

October 19, 2025

Week 12 of Vigils at Alligator Alcatraz: When the Constitutional rights of immigrants are undermined, they are undermined for us all.

What: Vigil outside the gates of Alligator Alcatraz to demand the detention camp be shut down, that the people being detained be freed, and that the immoral ICE sweeps that are abducting, detaining and deporting our neighbors come to an end.

Who: Leaders of Faith and Conscience, Fort Myers university/college students, environmental activists, thought leaders, teachers, professors, local political leaders, and the general public.

When/Where: Sunday 10/19, Vigil from 5:00-6:00PM
Across from entrance to Alligator Alcatraz on Route 41
54585 Tamiami Trl E, Ochopee, FL 34141
Coordinates: 25.861821,-80.898036

Why: ICE operations and Alligator Alcatraz detention center have shocked the conscience of our nation. The Trump administration is using this Everglades camp to terrify, humiliate, and [even disappear](#) immigrants, the vast majority of whom have [no criminal background](#) and have been living and working and contributing to our communities often for decades.

“Our primary message with these vigils to all who are afraid, is that you are not alone; we stand with you and we will not stop working to end these terrifying ICE operations and the inhumane conditions of detention,” said Noelle Damico, Director of Social Justice at the Workers Circle, a Jewish nonprofit which has been organizing the vigils with Florida leaders of faith and conscience. “When the constitutional rights of immigrants are undermined, they are undermined for us all.”

Now after weeks of ICE sweeps that have torn immigrant families apart and targeted Black and brown people with the Supreme Court’s approval, [ProPublica published a report on Thursday exposing more than 170 cases in which ICE detained US citizens](#). The government does not track the number of citizens they detain. Citizens have been beaten, dragged, tasered, kicked; several of them have been pregnant.

“Now more than ever, it is vitally important that the detainees being held inside of the Everglades Detention Center know that we love them, we are praying for them, and we will not rest until they are released and returned home to their families,” said the Rev. Arthur Jones III, Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers. “It is also a moral imperative to secure supervised access into the Everglades Detention Center so that Clergy leaders of various faith traditions can pray in-person with the detainees.”

Now in its 12th week, the Alligator Alcatraz vigils have mobilized more than 2,000 people of faith and conscience in Florida alone and spurred new vigils in Tallahassee, Sarasota, Orlando, and in other states. [A national mobilizing call will be held on October 22](#) to catalyze peaceful opposition to these harmful and immoral policies.

Weekly Sunday vigils outside Alligator Alcatraz will continue as long as people are being detained at the facility [in reprehensible conditions](#).

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