



TO:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tony Pham  
Interim ICE Director  
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Director Pham,

I am deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of all families detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in family detention facilities, families face grave complications and even death if they contract the virus. There are credible, consistent, and disturbing accounts by families of dangerous conditions that put all families, facility staff, and surrounding communities at risk.

These families came to the United States seeking protection from violence and persecution. They must be able to pursue the right to seek asylum in safety.

As the acting head of ICE, you are responsible for their health and safety and must take all appropriate steps to protect them from COVID-19.

I call on you to release all the families together.

Yours sincerely,

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

USA



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



FAMILIES IN DETENTION, USA

---

**DETAINED BY**

---

**ICE AFTER**

---

**FLEEING**

---

**FROM**

---

**DANGER**

---

# FAMILIES IN DETENTION, USA

---

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is locking up nearly 100 families at three facilities in Pennsylvania and Texas. After COVID-19 was confirmed in family detention centers, a federal judge ordered ICE to release all children by 7 August 2020, but the judge does not have jurisdiction over their parents.

---

ICE has the legal authority to release families together and has historically done so but is now choosing to separate families or keep them detained indefinitely. Detained families are at extreme risk of COVID-19 due to inadequate hygiene and negligent medical care.

---

At one fateful protest in November, police loaded their shotguns with rubber-coated buckshot and fired into the gathered crowds. It was no different from other protests where hundreds were hurt and dozens suffered eye injuries almost every day. Those in charge didn't stop the police. Instead, they allowed the violence to continue.

---

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in family detention facilities, families face grave complications and even death if they contract the virus. There are credible, consistent, and disturbing accounts by families of dangerous conditions that put all families, facility staff, and surrounding communities at risk.

---



These families came to the United States seeking protection from violence and persecution. They must be able to pursue the right to seek asylum in safety.

---

**Tell ICE to release all the families.**

---

## WRITE TO THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ICE

---

Tell him to immediately and unconditionally release all the families from ICE detention together.

---

### **Tony Pham**

Interim ICE Director  
US Immigration and Customs  
Enforcement  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20536  
**Email:** [tony.h.pham@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:tony.h.pham@ice.dhs.gov)  
**Twitter:** @ICEgov  
**Salutation:** Dear Director Pham

---

## SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE TO THE FAMILIES

---

Send them notes through our partner, the Immigration Justice Campaign.

---

Letters can be sent to:  
Mackenzie Levy  
1111 N. Main Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78212

---

**REPORT YOUR LETTERS AT  
[AMNESTYUSA.ORG/W4R/REPORT](https://www.amnestyusa.org/w4r/report)**

---

December 2020  
Script development: © David Hunter  
Back page image: © Edgard Garrido