

Statement of Daniel Tse
On Behalf of Coalition of Immigrant Rights CSOs
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I. Presentation of the Organization & Speaker

My name is Daniel Tse. I represent a coalition of immigrant rights organizations in the United States, to provide context on the United States' increased reliance on state violence to deter and punish migration.

I speak to you today with direct, lived experience of the U.S. immigration detention regime. I have witnessed and endured its systemic human rights violations firsthand. I know, from personal and professional experience through the people we serve, what this system does to those caught inside it.

II. Plan of the Statement

This statement addresses: (1) mass, for-profit immigrant detention characterized by deplorable conditions, (2) enforced disappearances to military bases, including Guantanamo Bay, third countries, and within the interior of the United States; and (3) increasingly racially discriminatory interior and border enforcement and due process violations against noncitizens.

III. Statement

1. Mass Immigrant Detention

Previous Recommendations in 2020 UPR: Previous recommendations called for the U.S. to stop incarcerating migrants, including migrant children, and guarantee the rights of migrants.

New Developments: Today, the U.S. detains over 65,000 immigrants—the highest number in its history. To expand detention capacity, the U.S. has reopened family detention centers, subjecting unaccompanied children to prolonged detention. The U.S. now incarcerates immigrants in federal prisons, temporary processing sites, military bases, large warehouses, and detention centers previously shuttered due to documented human rights abuses. In the past year alone, the U.S. government has opened 152 new detention centers across 39 states.

The U.S. purposely relies on the punishing conditions of these facilities to force immigrants to abandon their claims for protection. 90% of immigrant detention in the U.S. is run by private prison companies that maximize their profits by denying detained people basic human necessities and sufficient medical care. Immigrants are forced to sleep on floors, denied access to food and water, denied medical care, locked in torturous solitary confinement, and isolated from legal services. The U.S. government has increasingly detained pregnant and postpartum people despite heightened medical risk, resulting in documented miscarriages in detention and separation of mothers from their breastfeeding infants. At the same time, the government has abruptly ended the claims processing system for third-party, off-site medical providers, resulting in life-threatening lapses in medical care for detained people.

Since the last 2020 UPR review, at least 78 people have died in these facilities. The mortality rate in ICE custody is at its highest level in over a decade and has more than doubled since the

Trump administration's second term began. Independent medical experts found that 95% of analyzed deaths were preventable had the U.S. government provided appropriate medical care.

Recommendations: We recommend that the government of the United States:

- Abolish immigration detention and release all people currently detained, including immigrant children, and implement non-carceral community-based alternatives;
- In the interim, end the use of solitary confinement in immigration detention and ensure sufficient medical care for detained people to prevent further deaths in custody;
- Abolish government collusion schemes with private prison companies operating for-profit immigration detention facilities in the U.S.

2. Enforced Disappearances

Previous Recommendations in 2020 UPR: Previous recommendations called for the U.S. to step up measures to protect and ensure the rights of migrants and ensure that the detention and separation of migrant families and asylum seekers are not used as punitive measures to deter irregular entry into the country.

New Developments: The U.S. government has systematically transferred asylum seekers, including individuals with valid, active immigration status such as Temporary Protected Status, to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, a military facility with no independent oversight and no meaningful access to counsel or courts.

Our client, a Haitian man who was detained at Guantanamo, describes being moved through chain immigration detention centers in the interior of the U.S. before being disappeared, without notice to family or legal representatives, to Guantanamo. Alongside 30 others, our client was held incommunicado, transported in windowless vehicles and by boat between separate detention sites on the base, and denied any explanation of his whereabouts. Their family members attempting to locate detained individuals through the government's own ICE online detainee locator system were shown false locations within the continental United States. Our government purposely concealed these individuals' suffering at Guantanamo Bay from the outside world.

In order to increase deportations, the U.S. government continues to use third-country expulsions to remove non-citizens, including those granted relief from removal to their countries of origin. The United States has made agreements (some of which have included financial payments) with over 30 third countries to accept expelled or deported asylum seekers, people granted protection under the Refugee Convention or Convention Against Torture, migrant workers with work authorization, and other immigrants. Once transferred to the third countries, non-citizens face imprisonment, onward refoulement, denial of due process, and other human rights abuses.

Recommendations: We recommend that the government of the United States:

- Immediately end the use of Guantanamo Bay and other military facilities for immigration detention, and disclose the identities and locations of all individuals currently or previously held there;
- Implement a mechanism that accurately provides timely notice to the family members and attorneys of detained people when they are detained and transferred by the United States government, including transfers within the interior of the U.S.;

- Immediately halt transfers and removals of non-citizens to third countries and military bases. The U.S. and all countries with such agreements should end all third country removal agreements until such agreements are accompanied by a monitoring process to ensure compliance with human rights standards. All United Nations organizations, including the International Organization for Migration should cease all efforts to facilitate third country removals.

3. Racially Discriminatory Immigration Enforcement, Corruption of Humanitarian Programs, and Due Process Violations

Previous Recommendations in 2020 UPR: Previous recommendations called for the U.S. to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, end excessive use of force and racial profiling, and prohibit torture in detention.

New Developments: To fuel mass detention and deportation, the U.S. government has relied on racially discriminatory interior and border enforcement actions and violations of due process to round up immigrants living in the U.S. communities. These tactics have become increasingly militarized, violent, and deadly. At least 23 people have been shot by U.S. immigration agents since the beginning of the Trump administration's deportation campaign. At least 12 people have been killed by these shootings, including 7 U.S. citizens. Since 2010, at least 379 people have been killed in fatal encounters with immigration enforcement.

In the past year alone, accountability for immigration enforcement abuses has weakened even further after the U.S. government effectively eliminated the federal agency offices responsible for civil-rights oversight and internal review.

The U.S. government has enacted widespread workplace raids and has increased the cooperation between ICE, CBP, and local police to identify and arrest immigrants, including in sensitive locations like churches, hospitals, and elementary schools. The U.S. is currently re-detaining immigrants previously paroled into the U.S., even arresting people who appear for their asylum hearings. Immigrants who entered the U.S. without authorization are now subject to mandatory detention. The U.S. has explicitly targeted noncitizens engaged in political speech, including students who peacefully protested the genocide of Palestinians, disappearing them to isolated detention facilities in Louisiana and Texas.

The U.S. government has demonstrated racial animus through its discriminatory approach to U.S. resettlement in admitting almost exclusively White Afrikaners from South Africa under the refugee program in FY 2026, while explicitly leaving in place the indefinite and unlawful refugee ban.

Recommendations: We recommend that the government of the United States:

- Repeal all mandatory detention laws, which rely on racially discriminatory policing to subject people to mandatory immigration detention;
- Adopt the “necessary and proportional” standard for use of force and amend state and federal use of force policies to match international human rights standards;
- Fully resume refugee processing and admissions under a *nondiscriminatory framework* to protect the most at-risk refugees whose lives are in dangerous limbo, such as those conditionally-approved for resettlement in January 2025, family reunification cases, Afghans and Iraqis who assisted the U.S. missions, persecuted religious minorities under the Lautenberg Program, and unaccompanied refugee minors;

- Ensure independent oversight of immigration enforcement, including impartial investigations of use of force by ICE and Customs and Border Protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

RESOURCE ADDENDUM

Fatal Encounters with Customs and Border Patrol, <i>Southern Border Communities Coalition</i> Tracking deaths and abuse by U.S. Border Patrol officers	https://www.southernborder.org/deaths_by_border_patrol
Banished by Bargain: Third Country Deportation Watch Tracking third country removals and agreements	https://www.thirdcountrydeportationwatch.org/
Dying in Detention: Rising Deaths in an Expanding U.S. Immigration Detention System, <i>Human Rights Watch</i> (2026) Documenting and analyzing deaths in U.S. immigration detention	https://www.hrw.org/report/2026/06/25/dying-in-detention/rising-deaths-in-an-expanding-us-immigration-detention-system
Agents of Chaos and Cruelty: How the Trump Administration's National Deportation Policing Force Has Attacked American Communities, <i>ACLU</i> (2026) Documenting and analyzing deaths in U.S. immigration enforcement operations	https://www.aclu.org/publications/agents-of-chaos-and-cruelty-how-the-trump-administrations-national-deportation-policing-force-has-attacked-american-communities