

# #FREEDC

Artwork by Serges Demefack

With ICE reporting an 11% COVID Rate and detained friends sharing poor conditions, we have put together a list of the pressing issues they indicated. ICE and Core Civic (CC)'s lack of transparency and refusal to cooperate and answer their transgressions make knowing exact numbers and conditions challenging. However, as the list below shows, conditions are unsanitary, sickening, and dehumanizing. Friends live in constant fear for their lives, and there have been hunger strikes to demand the immediate improvement of conditions *AND* the immediate release of all friends held at EDC:

## Conditions Inside The Elizabeth Detention Center

- No sunlight is entering the dorms, and no access to the outdoor recreational area/fresh air, forcing detainees to remain indoors 24 hours a day
- Denial of Halal food to Muslim detainees
- Extremely cold, no heaters in the wintertime
- Consistently being referred to by A number rather than by name
- Lack of proper medical examination room (adequate equipment or application of privacy mechanisms as regulated by HIPAA)
- Officers stand outside of the medical room, which limits patient confidentiality and comfort
- Continuous deportations are occurring daily
- Consistent bullying and abuse of power by Captain

## COVID Conditions

- Lack of COVID Protective Equipment
- Friends detained have only received a minimal number of protective gear that they must re-wear. For example, CC only provided two one-time-use masks three weeks ago, and the denial of requests for additional protective equipment
- Lack of proper hygienic and sterilizing products (soap, hand sanitizer, etc.)

- CC provided minimal preventative supplements (vitamin C, etc.)
- CDC mandated social distancing impossible due to small space, yet ridiculous rules are applied, like masks must be worn in certain areas in the dorm and not others
- Guards and medical staff interact with our friends detained without wearing the appropriate PPE
- Guards search the rooms, conduct count time, and picture verifications in very close proximity without wearing masks
- Officers move between infected and non-infected dorms without changing uniforms or PPE, spreading COVID
- Many of our friends have underlying health conditions, putting them in the high-risk category.
- Ibuprofen is the only pain medication provided. Studies have shown that Ibuprofen harms COVID patients
- Access to the medical center is not available for those in quarantined dorms
- Falsified documents are provided that list their COVID status as negative to deport friends
- Medical staff are reportedly not abiding by appropriate PPE regulations and are not changing their gear with each different patient, and are not disinfecting machines after each use, significantly increasing the risk for exposure
- *Temperature Regulations:* The nurses enter the dorms unannounced early in the morning while people are asleep to take temperatures. CC then considers friends who miss as *refusing* it
- Individual health concerns and COVID related symptoms are dismissed, increasing the risk for all others in the dorm
- Despite claims that there is no movement in the building, friends have observed new staff members roaming the facility, contributing to COVID risks

### **Hunger Strikes**

- While the number change daily, and information is hard to get by, there have been hunger strikes at EDC in the past few weeks. At one point, a total of 10 people were refusing to eat
- Friends have stated that they heard others in different dorms are striking but unsure of the exact amount

**#FREE THEM ALL.**

