths that have occurred this year and publicly release the findings by January 30th,” 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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