



Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide

August 27, 2026

FOIA Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Freedom of Information Act Office
500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009
Washington, D.C. 20536-5009

Re: Request for Records pertaining to Denny Adan Gonzalez, DOB 1/1/1993

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

This letter constitutes a request (“Request”) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552 (“FOIA”) and Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) regulations. The Request is submitted by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”), Project South, and El Refugio on behalf of the Gonzalez family.

I. Records Requested

CREW, Project South and El Refugio request all the following records from January 2026:

1. All records and internal communications regarding any use-of-force incident involving Mr. Adan Gonzalez or any use-of-force incident that occurred in the unit Mr. Adan Gonzalez was detained in.
2. All records and internal communications which refer to the administrative leave, reassignment, termination or investigation of any officer at Stewart Detention Center (SDC) involved in a use-of-force incident with Mr. Adan Gonzalez.
3. All records and internal communications which refer to the administrative leave, reassignment, termination or investigation of any officer whom Mr. Adan Gonzalez filed a complaint or grievance against.
4. All records and internal communications which refer to the administrative leave, reassignment, termination or investigation of any officer at SDC in connection to Mr. Gonzalez’s death.
5. Any disciplinary, administrative, or corrective action taken against any ICE officer, employee, contractor, or other SDC staff member arising from, related to, or resulting from the death of Mr. Adan Gonzalez.
6. All records, schedules, daily logs, and Special Management Unit (SMU) logs for the pod(s) and segregation unit(s) where Mr. Adan Gonzalez was housed between January 1, 2026 and April 28th, 2026.

7. The ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) Mortality Review.
8. The ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) External Reviews and Analysis Unit (ERAU) Detainee Death Review Report.
9. The Healthcare and Security Compliance Analysis SME Report.
10. The Root Cause Analysis, if any.
11. Any remedial records arising from findings in items 7-10 including any Corrective Action Plan, Contract Discrepancy Report, or contract modifications.
12. Any cover letter, transmittal letter, or memorandum that accompanied records 7-10 above as these records were transmitted to ICE leadership.
13. All other records not already captured in items 7-10 pertaining to any investigations of the circumstances surrounding Mr. Adan Gonzalez's arrest, detention, and/or death that are being conducted by the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility, ICE Office of Detention Oversight, ICE Health Service Corps or any other office within ICE.
14. The autopsy report and all related autopsy records.
15. All records pertaining to the circumstances leading to Mr. Adan Gonzalez's death, including but not limited to any and all reports, notes, forms, complaints, incident reports, supplementary reports, witness statements, daily activity logs, incident detail reports, and video and audio recordings.
16. All records related to Mr. Adan Gonzalez's time in segregation between January 23 and May 1, including Segregation Orders, review of segregation cases, required notifications to the Field Office Director of detained immigrants in segregation, the permanent SMU log for Mr. Adan Gonzalez, the visitors log, and the Special Management Housing Unit Record(s) for Mr. Adan Gonzalez's unit, as required by PBNDS 2.12.V.B-E.
17. All records related to the April 26, 2026 assault on a custody officer incident in Mr. Adan Gonzalez's Death Report, including incident reports, supplementary reports, use-of-force reports, after-action reports, witness statements, and all video and audio recordings capturing any use of force involving Mr. Adan Gonzalez, including footage from body-worn cameras, fixed surveillance cameras, and handheld recording devices, as required by PBNDS 2.15.V.O-P; any staff-on-detained-immigrant violence notification records to the FOD, results of staff-on-detained-immigrant assault investigations, and notifications of staff misconduct as required by PBNDS 2.4.V.H-I; and any communications with the Stewart County Sheriff and/or other law enforcement, and any 911 calls made on April 26th or made in relation to this incident.
18. All records relating to any use of force incident involving Mr. Adan Gonzalez (other than the April 26th incident described above) or any use-of-force incident that occurred in the unit Mr. Adan Gonzalez was detained in, including incident reports, supplementary reports, use-of-force reports, after-action reports, witness statements from all officers and staff present, and all video and audio recordings capturing any use of force involving Mr. Adan Gonzalez, including footage from body-worn cameras, fixed surveillance cameras, and handheld recording devices, as required by PBNDS 2.15.V.O-P; as well as any staff-on-detained-immigrant notification records

- to the FOD, results of staff-on-detained-immigrant assault investigations, and notifications of staff misconduct as required by PBNDS 2.4.V.H-I.
19. All records pertaining to Mr. Adan Gonzalez's detention, including all medical and mental health records, detained immigrants location logs, kites, grievances, responses to kites and grievances, and medical and mental health screenings and assessments.
 20. All of the records relating to Mr. Adan Gonzalez's arrest and incarceration by the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, to the extent that such records have been made available to ICE.
 21. All records and communications between ICE and Emergency Medical Services which treated Mr. Adan Gonzalez, including but not limited to Stewart County EMS and Webster County EMS, and between ICE and any external healthcare facilities which treated Mr. Adan Gonzalez. This request includes a request for all internal communications involving ICE Health Service Corps (ISHC) medical personnel, as well as any and all other records with other external healthcare providers for the purpose of acquiring treatment for Mr. Adan Gonzalez.
 22. All records and communications that ICE has access to between SDC/CoreCivic and Emergency Medical Services which treated Mr. Adan Gonzalez, including but not limited to Stewart County EMS and Webster County EMS, and between SDC/CoreCivic and any external healthcare facilities which treated Mr. Adan Gonzalez. This request includes a request for all internal communications involving SDC/CoreCivic personnel, as well as any and all other records with other external healthcare providers for the purpose of acquiring treatment for Mr. Adan Gonzalez.
 23. All records and communications with next of kin by ICE, SDC, and/or CoreCivic that ICE has access to.
 24. All records regarding:
 - a. Significant Event Notifications
 - b. 24-hour death notification cables
 - c. Congressional notification of the death
 - d. Form I-247A detainer and transfer packet
 - e. Consular notification records
 - f. Institutional Disciplinary Panel records from the April 26 incident;
 - g. Suicide watch and serious mental illness (SMI) designation records
 25. All documents or copies thereof that may have accompanied Mr. Adan Gonzalez when he was transferred from one facility to another, including without limitation:
 - a. Any Form I-216 and/or appropriate copies of Form I-77, Baggage Check (or IGSA equivalent);
 - b. Any Form USM-553 or local Medical Transfer Summary form;
 - c. Any Form I-213, Record a/Deportable Alien Form;
 - d. Any original or photocopy of Form I-203/203A, Order to Detain/Release Alien;
 - e. Any Transfer Checklist;
 - f. Any age verification documents (if applicable);
 - g. Any copy or printout of all previous Post Order Custody Reviews (POCRs) and travel document requests in a property envelope fastened to the file;
 - h. Any classification sheet;
 - i. Any charging documents/records of proceedings;
 - j. Any certified copies of convictions;
 - k. Any fingerprint cards;
 - l. Any photographs; and

- m. Any printouts from the Central Index System (CIS), ENFORCE and the FBI National Crime Information Center database.

The above request excludes agency records consisting solely of news articles, press clippings, and other publicly-available material, so long as the records include no accompanying discussion by agency officials.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, and anyone who was cc'ed or bcc'ed on any emails. The term "records" includes all records or communications preserved in electronic or written form, including but not limited to correspondence, documents, data, videotapes, audio tapes, photographs, faxes, files, guidance, guidelines, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules, technical manuals, technical specifications, training manuals, or studies.

For any assertion of withholding, we request that each withheld document be particularly identified along with the basis for the withholding so that they have sufficient information to understand the reasoning for the withholding. Furthermore, in case of an appeal, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Information Policy can use this information to determine whether the particular withholding is justified. There is a statutory duty to produce "[a]ny reasonably segregable portion of a record ... after deletion of the portions which are exempt." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Withholding entire documents because they contain some exempt material violates this statutory duty. See *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 260 (D.C. Cir. 1977) ("The focus of the FOIA is information, not documents, and an agency cannot justify withholding an entire document simply by showing that it contains some exempt material.").

Please be advised that we intend to pursue all legal remedies to enforce its rights under FOIA. Accordingly, because litigation is reasonably foreseeable, the agency should institute an agencywide preservation hold on all documents potentially responsive to this request.

II. Request for Expedited Processing

We request Track 1 expedited treatment for this FOIA request pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E).¹

According to the FOIA statute, requests that demonstrate "a compelling need" or "in other cases determined by the agency" qualify for expedited processing.² "Compelling need," as defined by the statute, means "(I) that a failure to obtain requested records on an expedited basis ... could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or (II) with respect to a request made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information, urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity."³

In this case, there is a compelling need for the information requested because (1) the failure to obtain requested records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual and (2) the information is requested by an organization primarily engaged in disseminating information and there is an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.

¹ See also 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1).

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i)(I).

³ 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v).

In addition to the compelling need for information, expedited processing is necessary in this case to provide Mr. Adan Gonzalez's community with truthful information regarding the circumstances of Mr. Adan Gonzalez's death.

A. Failure to Obtain Requested Records on an Expedited Basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual

Two-hundred and ninety people have died in ICE custody since 2003, and Stewart Detention Center is the second-deadliest ICE facility, reporting 15 deaths between 2003 and April 28, 2026.⁴ Furthermore, the number of deaths, including the number of deaths reported as suicide, are dramatically increasing. Deaths in detention have tripled from 2024 to 2025, and the number of suicides in the first half of 2026 is higher than the total number in any year in the last two decades.⁵ Journalists reviewing detention data, ICE death reports, medical records, and court cases have linked the surge in deaths to medical delays and neglect.⁶ Formal reports have previously highlighted the same conditions that have led to deaths. These reports include the aforementioned DHS OIG report detailing its concerns regarding treatment and care of immigrants detained by ICE,⁷ a May 2017 report "examin[ing] serious lapses in health care that have led to severe suffering and at times the preventable or premature death of individuals held in immigration detention facilities,"⁸ and a February 2016 report concluding that "failure to provide adequate medical care has continued to result in unnecessary deaths."⁹ Lapses in the care provided to detained immigrants, including medical care, and conditions leading to deaths in detention, are of grave concern to the public.

The treatment of detained immigrants in Georgia is particularly severe. The conditions at SDC, the second deadliest ICE facility, have received special attention and censure from the above-referenced DHS OIG report,¹⁰ as well as from lawmakers.¹¹ In addition, a 2021 review by ICE's External Reviews and Analysis Unit found that staff at SDC had falsified documents, broken medical care procedures, and improperly used disciplinary solitary confinement for a previous detained immigrant who committed suicide at SDC in 2018.¹² The inhuman treatment

⁴ UCLA Law Behind Bars Data Project, *ICE Deaths in Custody*, <https://uclaprisondata.org/ice-deaths-in-custody> (last updated May 2026).

⁵ Justin Goldman, Laura Strickler, Julia Ainsley & Helen Graham, *Suicides Rise in ICE Detention, 911 Calls Detail Serious Cases of Self-Harm*, NBC News (May 21, 2026, 9:00 PM ET), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/suicides-rise-ice-detention-911-calls-detail-serious-cases-self-harm-rcna344333>.

⁶ See Rae Ellen Bichell, Claire Galofaro, Maia Rosenfeld, Renuka Rayasam, Aaron Kessler & Byron Tau, *From Festering Infections to Untreated Cancer, ICE Detainees Across the US Describe Medical Neglect*, Associated Press (June 2, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/ice-immigration-detention-medical-neglect-dhs-32c3fbceef0c44dfb02fcab890b2c9a96> and St. John BARNED-SMITH & KO LYN CHEANG, *Inside ICE Detention Centers, Medical Misdiagnoses and Delays Prove Deadly*, S.F. Chron. (Apr. 9, 2026), <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2026/ice-detention-deaths/>.

⁷ U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *supra* note 6.

⁸ Human Rights Watch, CIVIC, *Systemic Indifference: Dangerous & Substandard Medical Care in US Immigration Detention*, at 1 (May 2017), https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/usimmigration0517_web_0.pdf.

⁹ ACLU, DWN, NIJC, *Fatal Neglect: How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention*, at 2 (Feb. 2016), <https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/sites/default/files/reports/Fatal%20Neglect%20ACLU-DWN-NIJC.pdf>.

¹⁰ See discussion and excerpts, *supra* note 5.

¹¹ Letter to Sec. Kristi Noem, *supra* note 8.

¹² U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, External Reviews & Analysis Unit, *Detainee Death Review: Efrain De La Rosa* (Oct. 20, 2021), <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21089425/ice-internal-detainee-death-review-for-efrain-romero-de-la-rosa.pdf>, and summary reporting in Jose Olivares, *ICE Review of Immigrant's Suicide Finds Falsified Documents, Neglect, and Improper Confinement*, The Intercept (Oct. 23, 2021), <https://theintercept.com/2021/10/23/ice-review-neglect-stewart-suicide-corecivic/>.

and conditions in these facilities have also been the focus of a publicly disseminated report by Project South that was released in May 2017.¹³

Disclosure of the information surrounding the treatment and death of Mr. Adan Gonzalez, as well as the medical standards, protocols, and overall conditions at SDC will help identify the problems at SDC that have led to deaths of individuals in ICE custody. Release of the records requested will shed much-needed light on troubling practices that place detained immigrants in physical danger.

By knowing and understanding the problems, ICE and other government officials can prevent any more deaths from occurring in ICE custody and ensure the physical safety of detained immigrants. Without this information, the lives of detained immigrants in ICE custody in the state of Georgia are imminently at risk.

B. The Information Is Requested by an Organization Primarily Engaged in Disseminating Information and the Records Sought Are Urgently Needed to Inform the Public about Actual or Alleged Federal Government Activity

i. CREW and Project South are primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public about actual or alleged government activity.

CREW and Project South request expedited processing of this request, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E). CREW is entitled to expedited processing because there is “[a]n urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity.” *Id.* § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II).

CREW is “primarily engaged in disseminating information” to the public, as most recently confirmed by the Court in *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington v. U.S. Department of Justice* (“CREW v. DOJ”), No. 25-4426, 2026 WL 472589, at *10 (D.D.C. Feb. 19, 2026). This “standard ‘requires that information dissemination be the main [and not merely an incidental] activity of the requestor,’” but “publishing information ‘need not be [the organization’s] sole occupation.’” *Protect Democracy Project, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Def.*, 263 F. Supp. 3d 293, 298 (D.D.C. 2017). CREW routinely disseminates information obtained through FOIA to the public in several ways. For example, CREW’s website receives hundreds of thousands of page views every month. The website includes blogposts that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. These reports frequently rely on government records obtained through FOIA. CREW also posts the documents it obtains through FOIA on its website. CREW is a credible requestor and disseminator of information often relied on by major media outlets.¹⁴

Project South is “primarily engaged in dissemination of information” pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II).¹⁵ Obtaining information about government activity, analyzing that information, and widely publishing and disseminating that information to the press and public are critical and substantial components of Project South’s work and are among its primary activities.¹⁶

¹³ PROJECT SOUTH, IMPRISONED JUSTICE: INSIDE TWO GEORGIA IMMIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS (May 2017), https://projectsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Imprisoned_Justice_Report-1.pdf (describing conditions of two detention centers in the state of Georgia: The Stewart Detention Center and the Irwin County Detention Center).

¹⁴ See, e.g., *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington*, N.Y. Times, <https://perma.cc/VT6X-DPJM> (last visited Mar. 2, 2026) (list of New York Times articles referencing CREW spanning over a decade); Ed Pilkington & Dharna Noor, *Top US Ethics Watchdog Investigating Trump Over Dinner with Oil Bosses*, The Guardian (May 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/G7T5-T6AV> (referring to CREW as “Top US ethics watchdog”).

¹⁵ See also 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii) (expedited processing is warranted where there is “[a]n urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity.”)

¹⁶ Courts have found organizations that engage in information dissemination activities similar to Project South are “primarily engaged in disseminating information.” See, e.g., *Leadership Conference on Civil Rights v. Gonzales*, 404 F. Supp. 2d 246, 260 (D.D.C. 2005); *ACLU v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 321 F. Supp. 2d 24, 29 n.5 (D.D.C. 2004) (finding non-profit public

Project South is dedicated to the realization and defense of human rights and social justice. Dissemination of information to the public at large, and to impacted communities in particular, a critical and substantial component of Project South's mission and work.

ii. The records sought are urgently needed to inform the public about actual or alleged government activity.

These records are urgently needed to inform the public about actual or alleged government activity. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II).¹⁷ Specifically, the requested records seek to inform the public about ICE's activities in light of the arrest, detention, and subsequent death of a community member who had no reported medical or mental health conditions upon entering ICE custody.¹⁸ The requested records also seek to inform the public about ICE's activities in general related to the conditions, protocols, and procedures of detaining immigrants.

On April 28, 2026, Denny Adan Gonzalez died while in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).¹⁹ ICE issued a press release regarding Mr. Adan Gonzalez's death on May 1, 2026,²⁰ and a Death Report on May 18, 2026.²¹ According to the Death Report, the Mecklenburg County Jail transferred custody of Mr. Adan Gonzalez to ERO Atlanta, and ERO Atlanta booked him into Stewart Detention Center (SDC) on January 23, 2026. The report indicates that on two occasions (January 24 and February 3, 2026) Mr. Adan Gonzalez was screened by a medical professional and did not report any mental health conditions. Then, according to the report, Mr. Adan Gonzalez was placed in segregated confinement on April 26th, and a registered nurse performed a mental health screening where Adan Gonzalez denied any suicidal ideation.²²

Despite never sharing any suicidal tendencies with medical professionals while in ICE custody, Mr. Adan Gonzalez was discovered at about 10:25pm on April 28th in his cell with a binding wrapped around his neck.²³ An officer called 911 and took a minute and thirty-nine seconds to communicate the issue without using SDC institutional terminology. All of Stewart County's three ambulances were on other calls, so a dispatcher contacted the neighboring Webster County, and an emergency vehicle arrived thirty-five minutes after Mr. Adan Gonzalez was found. At 11:11pm, Mr. Adan Gonzalez was pronounced dead.²⁴

A March 2025 compliance inspection by the Office of Professional Responsibility indicates that SDC had known deficiencies, which if uncorrected, could have contributed to Mr. Adan Gonzalez's move to segregation and death. These documented deficiencies include delays and lack of participation in after action reviews after use-of-force incidents, a failure of staff to complete annual suicide prevention training, a failure to continuously monitor suicidal detained immigrants (occasionally taking over two hours to check on them), and a failure to

interest group that "gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw material into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience" to be "primarily engaged in disseminating information"); Elec. Privacy Info. Ctr. v. U.S. Dep't of Defense, 241 F. Supp. 2d 5, 11 (D.D.C. 2003).

¹⁷ See also 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(ii).

¹⁸ Detainee Death Report, *supra* note 1.

¹⁹ Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detainee Death Report: ADAN Gonzalez, Denny, May 18th, 2026.

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrDennyAdanGonzalez.pdf>.

²⁰ Press Release, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detainee Death Notifications May 1st, 2026.

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/cuban-illegal-alien-arrested-domestic-violence-dies-ice-custody-georgia-detention>.

²¹ Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detainee Death Report *supra* Note 1.

²² *Ibid*.

²³ Andrew Free, *Confusion, ambulance shortage delayed emergency response in latest ICE detention death*, Atlanta Community Press Collective (May 12, 2026),

<https://atpresscollective.com/2026/05/12/confusion-ambulance-shortage-delayed-emergency-response-in-latest-ice-detention-death/>.

²⁴ *Ibid*.

complete cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training.²⁵ The same report indicates that the number of deficiencies was the same in the 2024 inspection.²⁶ Since the inspection, there have been two deaths reported as suicide at SDC.²⁷

In addition, Project South and El Refugio have received reports from other immigrants detained at SDC and their visitors alleging serious deficiencies in conditions at the facility, including: inadequate medical care, lack of access to interpreters in the medical department, improper use of confinement in segregation, insufficient education and recreation programs, and exorbitant prices for commissary items that constitute basic, hygienic necessities. Such accounts have been corroborated by an investigation undertaken by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).²⁸ In 2025, El Refugio further documented systemic medical neglect based on two research reports and their fifteen years of visitation, support and advocacy for detained immigrants at Stewart Detention Center.²⁹ These conditions led 20 members of Congress to request the release of a detained immigrant experiencing medical neglect from SDC in February 2026.³⁰

C. This request concerns a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect Public confidence

DHS regulations provide an independent basis for expedited processing whenever a request involves “[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence.” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(iv).

ICE's custody, treatment, and post-death accounting for people who die in its custody at Stewart Detention Center, including Mr. Adan Gonzalez, and the accuracy and completeness of ICE's public representations about the circumstances of those deaths is a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest involving the government's integrity. Every category of records requested above bears directly on that matter. Mr. Adan Gonzalez's death was itself the subject of immediate and sustained coverage by national, regional, and local outlets, including a dedicated investigation into emergency response at the facility.³¹ The broader subject of deaths

²⁵ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Stewart Detention Center Compliance Inspection 2025-001-126 (Mar. 2025), https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/odo-compliance-inspections/StewartDetCntr_LumpkinGA_Mar18-20_2025.pdf, pp 6-9.

²⁶ Ibid, p.9.

²⁷ Julia Ingram, More than a Dozen Immigration Detention Facilities Have Gone Over a Year Without Inspection Under Revised ICE Policies, CBS NEWS (July 9, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-detention-facilities-inspection-policy/>.

²⁸ U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *Concerns about ICE Detainee Treatment and Care at Detention Facilities* (Dec. 11, 2017), <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2017-12/OIG-18-32-Dec17.pdf> (finding “long waits for the provision of medical care, including instances of detainee[d immigrant]s with painful conditions,” unhygienic conditions, lack of sanitary supplies, and “an inconsistent and insufficiently documented grievance resolution process” at Facility, as well as “language barriers [that] prevented detainee[d immigrant]s from understanding medical staff” generally).

²⁹ El Refugio, *Medical Neglect and Abuse in Stewart Detention Center: Historic Failures and Trump-Era Overcrowding before ICE Funding Increase* (July 24, 2025), https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dedd42f60df274331bcd16b/t/689f686416e7065ca756cda7/1755277412984/SDC_Report_El+Refugio_07-21-2015.pdf (finding “inside SDC, people are regularly and systematically denied access to the most basic forms of health care and subjected to conditions that cause lasting harm.”).

³⁰ Letter to Sec. Kristi Noem & Acting Dir. Todd M. Lyons from Rep. Pramila Jayapal et al. (Feb. 17, 2026), <https://jayapal.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Rodney-Taylor-Final-Ltr-2.17.26.pdf>.

³¹ *Hundreds of 911 Calls Offer Rare Look Inside Georgia's Largest ICE Detention Center*, 11Alive (July 2026), <https://www.11alive.com/video/news/investigations/hundreds-of-911-calls-offer-rare-look-inside-georgias-largest-ice-detention-center-as-debate-grows-over-medical-care/85-d3670b90-cc75-4583-890d-5cae7a77a7bd>; *Cuban Immigrant Dies in ICE's Stewart Detention Center*, Atlanta Journal-Constitution (May 2026), <https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/05/cuban-immigrant-dies-in-ices-stewart-detention-center/>; *Man Dies in ICE Custody at Georgia Detention Center; Cause Under Investigation*, CBS News Atlanta (May 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/atlanta/news/man-dies-in-ice-custody-at-georgia-detention-center-cause-under-investigation/>; *Cuban National Dies in ICE Custody at Georgia Facility*, Atlanta News First (May 1, 2026), <https://www.atlantaneewsfirst.com/2026/05/01/cuban-national-dies-ice-custody-georgia-facility/>; Andrew Free, *Man Confirmed Dead in ICE Custody at Stewart Detention Center*, Atlanta Cmty. Press Collective (May 1, 2026),

in ICE custody and ICE's accounting for them has drawn coverage at a volume and intensity that is exceptional by any measure.³²

Possible questions about the government's integrity are squarely presented here. First, ICE's own public account of Mr. Adan Gonzalez's death is in tension with the contemporaneous emergency record. Second, ICE inspected Stewart, documented suicide-prevention deficiencies, and appears to not have imposed any corrective action to prevent the deaths that followed. Third, ICE's own prior death review at this facility found that facility staff falsified documents. Fourth, ICE's public death reporting has repeatedly diverged from independent findings. Fifth, ICE appears not to have complied with its statutory death-reporting obligations. Whether a federal agency has accurately told the public how a thirty-three-year-old man in its custody died, whether it enforced its own standards at a facility it had already found deficient, and whether its account of that death can be reconciled with the emergency records generated that night, are clearly questions that affect public confidence.

Pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(3), the undersigned certifies that the information provided above as the basis for requesting expedited processing is true to the best of her knowledge and belief.

If this request is denied in whole or part, we ask that all denials are justified by reference to specific exemptions of the FOIA. We expect the release of all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. We also reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or a decision to deny expedited processing. We look forward to a reply to the request for expedited processing within ten (10) business days, as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(ii)(I). Notwithstanding a decision on the matter of expedited processing, we look forward to a reply to the records request within twenty (20) business days, as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i).

III. Request for Fee Waiver

Finally, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) and agency regulations, we request that you waive any and all fees and costs associated with processing this request. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures likely will contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures in a significant way. *See id.* § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Moreover, the request primarily and fundamentally is for non-commercial purposes. *See, e.g., McClellan Ecological v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

As stated above, *supra* II.B.i, CREW and Project South are primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public about actual or alleged government activity. We request that we not be charged search or review fees for this request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) because we qualify as members of the news media. *See Nat'l Sec. Archive v. U.S. Dep't of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381, 1386 (D.C. Cir. 1989) (holding non-profit a "representative of the news media" and broadly interpreting the term to include "any person or organization which regularly publishes or disseminates information to the public").

<https://atlpresscollective.com/2026/05/01/stewart-detention-ice-death/>; *Private ICE Detention Center Overwhelms Emergency Responders*, Scripps News (June 11, 2026), <https://www.wptv.com/investigations/ice-inc/private-ice-detention-center-overwhelms-emergency-responders>; Timothy Pratt & Andrew Free, *ICE Prison's 911 Calls Overwhelm a Rural Georgia Emergency System*, *The Intercept* (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://theintercept.com/2025/12/12/stewart-911-calls-ice-ambulance-emergency/>.
³² *How Understaffing and DHS Policy Drives Rising Deaths in ICE Detention Centers*, CNN (May 15, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/15/us/ice-immigration-detention-centers-medical-care-deaths-invs-vis>; Sanjay Basu et al., *Mortality in US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention*, *JAMA* (Apr. 16, 2026), doi:10.1001/jama.2026.3719; Michele Heisler & Katherine R. Peeler, editorial accompanying *id.*; *Death Rate in Immigration Detention Has Reached a 22-Year High*, NBC News (Apr. 16, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/death-rate-immigration-detention-reached-22-year-high-doctors-say-rcna331913>; *Death Rates at ICE Detention Facilities Raise Concerns*, ABC News (Apr. 16, 2026).

Under these circumstances, Project South and CREW satisfy fully the criteria for a fee waiver. If the request for a fee waiver is denied, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Please contact Priyanka Bhatt at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], should you wish to discuss this request. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Priyanka Bhatt
Senior Staff Attorney
Project South

Kayvan Farchadi
Senior Counsel
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

Amilcar Valencia
Executive Director
El Refugio