

How to Support the Campaign to Shut Down Berks and End Family Detention

Suggested Messaging:

- Governor Wolf and Secretary Dallas should immediately use the full extent of their power to release the families by issuing an Emergency Removal Order or filing an injunction and sending state officials to escort families out of the prison
- The Berks Family Detention Center should be shut down as it no longer has a license and is operating against federal and state law.
- The County Commissioners should immediately drop the appeal
- ICE should be held accountable for their violation of federal law:
 - Violating human rights (indefinite detention, abuse and inhumane conditions at detention centers, etc.)
 - Violating Flores decision by continuing to incarcerate children
 - Violating state regulation by incarcerating children and parents in unlicensed facilities.
- We oppose family detention and all other forms of child incarceration
- ICE is not welcome here: once the Berks Detention Center closes, ICE should not look to other states to resume family detention

Suggested Solidarity Actions:

- Amplify messages and posts from local organizations in PA and TX by:
 - Following and retweeting posts by local organizations @vamos_juntos_ @paimmigrant @maketheroadpa @Grassroots_News
 - Hashtags: #ShutDownBerks #EndFamilyDetention #HomefortheHolidays #CloseDilley #CloseKarnes #Not1More
- Issue a press statement supporting the closure of Berks and ending family detention
- Share the petition to shut down berks and to release the families:
<http://vamosjuntos.org/petition-shut-down-berks/>
- Organize a Call in Day:
 - Governor Wolf, 717-787-2500
 - “I am calling to tell Governor to issue an Emergency Removal of the families in the Berks County Family Detention Center. No child should be incarcerated and submitted to abuse and neglect. He should order an Emergency Removal like the state has done in the past.”
 - PA Department of Human Services, Secretary Ted Dallas, 717-787-2600
 - Sample Script: “I am calling to tell Ted Dallas to issue an Emergency Removal of the families in the Berks County Family Detention Center. No child should be incarcerated and submitted to abuse and neglect. He should order an Emergency Removal like he has done in the past.”
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Sample Script: “I am calling to speak to Commissioner _____ and I am asking him to drop the appeal of the license revocation, and help close the

Berks Family Detention Center. No families deserve to be incarcerated and they should be released immediately.

- Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt: (610) 478-6136
- Commissioner Mark C. Scott: (610) 478-6136
- Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach: (484) 797-4810
- Local ICE Offices
 - Sample Script: “I am calling ICE today to speak to (PA or TX ICE officer) to tell him to end family detention and to stop operating the facility which is in violation of federal law. They should be ashamed of themselves for continuing to operate the facility after Judge Gee ordered the end of family detention months ago.”
 - PA Regional director Thomas Decker, in charge of Berks Family Detention Center, 215-656-7164
 - ICE Field office Director in Texas Enrique Lucero, in charge of Karnes and Dilley Family Detention Centers, 210-283-4711
- Organize a letter writing party:
 - Write personal notes to one (or more!) of the targets about why you think the Berks Detention Center should be closed. Include a copy of letters from the mothers in detention or the legal memo.
- Use Twitter to talk to targets:
 - PA Governor Tom Wolf: @GovernorTomWolf
 - PA DHS Secretary Ted Dallas: @SecTedDallas
 - PA Department of Human Services: @PAHumanServices
 - Texas Governor Greg Abbott: @GovAbbott
 - ICE: @ICEgov

Sample Tweets:

- .@GovernorTomWolf & @SecTedDallas you have the power to #ShutDownBerks, issue an ERO today and help #EndFamilyDetention
- .@GovernorTomWolf let the families in the Berks Detention Center go #HomefortheHolidays, issue an Emergency Removal Order today #ShutDownBerks
- .@SecTedDallas let the families in the Berks Detention Center go #HomefortheHolidays, issue an Emergency Removal Order today #ShutDownBerks
- .@GovernorTomWolf & @SecTedDallas it's time to take action and #ShutDownBerks today
- We are fighting to #EndFamilyDetention #ShutDownBerks #CloseDilley #CloseKarnes now!