



**Addendum to the Submission for the Third Universal Periodic Review Cycle:
United States of America**

Submitted jointly by Global Rights Advocacy and Seattle University International Human Rights Clinic
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I. Purpose and Scope

1. This addendum complements our April 2025 submission to the 50th UPR session with evidence of new and rapidly escalating human rights violations at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) in Tacoma, Washington.

II. Unprecedented Expansion of Detention: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

2. Since the original submission, immigration detention has reached historic highs. As of April 2026, 70,766 individuals are held in ICE custody nationwide, a record figure, and 73.6% of detained individuals have no criminal record, compared to less than 50% in prior years.¹ At the NWIPC, the population currently sits at 919 individuals ².
3. The passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), Pub. L. No. 119-21 (2025) has allocated \$45 billion specifically for detention expansion, with a target of 100,000 to 135,000 beds³, while ICE plans a new 1,635-bed turnkey detention mega-center in the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area, with dedicated immigration courtrooms designed to facilitate rapid deportation.⁴

III. Deaths in Custody, Refoulement, and Non-Derogable Violations

4. Since the 2025 UPR submission, detention conditions have deteriorated sharply, with record mortality and collapse of health infrastructure. KFF analysis reported the highest annual death toll in over two decades in 2025⁵, a trend driven by a medical famine (*Id.*) caused by the October 2025 collapse of the medical reimbursement system. Tragically, the start of 2026 has been even

¹TRAC Immigration, Immigration Detention Quick Facts, TRAC Reports (last visited Apr. 7, 2026), <https://tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/>.

²The Seattle Times, Despite new contract, WA ICE detention center population shrinks, 8 April 2026, <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/despite-new-contract-wa-ice-detention-center-population-shrinks/>

³One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 SIdN haveorthwest.tat. 110 (2025); American Immigration Council, Immigration Detention Expansion in Trump's Second Term (2026), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/immigration-detention-report.pdf>

⁴KING 5 News, ICE exploring expanded detention capacity in Pacific Northwest, Tacoma (2026), <https://www.king5.com/article/news/politics/immigration-news/ice-exploring-expanded-detention-capacity-pacific-northwest-tacoma>.

⁵ KFF, Deaths and Health Care Issues in ICE Detention Centers Under the Second Trump Administration, 25 March 2026, <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/deaths-and-health-care-issues-in-ice-detention-centers-under-the-second-trump-administration/>.

worse. As deaths in ICE custody reached a historic high of 46⁶ for the year by March 2026, facilities such as the NWIPC (Northwest ICE Processing Center) have faced allegations of 'medical abandonment' following the federal government's failure to pay third-party providers since late 2025⁷. ICE facility inspections dropped by over 36% during this same period, compounding impunity.⁸ As of April 2026, the Washington State Department of Health has accrued over 2,400⁹ backlogged complaints of medical neglect and physical abuse, which they have been unable to investigate due to GEO's refusal of DOH investigations.¹⁰

5. The United States has also escalated violations of the principle of non-refoulement. UWCHR documented seven Washingtonians forcibly expelled to El Salvador's CECOT megaprison, where torture is rampant, in direct defiance of active federal court orders¹¹, and at least six additional Washingtonians were secretly transported to detention camps at Guantánamo Bay, constituting enforced disappearances under international law. ICE has also conducted "third-country" deportations to South Sudan, Cameroon, and Uganda for individuals with no ties to those countries, often without individualized fear screenings.¹² Federal courts in Washington State, in cases including *Nguyen v. Scott* (Aug. 2025), *Kumar v. Wamsley* (Nov. 2025), and *Lorenzo v. ICE* (Jan. 2026) found that ICE systematically attempted to deport individuals with granted CAT or Withholding protections to arbitrary third countries without due process.¹³

IV. Impacts on the Immigration Judiciary

6. Since the original submission, the administrative and judicial pathways previously cited by the government as "available remedies" have been increasingly impacted by changes to the immigration judiciary. The administration has systematically pressured the nation's immigration judges, threatening them with disciplinary action if they do not deport more people. In the case of Judges being unsupportive of the aggressive enforcement agenda, judges have been

⁶ Jayapal, P, *Deaths in detention: Letter to Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons regarding historic levels of fatalities in ICE custody*, U.S. House of Representatives, (2026, January 28), <https://jayapal.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Deaths-in-Detention-Ltr-Final.pdf>.

⁷ KFF, *Deaths and health care issues in ICE detention centers under the second Trump administration*, (2026, March 25), <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/deaths-and-health-care-issues-in-ice-detention-centers-under-the-second-trump-administration/>.

⁸The Guardian, 2025 was ICE's deadliest year in two decades. Here are the 32 people who died in custody, Jan. 4, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline>; Rep. Pramila Jayapal, *Deaths in Detention: Letter to Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons* (Jan. 28, 2026), <https://jayapal.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Deaths-in-Detention-Ltr-Final.pdf>.

⁹Washington State Standard, WA health inspectors on cusp of gaining access to Tacoma immigrant detention center, 16, September 2025, <https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2025/09/16/wa-health-inspectors-on-cusp-of-gaining-access-to-tacoma-immigrant-detention-center/#:~:text=In%20this%20case%2C%20officials%20spoke,and%20see%2C%E2%80%9D%20Jenks%20said.>

¹⁰Texas Tribune (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/01/21/texas-el-paso-immigrant-death-ice-custody-homicide/>; KFF, *Deaths and Health Care Issues in ICE Detention Centers* (Mar. 25, 2026), <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/deaths-and-health-care-issues-in-ice-detention-centers-under-the-second-trump-administration/>.

¹¹Shear, M. D., & Sullivan, E, Judge rules Trump administration policy on deportations is unlawful The New York Times, (2026, March 25), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/25/us/politics/judge-trump-administration-deportations-unlawful.html>

¹²UWCHR, *Enforced Disappearance and Refoulement in Washington State* (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://jsis.washington.edu/humanrights/2025/08/26/press-conference-calls-for-transparency-and-accountability-enforced-disappearance-and-refoulement-in-washington-state/>; Human Rights First, *ICE Flight Monitor February 2026 Report* (Mar. 16, 2026), <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/ice-flight-monitor-february-2026-report/>.

¹³Phong Thanh Nguyen v. Scott (W.D. Wash. Aug. 21, 2025); *Kumar v. Wamsley* (W.D. Wash. Nov. 17, 2025); *Francisco Lorenzo v. ICE* (W.D. Wash. Jan. 29, 2026).

systematically fired thereby purging the immigration judiciary of non supporters¹⁴. Interviews documented by the New York Times with Immigration judges serving under the second Trump administration have revealed a culture of fear, where Judges describe feeling a constant pressure to deport immigrants or risk losing their jobs.¹⁵

7. The Trump administration has now fired 100 immigration judges, reshaping the immigration judiciary by announcing the appointments of 143 new permanent judges. Of these new judges, many previously worked as immigration prosecutors for the Department of Homeland Security, or as military lawyers with no substantive immigration law experience.¹⁶
8. The practical consequence of measures to fast track deportations and increase detention is the functional eradication of domestic remedies, and a collapse in the granting of immigration benefits. The number of people being ordered deported has risen sharply, while judges have approved asylum claims in fewer than 10 percent of cases this year, the lowest rate for which data is available.¹⁷ Over 5,000 habeas corpus petitions were filed nationwide by early February 2026, compared to fewer than 500 in all of 2024. In Washington State alone, federal judges found ICE to have violated immigrants' due process rights in over half of the 388 habeas petitions reviewed.¹⁸
9. Rather than remedying unlawful detentions, the administration defied federal declaratory relief in *Maldonado Bautista v. Noem* (Nov. 2025) and physically blocked members of Congress, including Washington State Representatives Jayapal and Morrison, from conducting unannounced oversight visits at NWIPC, in direct violation of Section 527 of the DHS Appropriations Act¹⁹ which grants extensive oversight powers to members of Congress.²⁰

V. Worsening Conditions at NWIPC

10. Conditions at the NWIPC have severely deteriorated. The facility employs only four behavioral health staff²¹ for all detainees. Pregnant women have been shackled during medical transport²² in violation of agency policy. Detainees report severe overcrowding forcing them to sleep on concrete floors, contaminated water causing illness, food portions shrinking to near-starvation levels, and prolonged solitary confinement used as routine retaliation against hunger strikers. A

¹⁴Shear, M. D., & Sullivan, E., Trump and Miller prepare to purge immigration judges who differ on policy, The New York Times, (2026, April 9), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/09/us/politics/trump-miller-immigration-judges-purge.html?unlocked_article_code=1.ZIA.FbJD.ES6dz8gTvbNA&smid=url-share.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸Spacek, R., Most WA federal rulings found immigrant detentions flouted due process, InvestigateWest (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.investigatewest.org/rulings-found-immigrant-detentions-flouted-due-process/>.

¹⁹Office of Representative Jason Crow, Crow: Members of Congress have legal right to enter detention facilities and conduct oversight [Press release], (2025, May 22), <https://crow.house.gov/media/press-releases/crow-members-of-congress-have-legal-right-to-enter-detention-facilities-and-conduct-oversight>

²⁰U.S. Rep. Emily Randall, WA NWIPC Oversight Letter (Dec. 16, 2025), <https://randall.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/randall.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/12162025-wa-nwipc-oversight-letter.pdf>; Sen. Patty Murray, Murray Leads WA Democratic Members in Demanding Answers from ICE (Dec. 2025), <https://www.murray.senate.gov/>.

²¹Office of Representative Pramila Jayapal, WA Democratic members demand answers from ICE on deteriorating conditions and inadequate food, medical care, and access to legal counsel at NWIPC [Press release], (2025, December 17), <https://jayapal.house.gov/2025/12/17/wa-democratic-members-demand-answers-from-ice-on-deteriorating-conditions-and-inadequate-food-medical-care-and-access-to-legal-counsel-at-nwipc/>

²²*Id.*

February 2026 lawsuit filed in Pierce County Superior Court²³ documented a systematic pattern of physical and sexual assault by GEO guards specifically targeting Black male detainees, with zero prosecutions resulting from 157 documented abuse reports. GEO Group reported a record \$254 million in profit for fiscal year 2025, roughly a 700% increase²⁴ driven by its expanded federal detention contracts.²⁵

11. Washington State passed HB 1232 (May 2025) and SB 6286 (2026) to strengthen health oversight and authorize fines of up to \$15,000 per day for denied entry. The Ninth Circuit affirmed the state's oversight authority in *GEO Group, Inc. v. Inslee*, No. 24-2815 (9th Cir. Feb. 11, 2026). Nevertheless, GEO continues to physically deny state health inspectors access, leaving over 2,400 formal health complaints uninvestigated.²⁶ A February 2026 La Resistencia report documented a "silent surge" in suicide attempts directly linked to solitary confinement and denial of psychiatric medication.²⁷
12. As of April 8th, 2026 the GEO group has signed a 6 month extension of its 10 year contract with ICE to run the NWIPC. The extension the current contract increases the facility's capacity to 1,635²⁸ up from the previous 1,575 max capacity before the extension.

VI. Updated Recommendations

The Northwest Detention Center is a clear example of the tragedy of immigration detention and demonstrates the need to shut down all immigrant jails. As a state party to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the US is bound under Article 2 of the convention to ensure people within its jurisdiction enjoy the rights under the convention, including the right to life. The right to life is greatly jeopardized by the risks in detention.

In addition to the fourteen recommendations in our original submission, the evidence gathered since August 2025 compels the following urgent additional recommendations to the United States.

1. Halt all third-country deportations without individualized fear screenings, prior judicial authorization, and meaningful notice to legal counsel, in full compliance with the jus cogens norm of non-refoulement and CAT Article 3.
2. Immediately allow unannounced, independent inspections of the NWIPC by the Washington State Department of Health and international human rights monitors, in compliance with HB 1232, SB 6286, and the Ninth Circuit's February 2026 ruling.
3. Conduct an independent criminal investigation into deaths and violence at NWIPC, including the systematic physical and sexual assaults documented in the February 2026 Pierce County Superior Court lawsuit against GEO Group and within the cases detailed by the UWCHR team.

²³Yoo, S., Detainees sue GEO Group, allege sexual assaults, beatings and cover-ups at Tacoma ICE facility. KING 5, (2026, February 5), <https://www.king5.com/article/news/politics/immigration-news/geo-group-lawsuit-northwest-ice-processing-center/281-a41284cb-4ca4-4cc2-8bda-69e94c952358>.

²⁴Johnson, J., Private prison giant GEO Group sees profits soar as Biden expands ICE detention. Common Dreams, (2024, May 8), <https://www.commondreams.org/news/geo-group-ice-profits>.

²⁵UWCHR, Conditions at the NWDC: Patterns of Neglect in TPD Response to Reports of Crimes (Apr. 24, 2025); POGO, ICE Inspections Plummeted as Detentions Soared in 2025 (2025), <https://www.pogo.org/investigates/ice-inspections-plummeted-as-detentions-soared-in-2025>.

²⁶GEO Group, Inc. v. Inslee, No. 24-2815 (9th Cir. Feb. 11, 2026); Wash. S.B. 6286 (2026) (authorizing fines up to \$15,000 per day for denied entry by private detention contractors). As of April 2026, more than 2,400 formal health complaints remain uninvestigated by state authorities.

²⁷La Resistencia, Urgent Alert: Silent Surge in Suicide Attempts and Medical Neglect at NWIPC (Feb. 19, 2026); Wash. H.B. 1875 (2025); Wash. S.B. 5104 (2025); Wash. S.B. 5714 (2025); Wash. S.B. 5906 (SAFE Act, 2026).

²⁸Bernton, H., Despite new contract, WA ICE detention center population shrinks, Walla Walla Union-Bulleti, (2024, June 14), https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/northwest/despite-new-contract-wa-ice-detention-center-population-shrinks/article_a5afe97d-b26f-51f7-9bf4-a98b834377e4.html

4. Cease the expansion of for-profit immigration detention under the OBBBA, including the proposed 1,635-bed mega-center in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and redirect resources toward community-based alternatives to detention.