

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Week 9 Vigils Leaders of Faith and Conscience condemn the indefinite detention of immigrants and the disappearance of more than 800 people from Alligator Alcatraz

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 ICE sweeps that are abducting, detaining and deporting our neighbors come to an end.

Who: Leaders of Faith and Conscience and the general public

When/Where: Sunday 9/28, 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: People are being ripped from their families, abducted from their workplaces, hauled away when they are in ICE court and, now, [according to a new directive from the Board of Immigration Appeals, can be held without bond for the duration of their legal proceedings](#), as reported by the New York Times.

Immigrants who are in the US unlawfully is not a criminal violation but a civil offense and the [vast majority of immigrants being detained have not been convicted of any crime](#), and those that do are for minor offenses.

This outrageous denial of due process to immigrants, has dramatically grown the number of people being detained across the country including in the newly re-opened Alligator Alcatraz.

Alarming, it is not only that people are being detained, they are also disappearing from custody. Last week the Miami Herald reported that as of the end of August, the [whereabouts of two-thirds of more than 1,800 men detained at Alligator Alcatraz during the month of July could not be determined](#). 800 showed no record in ICE's database. Some were deported even if they had a legal right to remain.

"As a Jewish organization, we know what happens when people stay silent when neighbors are targeted as unfit to be part of society, denied their rights, and hauled away," said Noelle Damico Director of Social Justice at the Workers Circle who has been organizing the vigils with local Florida leaders. "The terror, abduction, detention, and disappearance of immigrants is happening, not at some other time in history or in some country far away, it's happening right here. Right now. We must not stand idly by."

"In a sacred legend shared across religious traditions, a fugitive prince turned shepherd confronted the world's mightiest empire and on behalf of mistreated persons he demanded, 'Let my people go,' said Bishop Durrell Watkins, D.Min., Sunshine Cathedral Senior Minister in Ft.

Lauderdale. "Those of us motivated by Justice-Love must continue to advocate for the mistreated, our fellow children of God."

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

Media Contacts:

Noelle Damico, The Workers Circle, ndamico@circle.org, 914-525-7040

Rev. Laurie Hafner, Senior Pastor, Coral Gables United Church of Christ, 305-968-6482,
LaurieH@gablesucc.org