



AI Group 48 August 2025 Newsletter

Next Meeting August 14th On Zoom

Take the 7-Day Challenge to Help Stop Starvation in Gaza

Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip are facing horrifying levels of starvation—and now, Israel has turned aid sites into death traps.

Under Israel's new militarized "aid" system—implemented by the U.S.-Israel-backed "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation" (GHF)—hundreds have been killed and thousands injured while trying to reach distribution points.

Amnesty's researchers are documenting the unthinkable: families are forced to choose between starvation and being shot. Infants are dying from malnutrition. Mothers can't produce milk because their bodies are breaking down. Meanwhile, warehouses of aid sit untouched.

Israel is blocking food, clean water, medical supplies, and fuel from legitimate humanitarian organizations. The U.S. must stop backing and funding this system.

Take one action per day to help build pressure and momentum. You can start this challenge any day. Do it solo or with friends. What matters most is that we act now. Start [here](#).



Urgent Action: Release Pediatrician and Hospital Director

NAME AND PRONOUN: Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya (he/him).

On December 27, 2024, the Israeli military arbitrarily detained Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, a pediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan hospital in Mashrou' Beit Lahiya in the North Gaza governorate, along with other hospital staff and patients receiving treatment. The raid, the latest in a series of attacks on healthcare facilities in North Gaza over the past three months, put Kamal Adwan, the last remaining major hospital in the area, out of service.

Earlier, in October 2024, Israeli forces raided the hospital and detained medical staff and patients. On December 12, 2023, Israeli forces had raided the same hospital, also arresting staff and patients. While that raid put the hospital out of service, it was thanks to the efforts and dedication of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and his colleagues that the hospital managed to re-open and resume its work.

From January to September 2024, the hospital received the wounded from across North of Wadi Gaza, including Gaza City, who could not seek medical attention elsewhere due to the establishment by the Israeli army of the so-called Netzarim Corridor that has split the Gaza Strip down the middle. Its staff treated those wounded in attacks on starving people queuing for flour and aid, known by Palestinians as the "flour massacres" as well as those wounded in other strikes and shelling. Throughout that period, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and his colleagues provided human rights and humanitarian organizations with reliable information about the health situation.

Since October 2024, Israeli forces have been waging a devastating and concentrated offensive on the North Gaza Governorate, placing the whole area under near-total siege, cutting it off from Gaza City, killing and injuring thousands of civilians, and forcibly displacing most of the area's remaining inhabitants. During those months and until the December 27 raid, Kamal Adwan hospital was effectively the last lifeline for those who remained in North Gaza governorate, estimated at just 75,000. Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya was their voice.

During Israel's military campaign and its ongoing genocide against

Graphics used are either in the public domain or from Amnesty International

Palestinians in Gaza, Israel has arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared hundreds of Palestinian healthcare workers from Gaza without charges or trial. Health workers have been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, held in incommunicado detention, or subjected to conditions amounting to enforced disappearance.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, like many health workers before him, was detained while caring for his patients and carrying out his medical duties. On January 9, the Israeli Magistrate's Court in Ashkelon extended his detention without charge, under the Unlawful Combatants Law, until February 13; and they extended the ban on Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya meeting a lawyer until January 22. They continue to refuse to disclose his whereabouts.

Attacks by Israeli forces have severely impacted health workers and medical facilities and crushed the healthcare system. The UN Human Rights Office documented at least 136 strikes on 27 hospitals and 12 other medical facilities, resulting in significant casualties among doctors, nurses and other civilians. Israel's decimation of the healthcare system in Gaza forms part of its deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians, as prohibited under the Genocide Convention.

Sample Letter:

On December 27, 2024, the Israeli military raided Kamal Adwan hospital in Mashrou' Beit Lahiya and arbitrarily detained its director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, along with other medical staff and patients. The raid put the hospital, the last functioning major medical facility in the North Gaza governorate, out of service. For months, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya has been the most prominent voice for Gaza's decimated healthcare sector. Israeli authorities must immediately release him. Pending his release, they must disclose his whereabouts, grant him access to a lawyer, ensure his protection from torture and other ill-treatment, and provide him with adequate healthcare.

I am writing to you to demand the immediate release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, a pediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip, who was arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared by Israeli forces on December 27, 2024, along with other hospital staff and patients, following a deadly raid on the hospital, which put it out of service.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, 51, has for months acted as

one of the most prominent voices of Gaza's decimated healthcare sector; providing information about the healthcare situation in the North Gaza governorate, particularly since Israeli forces laid a near-total siege to the area since October 6, 2024. He continued to bear witness and treat children despite the killing of his son in October 2024.

Testimonies collected by Amnesty International and other human rights groups reveal a dreadful reality inside Israeli prisons and detention centers, where Palestinian detainees, including health workers, face systematic torture and other ill-treatment.

I urge you to secure the release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and all other Palestinians forcibly disappeared and arbitrarily detained by Israel. Pending Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya's release, I urge you to disclose his whereabouts and ensure his protection from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including coercion. Also pending his release, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya must be granted access to legal counsel and adequate medical care while in detention.

Yours sincerely,

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.

- Click [here](#) to let us know the actions you took on Urgent Action 3.25.

Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi Military Advocate General
Israel Defense Forces
Fax: +972(0)35694526
Email: pazar@idf.il
Dear Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi,

CC: Israeli Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Michael Herzog
3514 International Drive, NW,
Washington DC 20008
Email: consular@washington.mfa.gov.il

Please take action as soon as possible until September 4, 2025

Israel/OPT: Israeli Organizations Conclude Israel Committing Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza in Another Milestone for Accountability Efforts

July 28th, 2025 Following the landmark publication of two reports by leading Israeli human rights organizations B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, which concluded that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, Amnesty International's Secretary General, Agnès Callamard, said:

"With the publication of these two reports, B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel become the first two Israeli organizations to state it loud and clear, based on meticulous documentation and research: Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. This is another milestone in the human rights community's efforts to hold Israeli authorities accountable for their crimes against Palestinians.

"Amid ongoing efforts by the Israeli government to crack down on the work of Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, such publications demanded courage and unyielding commitment to justice and accountability. Their findings must be heeded by the international community and translated into action to stop Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, end its unlawful occupation of Palestinian Territory, and dismantle its system of apartheid against all Palestinians whose rights Israel controls.

"B'Tselem's report builds on a large body of work undertaken for decades to document Israel's crimes under international law and demonstrate the cloak of impunity that has sheltered Israeli authorities from accountability. The report's findings on the occupied West Bank, including Israel's campaign of forcible transfer, are particularly damning and illustrate the importance of twinning the call to stop Israel's genocide with clear demands to end its unlawful occupation of Palestinian Territory and dismantle its system of apartheid.

"Physicians for Human Rights Israel's report comprehensively documents Israel's deliberate and systematic destruction of the healthcare system in Gaza. Taking the violations against the healthcare system and healthcare workers in their totality, its harrowing examination clearly lays out how the damage and destruction of the healthcare system in Gaza is not merely a byproduct of war, but rather part of a deliberate and calculated policy to destroy Palestin-

ian lives in Gaza in what amounts to genocide.

"The publication of these reports coincides with the start of the UN conference on Palestine in New York. Their unequivocal findings add to the inescapable call for participating states to recognize Israel's action against Palestinians in Gaza for what it is: genocide. States know their obligations; there is no more time for performative debates, they must take urgent and effective measures to end Israel's impunity for its human rights violations against Palestinians and stop its genocide, apartheid and unlawful occupation. Palestinians have already suffered irreversible harm; the horrors inflicted will require generations to recover from. States must not miss yet another opportunity to change course, restore some faith in international law and enable Palestinians to begin their recovery process."

The report published by B'Tselem today, titled *Our Genocide*, examines Israel's actions in Gaza since October 7, together with statements made by Israeli officials and commanders, and the broader context of Israel's system of apartheid, decades of dehumanization of Palestinians and a pervasive culture of impunity. In addition to focusing on killings, causing bodily and mental harm, and patterns of inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the group in Gaza, B'Tselem's report analyzes escalating patterns of destruction and annihilation in the occupied West Bank, including forcible transfer, raising the alarm that Israel is "replicating in the West Bank – albeit on a smaller scale – some of the patterns it is implementing in Gaza."

The medical-legal analysis published by Physicians for Human Rights Israel documents Israel's deliberate destruction of the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip and other systems critical for the survival of the Palestinian civilian population. Building on visual evidence and the testimonies of healthcare workers and other Palestinian victims, as well as the organization's own legal work challenging Israel's blockade, the report documents direct and indiscriminate attacks on healthcare facilities in Gaza, blocking of medical aid, arbitrary and sweeping restrictions on medical evacuations of critically sick and wounded Palestinians outside the Gaza strip, and the detention, torture and killings of healthcare workers.

Killing of Palestinian West-Bank Activist Awda Al-Hathaleen Demands Justice and Accountability

JULY 30, 2025 Reacting to the killing of Awda Al-Hathaleen Amnesty International's Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns, Erika Guevara Rosas, said:

"The cold-blooded killing of Awda, a dedicated human rights defender and father of three young children, is a devastating tragedy and a brutal reminder of the relentless violence faced by Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank.

Awda Al-Hathaleen, who had recently warned UK Members of Parliament about threats to his life, was entitled to protection. His killing is the cruel consequence of Israel's sustained policy of forcibly expulsion of Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank, including Masafer Yatta.

The deliberate failure of Israeli authorities to conduct genuine and impartial investigations into settler attacks against Palestinians demands immediate and independent international investigations into this killing and other such attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Investigations must address the role of Israeli authorities, such as the Israeli police and military who directly contribute to or enable settler violence and routinely fail to prevent killings, assaults and other violations of Palestinians' human rights."

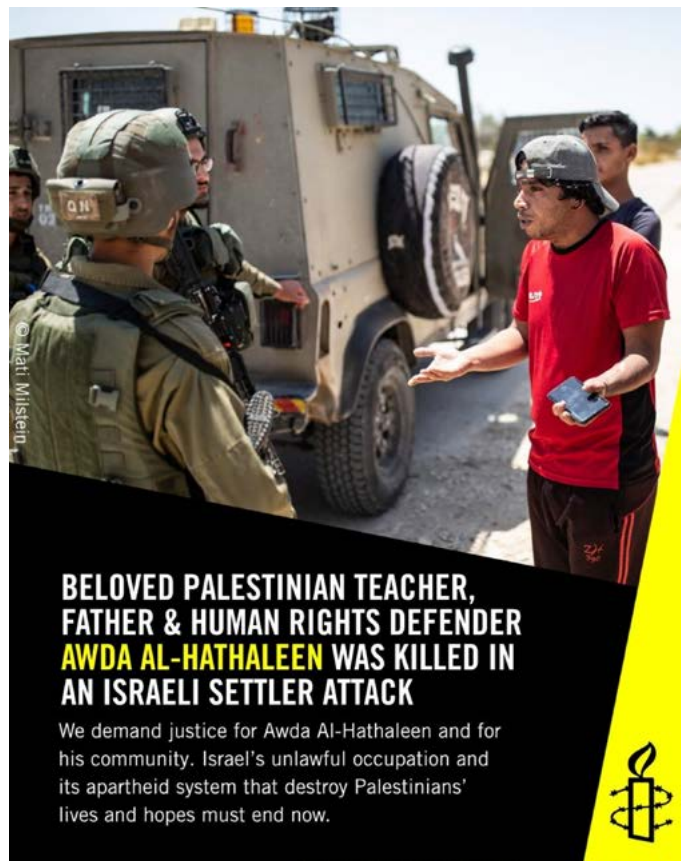
"We demand justice for Awda Al-Hathaleen and an end to the systemic and deeply entrenched impunity that Israeli settlers and state authorities have enjoyed for far too long. Impunity for state-backed settler violence is fueling further violence against Palestinians, who are left with no protection and no justice. Awda Al-Hathaleen's killing is not the first, but it must be the last."

Yesterday, Awda was fatally shot. The incident occurred as state-backed settlers, accompanied by a bulldozer, were destroying a sewage pipeline and running over olive trees in Umm Al-Kheir in Masafer Yatta. When residents attempted to intervene, another resident of the village was injured by the same bulldozer, causing him severe concussion.

Today, Yinon Levy, a settler from an illegal outpost in the occupied West Bank and on EU and UK sanctions lists was arrested in relation to his alleged responsibility for the killing – after a court hearing, he was released to house-arrest. An initial Amnesty investigation had indicated that Levy was seen threatening residents with his gun, while armed Israeli police and soldiers were present. It remains unclear if others who

may bear responsibility, including as accomplices in the killing have also been subject to investigation or arrest.

Since October 7, 2023, settler violence in the occupied West Bank has significantly increased, with human rights organizations consistently documenting the Israeli authorities' failure to protect Palestinians and hold perpetrators accountable. This coercive environment, characterized by violence and institutionalized discrimination, deliberately drives Palestinians off their land, constituting the war crime of unlawful transfer. International leaders must exert pressure on Israel to cease its unlawful occupation and dismantle its system of apartheid against Palestinians, ensuring those who perpetuate crimes under international law and other human violations are held accountable.



**BELOVED PALESTINIAN TEACHER,
FATHER & HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
AWDA AL-HATHALEEN WAS KILLED IN
AN ISRAELI SETTLER ATTACK**

We demand justice for Awda Al-Hathaleen and for his community. Israel's unlawful occupation and its apartheid system that destroy Palestinians' lives and hopes must end now.



Mourning the murder of Awda Al-Hathaleen

This was a man, only 31 years old, who was one of the leaders of a Bedouin Village in the South Hebron Hills, Umm Al Kheir. What a loss of a man who lived a non-violent resistance to the settlers in the Carmel Settlement, only yards away and the menacing “Shimon” who harassed the village almost daily from the other direction. Hill Top Youth added to the constant hypervigilance this community had to maintain. He was the English teacher, the constant activist, and the best of the hospitality of the village. He leaves this life empty of one of the kindest, most delightful individuals imaginable. His wife, Hanadi had dreams and aspirations that were stymied by the harsh life in this illegally occupied West Bank very southern village.

I came to know Awda through a short 10 day volunteer experience through CJNV. Center for Jewish Non-Violence took solidarity groups to this village over a number of years. Awda interacted graciously with hundreds of international activists, helping with “protection presence” and “bearing witness” of his village. We took our directions from the villagers themselves: taking night shifts to alert the men of the village if anything suspicious appeared on their land. No matter what the hour, we called Awda to notify him of intruders, yellow licensed plate vehicles on the road, or an agitating Hill Top Youth pretending

to shepherd, but really looking to frighten the children walking to school or just milling around near the property line. It was Awda’s phone number that was on our speed dial. This was just one way he was generous with his time, sleeping hours, and playful nature in the depths of a most serious land grab, annexation, house demolitions, and sheer evil efforts to persuade the villagers to pack up their sheep and leave the land.

Our guest bunk room was very near Awda’s family home. No matter what time of night, I would look out my window and see him, rocking in a chair, chain smoking, nervously worrying about the needs and safety of the village.

He was a gifted communicator, listening carefully to each person he interacted with and making them feel as though they were special acquaintances. While his murderer is comfortable in his “home arrest”, 16 young Palestine men from Umm Al Kheir have been taken away to detention.

I join the whole village in mourning the loss of an example of true non-violent resistance. Many will miss this humane, compassionate, hard working teacher/activist.

Dale Oller



Group Coordinators

Marty Fromer and Terrie Rodello

Treasurer -- Tena Hoke

Newsletter -- Daniel Webb

OR Area Coordinator -- Marty Fromer

Indonesia actions -- Max White

China / Uyghur actions -- Marty Fromer

Iran POC -- Tena Hoke

Concert Tabling -- Will Ware

Central Africa/ Oregon State Death

Penalty Abolition-- Terrie Rodello

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Urgent Action: United States -- Jury Voted for Life, Execution Scheduled

NAME AND PRONOUNS: David Roberts (He, him)

The State of Alabama is planning to execute 59-year-old David Roberts by nitrogen gas on August 21st, 2025. He has been diagnosed with serious mental disabilities, including paranoid schizophrenia. His lawyers are challenging his competency for execution. The jury voted 7-5 that he be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole, but the judge overrode this and imposed the death penalty. In 2017, Alabama became the last state to end judicial override but did not apply the law retroactively. His case was also marked by ineffective legal assistance at his 1992 murder trial. We call on the Governor to commute this death sentence.

David Roberts was charged with the capital murder of "AJ", the girlfriend of the man ("WS") in whose house Roberts was staying. On April 22nd, 1992, AJ was shot and killed in the house, which was then set on fire. David Roberts, then 26, became a prime suspect and was subjected to 25 hours of questioning without a lawyer present. He made a series of inconsistent statements including two implicating himself in murder and arson.

In November 1992, the prosecutor offered a deal whereby David Roberts would plead guilty in return for a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. However, this was not relayed to David Roberts by his lawyer until the first day of trial, December 14th, 1992, when the lawyer asked his client to enter a guilty plea. David Roberts refused to, and the trial began. The defence lawyer was ill-prepared, having hired no experts, including to assess his client's psychological health and history. The same lawyer was later suspended by the Alabama Bar Association for misconduct in other cases, eventually losing his license to practice law. International law requires that anyone facing the death penalty be provided "adequate legal assistance at all stages of proceedings".

A day before the murder, WS had been on trial on charges of burning down his own furniture store for insurance.

David Roberts' father was to be a witness against him, and AJ was too. At David Roberts' trial, the prosecutor acknowledged that WS may have been involved in the crime of April 22nd, 1992 but told the jury that this was not an issue for them. On appeal, this comment was deemed to have been a fair reply to the defence closing argument that WS had "some

kind of power" over David Roberts, and that no one knew exactly what had happened at the murder scene. The jury convicted David Roberts on December 16th, 1992 after a two-day trial. At a sentencing hearing on the same day, by seven votes to five, the jury voted for a sentence of life imprisonment without parole. Eighteen months later, on May 4th, 1994, the judge overrode the jury and imposed the death penalty. In 1997, the Alabama

Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that the judge had improperly excluded mitigating evidence at the original sentencing hearing.

On remand, with no further jury input, the judge again sentenced David Roberts to death, thereby again overriding the jury's 1992 vote for a sentence of life imprisonment without parole.

In a dissent in another Alabama case in 2013, two US Supreme Court Justices noted that 95 death sentences had been passed in Alabama on judicial override since 1976, at a rate 10 times higher than overrides in the other direction. Alabama had become a "clear outlier" on life-to-death overrides, and the Justices concluded that "the only answer that is supported by empirical evidence" as to why this was the case, was that "Alabama judges, who are elected in partisan proceedings, appear to have succumbed to electoral pressures". Alabama got rid of its override system in 2017, the last state in the USA to end the practice, but the legislation only applies to new cases. This left Alabama on the wrong side of the



retroactive leniency principle, which according to the UN Human Rights Committee, “finds partial expression” in article 15(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by the USA in 1992) requiring States parties “to grant offenders the benefit of lighter penalties adopted after the commission of the offence”. Three of the jurors from the 1992 trial have supported clemency.

On death row, David Roberts has been diagnosed by prison doctors as having paranoid schizophrenia, with symptoms including psychosis, delusions and hallucinations. According to a psychologist who has reviewed the prison medical record, the severity of David Roberts’ disorder and “how all-encompassing from the record it appears to be” called into serious question his competency for execution under US law, namely whether he has a rational understanding of the reason for and reality of his punishment. A state court judge has ordered a temporary stay of execution pending a psychiatric evaluation after David Roberts’ current lawyers filed a motion that he is not competent. The state has asked for an “expedited” assessment. It is not yet clear how quickly this evaluation will be conducted and how long the stay will remain in place. The use of the death penalty on those with severe mental disabilities is prohibited under international law and standards.

There have been 1,633 executions in the US since 1976, when the US Supreme Court upheld new capital statutes.

Alabama has carried out 81 executions since resuming in 1983. Between 1983 and 2007, it carried out 38 executions, and in the 15 years since 2011, it has already carried out 32. There have been 26 executions in the USA in 2025, three of them in Alabama. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases unconditionally.

Sample Letter

Dear Governor,

I urge you to commute the death sentence of David Roberts who has been on death row for three decades. He has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and symptoms of psychosis, delusions and hallucinations, which may have undermined his ability to assist in his defence. It also raises questions about whether he has a rational understanding of the reality of and reason for his punishment. The use of the death penalty on those with severe mental disabilities is prohibited

under international law and standards.

At his trial, the jury decided against the death penalty, with seven of the 12 jurors voting for a sentence of life imprisonment without parole. Eighteen months after the trial, the judge overrode the jury and sentenced David Roberts to death. In 2017, you signed into law repeal of the jury override law, making Alabama the last state in the USA to do so. However, the law is not retroactive, denying David Roberts and others the benefit of the reform, thereby contravening a key principle in criminal and international human rights law. I would urge you to apply the spirit of this principle to your clemency consideration.

Not only did seven of the jurors vote for life without parole, but the Marion County District Attorney apparently considered this a sufficient sentence when he offered a plea deal to that effect. This deal was scuppered when David Roberts’ lawyer – who was subsequently suspended for his conduct in other cases – did not even tell his client of it until the first day of the trial when he asked him to plead guilty, which David Roberts refused to do. The lawyer was ill-prepared to defend David Roberts and within two days he had been convicted of capital murder.

The power of executive clemency can address injustices the judiciary has been unable or unwilling to remedy. I appeal to you to halt David Roberts’ execution and to commute his death sentence.

Yours sincerely,

TAKE ACTION:

Write an appeal in your own words or use the model letter provided.

Governor of Alabama Kay Ivey
Office of the Governor of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
USA
Email: info@governor.alabama.gov

Please take action as soon as possible until
August 21st, 2025

Urgent Action: Shut Down “Alligator Alcatraz”

The Everglades Detention Facility, also known as “Alligator Alcatraz”, opened in July 2025 as part of the Trump administration’s efforts to expand the reach of its mass deportation machine by partnering with state and local authorities. Within weeks of its opening, there have been reports of unsanitary conditions including overflowing toilets and no working showers - lack of medical care, and minimal access to lawyers. The only answer is for the facility to be shut down and for US authorities to dismantle the mass detention and deportation machine.

The Everglades Detention Facility, also known as “Alligator Alcatraz”, opened in July 2025, with the capacity to detain around 3000 people. The facility, located in a swampy region of Florida, is part of the Trump administration’s efforts to massively ramp up immigration detention and deportations. It is also emblematic of the administration’s cruel and racist attacks against migrants and people seeking safety.

Around the time of the facility’s opening, President Trump said that the detention facility will teach the individuals detained there “how to run away from an alligator”. The Florida Republican Party (the political party that Trump is affiliated with) tweeted: “Florida’s gator-guarded prison for illegal aliens. Surrounded by swamps & pythons, it’s a one-way ticket to regret.”

Mere days after opening, reports of the facility’s appalling and inhuman conditions emerged, including: unsanitary conditions, with inadequate access to clean water, hygiene supplies, and proper sanitation; lack of adequate medical care, despite housing individuals with chronic illnesses and urgent health needs; minimal access to lawyers and legal infor-

mation, undermining the ability of individuals to challenge their detention; psychological harm and fear due to the facility’s location in a dangerous and isolated environment.

Immigration detention has long been a problem in the United States, with a history of abuse and cruel conditions. Nevertheless, the US has continued to

fund increased detention without improved conditions. As of July 13, 2025, 56,816 individuals were detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in more than 100 facilities across the United States. Enhanced enforcement and detention as part of the Trump administration’s plans to remove at least one million individuals from the US in 2025 are resulting in overcrowding and deteriorating detention conditions. In 2025, there have already been 13 deaths in ICE custody, which is more than the total number of deaths (12) in 2024. Most recently, President Trump signed H.R.1, the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill”,

into law, which directs 170.7 billion USD toward immigration and border enforcement over a four-year period ending in September 2029.

“Alligator Alcatraz” is a new type of facility that is being operated and paid for by the State of Florida, rather than the federal government. While Florida is expecting reimbursement for the costs of the facility from ICE’s new influx of funds for immigration enforcement, it also sets a dangerous precedent for how states can partner with the federal government to expand the reach of its mass detention and deportation machine. The State of Florida has also passed laws that criminalize migration and permit racial profiling.

Immigration detention is only allowed in the



most exceptional of circumstances. The enjoyment of personal liberty must remain any individual's default condition. Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, like anyone else, must benefit from a legal presumption of liberty. Detention is only appropriate when authorities can demonstrate in each individual case that it is necessary and proportionate to the objective being achieved and on grounds prescribed by law and that alternatives would not be effective.

Sample Letter

Dear Governor DeSantis,

I am writing to demand that you shut down the Everglades Detention Center, also known as "Alligator Alcatraz", which was recently opened in Florida and is currently housing hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers.

I am concerned about reports of conditions at "Alligator Alcatraz" being appalling. Within weeks of its opening, there are already significant reports of unsanitary conditions, lack of medical care, people stuffed into cages with minimal access to bathrooms, poor water quality, and minimal access to lawyers.

Immigration detention is cruel, unnecessary, and rife with abuses. This facility's intentional cruelty is meant to criminalize and strike fear in immigrant communities. The facility is also located within the Everglades, a fragile ecosystem and one of the state's most ecologically sensitive areas. I am concerned about the impact of pollution, water quality, and efforts to restore the Everglades and protected endangered species.

"Alligator Alcatraz" is a human rights disaster. You must take immediate action to close this facility and ensure that the individuals detained inside are released back into their communities where they can navigate their immigration cases supported by lawyers and outside of detention. You must also end Florida's laws that criminalize its immigrant residents and end its participation in President Trump's mass incarceration and deportation machine.

The Everglades Detention Center is inhumane, irresponsible, and life-threatening. I urge you to shut it down immediately and ensure that Florida is not complicit in these abuses.

Yours sincerely,

TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter provided as a guide or use your own words.

Click [here](#) to report your action(s) on UA 70.25.

Governor of Florida Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399, USA
Email:
GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Please taken action as soon as possible until January 31, 2026

Leaked U.S. State Department Human Rights Report Reveals Alarming Omissions on Global Violations

August 7, 2025--In response to leaked chapters from the forthcoming U.S. State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Amanda Klasing, Amnesty International USA's national director of government relations and advocacy said the following:

"The leaked chapters of the latest Annual Human Rights Report reveal a disturbing effort by the Trump administration to purposefully fail to fully capture the alarming and growing attacks on human rights in certain countries around the globe.

"Alarming, we understand that the mandate from Secretary Rubio was for those who wrote the original drafts of the reports to go back and wipe out portions of the reports that had already been written – to delete stories from survivors of human rights violations and to ignore some cases that exemplify the kinds of repression happening in certain countries. The secretary's instructions were to cut everything not legislatively mandated, but the leaked documents appear to show effort to narrow the scope of what the world hears about human rights abuses around the world. -- See the full press release [here](#).