

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0303

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

RE: Request for Information Following the May 29 Oversight Visit to the Eloy Detention Center

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

I am writing to detail my deep concerns about the inhumane conditions that have been reported to me by detainees at Eloy Detention Center in Arizona. During my May 29, 2025, oversight visit at that facility, I spoke to over 20 detainees who verified concerning reports surrounding staff conduct and the substandard conditions of the facility, many of which should already be documented through your internal “grievance” process. Specifically, some of the incidents I learned about included:

- An instance that occurred approximately one month ago in which a guard ordered detainees to walk laps in the courtyard outside the cafeteria for hours until they were dizzy and sick. One detainee apparently collapsed and fainted due to these unsafe conditions.
- Instances where guards apparently manipulated the A/C system, such as by turning off the A/C for weeks in the Alpha living areas and then blasting the A/C at alarmingly low temperatures, resulting in many detainees being unable to sleep at night and eventually becoming ill.
- Instances where facility staff removed furniture from cells and placed plastic mats on the floor to accommodate more detainees.
- Reports from social workers and attorneys noting a significant decline in the number of detainees attending legal orientation presentations in recent weeks and months.

These examples, and others, raise serious concerns that some staff under your respective departments have abused the power of their positions and are not executing their duty to “house aliens to secure their presence for immigration proceedings or removal from the U.S.”¹

¹ See <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facilities>

The conclusion I have come to is that, without independent oversight, this detention center is interfering with detainees' constitutional right to due process and proving to be inaccessible and lacking in transparency for Arizona families. With these concerns in mind, I respectfully request your thorough responses to the following requests for information by **Friday, June 23, 2025, at 5 p.m.:**

1. Since January of 2025, how many complaints have the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) and the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman (OIDO) received for the Eloy Detention Center, and how many have been adequately investigated or responded to and within what time frame?
2. Within the Eloy Detention Center, how are "grievances" filed by detainees logged and responded to? Please provide a detailed response.
3. Please provide copies of any and all reports, documents, and communications regarding the incident that occurred approximately a month ago where detainees were ordered to march outside the cafeteria at Eloy Detention Center, resulting in one detainee fainting.
4. During Arizona's summer season, the average high temperatures can range from 100 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. How does Eloy Detention Center keep its detainees hydrated and safe in livable conditions? At what temperature does the Eloy Detention Center maintain its housing units? Please provide copies of all reports, documents, guidance, and policies relevant to temperature regulation at Eloy Detention Center or ICE detention facilities in general.
5. Are there plans to fit three detainees into any or all cells at Eloy Detention Center? Please provide all documents, policies, guidance, and communications regarding the maximum number of detainees that can be accommodated in any cell at any given time at Eloy Detention Center
6. Please describe, in detail, the process by which detainees at Eloy Detention Center are informed about their ability to request a legal orientation presentation by an independent attorney, such as those offered by the Florence Project, or to speak one-on-one with an attorney as is their constitutional right. Are sign-up forms available for detainees to access legal counsel, and, if so, where are they located and are those forms available in multiple languages?

This letter only begins to address my list of concerns regarding this facility. However, to quickly address my immediate areas of concern, I've prioritized obtaining answers to the above-listed questions that your representatives have denied via public statement on June 2, 2025.² If your Department engages in an additional scheduled visit to review these concerns and identify the associated documented complaints, I expect you will be disturbed by what you uncover.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a "broad and indispensable" power to conduct oversight, which "encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them."³ Your responses will be critical in assisting with Congressional determination as to whether additional legislation or legislative steps are necessary. Such potential legislative reforms could include, among other proposals, establishing a nationwide set of standards for U.S.-operated detention facilities and enhancing reporting and monitoring tools to improve accountability and transparency efforts.

² See <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/06/03/ice-denies-mistreatment-allegations-eloy-detention-center/84000496007/>.

³ See, e.g., *Trump v. Mazars LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

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If you have any questions, please contact Maria Lopez at Maria.Lopez@mail.house.gov or Zachary Freiman at Zachary.Freiman@mail.house.gov on my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yassamin Ansari". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Yassamin" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Ansari" is written in a slightly smaller, more compact script to the right of the first name.

Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari, AZ-03