



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Garland:

We write to express our concern regarding the continued operation of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Adelanto Processing Center in California and urge you to halt efforts to admit new detainees and immediately close the facility permanently.

The Adelanto ICE Processing Center, operated by the GEO Group, has a long and troubling history of documented human rights abuses, including inadequate medical care, poor living conditions, neglect and mistreatment, and even deaths that ICE has deemed preventable¹. Numerous investigations and reports from nonprofit organizations², federal³ and state⁴ oversight agencies, and news organizations⁵ have highlighted the facility's persistent failure to meet basic standards of care and human decency.

In November of 2023, Fox News reported⁶ that ICE was on the verge of closing the Adelanto ICE Processing Center. ICE subsequently confirmed that a task order to determine the facility's

¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4598395-Ddr-Azurdia>;
<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrGonzalez.pdf>; <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2891933-2015AdelantoMorales.html>

² [Detained Immigrants Denied Access to Attorneys and Basic Medical Care at Desert View Annex Facility | ACLU of Southern California \(aclusocal.org\)](https://www.aclusocal.org/document/detained-immigrants-denied-access-to-attorneys-and-basic-medical-care-at-desert-view-annex-facility)

³ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23873555-17-adelantodetention-facility>;
<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6278922-HQ-Part2-Copy.html>;
https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/21_0625_crlretention_memo_to_ice_adelanto_processing_center_redacted_508.pdf;
<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Mga/2018/oig-18-86-sep18.pdf>;
<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-06/OIG-19-47-Jun19.pdf>; https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/final_inspection_report_1.pdf; https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/now_geo_final_1.pdf

⁴ [California Department of Justice, Immigration Detention in California, January 2021, at p. 33, 34, 42, 44 et seq.](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20210127.aspx)

⁵ [Tom Dreisbach, "Government's own experts found 'barbaric' and 'negligent' conditions in ICE detention," NPR, Aug. 26, 2023](https://www.npr.org/2023/08/26/1188888888)

future was expected before December 19, 2023. In response to this reporting, 20 Members of Congress reiterated to the Administration our concerns⁷ regarding the dire conditions inside the facility and urged its immediate closure on December 18, 2023. Instead of announcing a decision on the deadline of December 19, 2023, ICE extended⁸ the task order first until February 19, 2024⁹, and then once more until September 30, 2024. As this task order remains unresolved, on June 3, 2024, the Department of Justice filed a motion¹⁰ to remove the intake prohibition that has been in place at the Adelanto facility since 2020. This court-ordered intake prohibition was implemented following ICE's failure¹¹ to prevent a widespread COVID-19 infection at the facility, putting inmates' health at risk. Repealing the prohibition would allow for Adelanto to continue its intake of detainees, even in the face of widespread evidence of the facility's abysmal conditions.

As we approach another deadline for the conclusion of this task order, we write to again to express our support for the permanent closure of the Adelanto ICE Processing Center, a facility that has undermined basic human rights and continues to expose the remaining detainees to risk of illness, injury, and even death. Further, we urge the Department of Justice to cease their pursuit of removing the intake ban in the *Roman v. Wolf* case, which will only lead to placing more detainees in harm's way.

The decision to close this dangerous facility is long overdue. As Members of Congress, we have been sounding the alarm on Adelanto for over a decade¹² and will continue to fight for the protection of human rights regardless of immigration status.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

⁶ Adam Shaw, "ICE to close Calif. facility able to hold 2,000 illegal immigrants amid ongoing crisis: sources" November 30th 2023, Fox News.

⁷ [12_21_23_final-letter-to-dhs-urging-closure-of-adelanto-ice-detention-facility-version-4-12-21-2023-02-50-pm.pdf \(house.gov\)](#)

⁸ [Statement by ICE spokesperson Jenny Burke on the Adelanto ICE Processing Facility | ICE](#)

⁹ [Statement by ICE spokesperson Jenny Burke on the Adelanto ICE Processing Facility | ICE](#)

¹⁰ [Biden admin pushes to reopen immigrant detention center amid lingering COVID-era freeze | Fox News](#)

¹¹ [Judge orders changes at Adelanto immigrant detention center - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

¹² [Congressional Letter to ICE about Adelanto Conditions, July 14, 2015](#)