

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID RESPONSE & IMMIGRANT DEFENSE NETWORK (NCRRIDN)

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Immigration Advocates Call for Transparency Regarding Mesa Verde ICE Detention Facility

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POSTED ON [FEBRUARY 20, 2019](#) BY HPANAH@SFBAR.ORG

The [Northern California Rapid Response and Immigrant Defense Network](#) (NCRRIDN), along with over 70 legal service providers, issued the statement below regarding the Mesa Verde Detention Facility. The [Justice & Diversity Center](#) of the Bar Association of San Francisco is a NCRRIDN partner organization and houses the attorney coordinator for the network.

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Over 70 legal service providers, advocacy organizations and community groups in Northern California are calling for transparency regarding the fate of individuals detained at the [Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center](#) (also referred to as the Mesa Verde Detention Facility). Following the announcement that the city of McFarland voted in closed session to end an agreement with the Geo Group Inc. to operate the facility, legal service providers and the clients they represent have not been provided clarity as to the future of the facility.

In response to the lack of information from either U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Geo Group Inc., a coalition of legal service providers issued the following statement:

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facility, and what the future holds for them. The fact that we have not been provided any information about whether they face transfer, relocation, or release, leaves legal service providers unable to mobilize and coordinate the resources that may be necessary if this facility were to be closed.

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The Mesa Verde facility houses up to 400 individuals, most without legal representation, whose cases are before the San Francisco Immigration Court. Our duty is to ensure that these individuals have access to legal support and that their due process rights are protected.

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The past termination of ICE contracts with jails in Northern California resulted in sudden transfers of numerous clients to facilities outside of our jurisdiction, and even out of state, which placed tremendous strain on our limited resources to serve the most

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vulnerable individuals in our region. Access to counsel is a fundamental right, and any plans to move detained individuals who are in the middle of legal proceedings undermine this right. The uncertainty with regards to these individuals' access to local legal service providers disrupts our ability to coordinate representation and violates the due process rights of these individuals.

Multiple inquiries to ICE and GEO have provided no clarity as to the future of the facility. Therefore we demand to uncover the truth about the future of Mesa Verde:

- ICE and GEO must provide the public clarity as to whether or not the facility is to remain open and operational.
- If the facility is to remain open, ICE and GEO must provide information regarding any changes in the administration and legal status of this facility.
- If the facility is to close, ICE must provide an exact timeline of closure, and what plans exist for the transfer, relocation or release of those detained at the facility.
- If the facility is to close, ICE must also ensure that the closure is just and fair. This includes allowing everyone who is eligible for release to be reunited with their families and community, as opposed to being sent to detention facilities hundreds of miles away from legal counsel or community support.

Signatories:

1. Northern California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (NCCIJ)
2. Northern California Rapid Response and Immigrant Defense Network (NCRRIDN)
3. Freedom for Immigrants
4. ACLU of California
5. African Advocacy Network
6. Alianza Sacramento

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10. Block by Block Organizing Network, Oakland

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11. California Sanctuary Campaign

12. Building Healthy Communities Kern

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14. Center for Gender & Refugee Studies – California

15. Central American Resource Center of Northern CA

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16. Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)

17. Cid and Macedo, Inc.

18. Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc

19. Community Justice Alliance

20. Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

21. California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) Foundation

22. Democratic Women of Kern

23. Dolores Street Community Services

24. Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

25. Faith in the Valley

26. Greenfield Walking Group

27. Humboldt Rapid Response Network

28. Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

29. Immigration Center for Women and Children

30. Immigration Task Force, Rapid Response Network of Monterey County

31. Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice

32. Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

33. International Institute of the Bay Area

34. Jakara Movement

35. Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco

36. Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants

37. Kids in Need of Defense

38. La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco

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42. Law Office of Emilio J. Huerta

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43. Law Office of Helen Lawrence

44. Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

45. Legal Services for Children

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46. Lideres Campesinas en California inc,

47. Monterey County Rapid Response Network

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48. NorCal Resist

49. North Bay Rapid Response Network: Solano, Napa and Sonoma Counties

50. Northern California Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association

51. Open Immigration Legal Services

52. Pacifica Social Justice

53. Pajaro Valley Rapid Response

54. Peninsula Temple Beth El

55. Radio Bilingüe, Inc.

56. Rapid Response Network in Santa Clara County, CA

57. Rapid Response Network of Kern

58. Sacramento ACT

59. Sacramento Immigration Coalition

60. Sacred Heart Community Service

61. San Diego Rapid Response Network

62. Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)

63. Sisters of Mercy

64. Social Justice Collaborative

65. STEP UP! Sacramento

66. Tahirih Justice Center

67. The Justice & Diversity Center of The Bar Association of San Francisco

68. The Sacramento Family Unity, Education, and Legal (FUEL) Network

69. UFW Foundation

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72. Upper Kern Democratic Club

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73. Valley Watch, Rapid Response Network

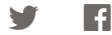
74. Vision y Compromiso

75. Watsonville Law Center

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76. Women's March Kern County

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