

**Statement of Daniel Tse**  
**On Behalf of Coalition of Immigrant Rights CSOs**  
**UPR Pre-session on the United States of America**  
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**Geneva**

**I. Presentation of the Organization & Speaker**

My name is Daniel Tse. I represent a coalition of immigrant rights organizations in the United States, to provide context on the United States' increased reliance on state violence to deter and punish migration.

**II. Plan of the Statement**

This statement addresses: (1) mass, for-profit immigrant detention characterized by deplorable conditions, and (2) increasingly racially discriminatory interior enforcement and due process violations against noncitizens.

**III. Statement**

**1. Mass Immigrant Detention**

**Previous Recommendations in 2020 UPR:** Previous recommendations called for the U.S. to seek alternatives to the immigration detention system and improve conditions of confinement to meet basic human rights standards.

**New Developments:** Today, the U.S. detains 59,000 immigrants—the highest number in history—in a network of facilities that are currently 140% over capacity. To expand detention capacity, the U.S. has reopened family detention centers and now incarcerates immigrants in federal prisons, temporary processing sites, and detention centers previously shuttered due to documented human rights abuses.

The U.S. purposely relies on the punishing conditions of these facilities to force immigrants to abandon their claims for protection. Immigrants are forced to sleep on floors, denied access to food and water, denied medical care, locked in torturous solitary confinement, and isolated from legal services. 90% of immigrant detention in the U.S. is run by private prison companies that maximize their profits by denying detained people basic human necessities and sufficient medical care.

Since the last 2020 UPR review, at least 51 people have died in these facilities. Independent medical experts found that 95% of these deaths were preventable had the U.S. government provided appropriate medical care.

**Recommendations:** We recommend that the government of the United States:

- End immigration detention, including of immigrant children, and implement community-based alternatives;
- End government contracts with private prison companies to operate for-profit immigration detention facilities in the U.S. and ban new contracts;
- Abolish solitary confinement in immigration detention and ensure sufficient medical care for detained people.

## **2. Racially Discriminatory Interior Enforcement and Due Process Violations**

**Previous Recommendations in 2020 UPR:** Previous recommendations called for the U.S. to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, end excessive use of force and racial profiling, and prohibit torture in detention.

**New Developments:** To fuel mass detention and deportation, the U.S. government has relied on racially discriminatory interior enforcement actions and violations of due process to round up immigrants living in the U.S. communities. Immigrants who entered the U.S. without authorization are now subject to mandatory detention.

The U.S. government has enacted widespread workplace raids and has increased the cooperation between ICE and local police to identify and arrest immigrants, including in sensitive locations like churches, hospitals, and elementary schools. The U.S. is currently re-detaining immigrants previously paroled into the U.S., even arresting people who appear for their asylum hearings.

During these arrests, people are routinely beaten and choked. The U.S. has explicitly targeted noncitizens engaged in political speech, including students who peacefully protested the genocide of Palestinians, disappearing them to isolated detention facilities in Louisiana and Texas.

In order to increase deportations, the U.S. has relied on due process violations. For example, the government has summarily deported people to third-countries they have never before stepped foot in, where they are often detained, imprisoned, or in danger of chain refoulement. The U.S. transferred detained Venezuelans to Guantanamo Bay, a notorious black-hole prison site, and to CECOT, an infamous prison in El Salvador, where they were tortured.

**Recommendations:** We recommend that the government of the United States:

- Repeal mandatory detention laws that rely on racially discriminatory policing to subject people to mandatory immigration detention;
- Adopt the “necessary and proportional” standard for use of force and amend state and federal use of force policies to match international human rights standards;
- Immediately halt transfers and removals of non-citizens to third countries and military bases.

Thank you for your time and consideration.