Week 15 Vigil Outside Alligator Alcatraz: ICE operations are terrorizing and detaining children, leaders of faith and conscience condemn these practices as immoral and inhumane

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, family members of people being detained, union leaders, and the wider public

When/Where: Sunday 11/09, Vigil from 4:00-5:00PM

Across from entrance to Alligator Alcatraz on Route 41

54585 Tamiami Trl E, Ochopee, FL 34141 Coordinates: 25.861821,-80.898036

Why: The vigil, which is on its 15th week, has drawn people from all walks of life who are opposed to the cruelty, immorality, and lawlessness of the Trump administration's ICE operations, detentions, and disappearances, that are tearing families and communities apart.

This past week masked, armed ICE agents terrorized a preschool in Chicago, pushing their way in, searching classrooms and dragging out a teacher who screamed "I have papers" in Spanish. She has a pending asylum case and has work authorization. Children and parents were traumatized and are calling for an end to ICE operations in their community. In LA, the Guardian reports that masked, heavily armed ICE agents arrested a US citizen in the parking lot of a Home Depot store and drove off with his two-year old daughter who is also a citizen. While the child has now been released, the man is still in custody.

"Under the authorization of the federal government, ICE terror operations are unfolding daily across the country traumatizing children who have been <u>zip-tied naked</u>, <u>separated from their families</u>, driven off in cars by ICE agents without parents, and detained," said Noelle Damico, Director of Social Justice at the Workers Circle, a Jewish social justice organization. "These vicious ICE operations are a violation of the Constitution, of international law, and of common human decency. And we'll be here every week to say no ICE violence and terror and to stand shoulder to shoulder for human rights."

We've been out here every Sunday for 15 weeks calling attention to the inhumane treatment that's going on behind the gates. And we've been out here, calling attention to ice tactics that have been terrorizing people in our local communities here and across the nation," said the Rev. Tony Fisher, Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples. "This is not who we are as a people and so faith leaders and leaders of conscience from across the state join together here each week to speak from our shared values that call us to respect the dignity and worthiness of every human being.

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

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