

April 12, 2022

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Glades County Commissioners  
PO Box 10  
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Dear Glades County Commissioners:

As faith-leaders of diverse backgrounds, we write to strongly urge you to end the contract with the Department of Homeland Security for the continued operation of Glades County Detention Center as an ICE immigration detention center.

An alarming number of complaints documenting similar human rights abuses have come to our attention and cause us grave concern. As leaders in your community, you have a responsibility to keep community members safe, even those who are incarcerated or detained. We want to bring to your attention the pervasive medical neglect, unlawful use of toxic chemicals, sexual abuse, distribution of contaminated food, discrimination, and death threats from Glades County staff that have taken place in this facility. It has even been brought to our attention that video surveillance footage continues to be deleted, which undermines the ability to fully investigate and address these issues.

Motivated and guided by our faith, it is our obligation to speak up for those who are being mistreated and who are suffering. Our communities are composed of people from all walks of life, immigrants, and non-immigrants alike, and we need to ensure that everyone is treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve.

While we understand that this is a decision that will have impacts on your community and we don't take that lightly, we also urge you to think about the repercussions this has on those detained, their families, and loved ones. Doing the right thing is not always easy, but what makes a strong leader is having the courage and character to make these difficult decisions even when they are tough. We can disagree about public policy, but we should be able to agree on basic human dignity.

This month you have an opportunity to put an end to the infractions that have taken place in your community. We urge you to end this contract and the suffering that it has caused so many families once and for all.

Sincerely,

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