

URGENT ACTION

“ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ” FINALLY SHUT DOWN

The Everglades Detention Facility, also known as “Alligator Alcatraz”, opened in the state of Florida in July 2025 to detain migrants and asylum seekers. Finally, after nearly a year of horrors, the Florida governor announced on 25 June 2026 that the facility has finally been shut down. Research by Amnesty International concluded that people arbitrarily detained in the facility were being held in inhumane and unsanitary conditions including overflowing toilets with fecal matter seeping into where people are sleeping, limited access to showers, exposure to insects without protective measures, lights on 24 hours a day, poor quality food and water, and lack of privacy – including cameras above the toilets

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

The Everglades Detention Facility, “Alligator Alcatraz”, operated as a deliberate system of dehumanization and abuse: there were cruel and degrading conditions, including overflowing sewage, shackling of people, denial of medical care, sleep deprivation, and punishment practices that amounted to torture.

Amnesty International launched a global campaign aligned with the release of the report, “Torture and enforced disappearances in the Sunshine State; Human Rights Violations at “Alligator Alcatraz” and Krome in Florida.” The report launch included an art exhibit at the SCOPE Art Show as part of Miami Art Week, billboards in the state of Florida, and thousands of petition signatures and online action emails to Governor DeSantis from sections around the world. The report and subsequent campaigning also resulted in a U.S. Congressional investigation into the facility.

Under the Trump administration, the use of immigration detention in the United States has substantially increased. As of May 2026, more than 60,000 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 2026, there have already been 19 deaths in ICE custody. Thirty-one individuals died in ICE custody in 2025 which was the highest number of recorded deaths in decades. ICE has adopted a policy which makes individuals who entered the US irregularly ineligible for bond meaning that they are forced to remain in detention for the duration of their removal proceedings. This includes individuals with pending asylum claims who are now being detained until their claims are decided. Under international law, asylum seekers should not be penalized for their manner of entry into a country. They should also not be removed from a country until their claim for refugee protection has been properly assessed through a fair refugee status determination process.

People detained inside “Alligator Alcatraz” were mostly transferred to other immigration detention facilities, including the Krome detention center. The U.S. still operates a massive immigration detention machine, and Amnesty continues to call upon the United States to dismantle the mass detention and deportation machine.

NAME: People at risk detained in “Alligator Alcatraz” (they/them)

THIS IS THE THIRD AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 70/25

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR51/1108/2026/en/>

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