



#XMAP IN PLAIN SIGHT

ACTION TOOLKIT



South Texas
Detention Complex
566 Veterans Drive



WHAT

In Plain Sight is an activist artwork to speak out and support organizers working to abolish immigrant detention and dismantle the culture of incarceration in the United States.

Our goal is to educate, engage, and mobilize people to end immigrant detention.

The nationwide campaign commences on July 3rd with:

- An artwork: An orchestrated poetic act in collaboration with 80 artists, using the nation's skytyping fleet to inform people about the shocking nature of immigrant detention in the US. They will spell out artist-generated messages in water vapor, legible for miles. These messages will be typed in the sky over detention facilities, immigration courts, borders, and other sites of historic relevance.
- Digital engagement: Each phrase ends in #XMAP, an indexical. X marks the spot, Malcolm X, Latin X, X chromosomes, X as in X's and O's. The hashtag leads viewers to <https://xmap.us/> -- our website that includes an interactive map locating detention centers in users' proximity, paid for with your tax dollars in your name. The website also serves as a pipeline to partner organizations.
- Partnerships: The project's website and social media feeds -- [@inplainsightmap](https://twitter.com/inplainsightmap) -- serve as a pipeline to organizations working to end immigrant detention.
- On the ground mobilizations: Simultaneous with the art activation, our partner organizations will engage in creative actions with local communities at relevant sites.
- Cultural and educational engagement: Producing curriculum and programming for nationwide institutions.
- A docuseries: An episodic anthology that will delve more deeply into the project's themes of migration, identity and belonging via the personal and creative lives of the participating artists and activists, many of whom are themselves immigrant, first generation, and/or undocumented.



WHY

Immigration policy is moving in a notably dangerous direction—to criminalization, militarization, privatization, and incarceration. Detention is one aspect of a set of inhumane immigration policies including deportation and the ignoring of laws relating to asylum and due process.

Prompt action to release individuals from ICE detention is not only the humanitarian and moral course, but the most reasonable health intervention to prevent unnecessary deaths.

In Plain Sight is entering the movement by engaging people in the U.S. to use their social and monetary capital to support organizations working to end inhumane detention. We are highlighting the human costs of militarization and privatization of U.S. immigration policy.

In Plain Sight aims to amplify the voices organizing on the inside and outside of detention centers, bringing together artist interventions and direct support for those urgently working towards immigrant justice. We aim to serve the decades-long movement built by people working, often as volunteers, as part of powerful coalitions, networks, and local organizations supporting the immigrant community. Our team, intersectional in our identities, experiences, and expertise, is dedicated to drawing attention to the calls to action crafted by experts on the ground and in communities, and to uplifting the voices of all those currently detained. We strive to do this in a collaborative and intentional manner. We stand in solidarity with all those working to end immigrant detention and the culture of incarceration. We welcome all comments and suggestions of how we can further uplift local voices, and center the voices of those who are directly impacted.

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

The liberation of immigrant, LGBTQI+ and Black communities are deeply bound together. The violence our communities suffer is rooted in white supremacy and colonization. We stand in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives and their ongoing work for a just and free world.



THE ART

In Plain Sight will steer the gaze of those on the ground into the borderless sky, pairing artist interventions with political education and direct support to organizations and key sectors of the movement working to abolish immigrant detention. We will render visible the scale of the number of immigrant detention centers across the country through sky typed messages over these centers.

Each of the eighty artists invited to contribute have socially and politically engaged practices. *In Plain Sight* asks these artists to collectively focus their attention towards immigration, mass incarceration, xenophobia, and borders, inviting them to write phrases and words that will be typed in the sky directly over detention facilities, immigration courts, borders, and sites of historic and cultural relevance.



THE ART

The artists and team members driving the aesthetic intervention are committed to justice, equity, and inclusion, and embody these values in their practice. The lead artists on this project are:



Cassils is a visual artist working in live performance, film, sound, sculpture and photography. Cassils has achieved international recognition for a rigorous engagement with the body as a form of social sculpture and is the recipient of the USA Artist Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship, the inaugural ANTI Festival International Prize for Live Art, California Community Foundation Grant, Creative Capital Award, and Visual Artist Fellowship from the Canada Council of the Arts. Cassils's films have premiered at Sundance Film Festival, Park City, UT; OUTFest, Los Angeles, CA; Institute for Contemporary Art, London, UK; Museu da Imagem e do Som, São Paulo, Brazil; International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands; M+, Hong Kong, China; and Outsider Festival, Austin, TX.



rafa esparza lives and works in Los Angeles and is a multidisciplinary artist whose work reveals his interests in history, personal narratives, and kinship, his own relationship to colonization and the disrupted genealogies that it produces. Using live performance as his main form of inquiry, esparza employs site-specificity, materiality, memory, and what he calls (non)documentation as primary tools to investigate and expose ideologies, power structures, and binary forms of identity that establish narratives, history, and social environments.

Learn more about the 80 artists involved www.xmap.us/artists



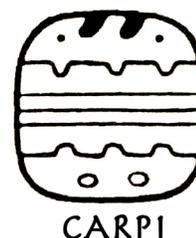
#XMAP
IN PLAIN SIGHT

THE MOVEMENT

IPS TOOLKIT

In Plain Sight will connect what people are seeing in the sky with the people on the ground working to end immigrant detention. We are working to provide people a deeper understanding of the scale of the detention network across the US (and what is in your own community). We have built our intervention and campaign to be of service to a set of partner organizations at the heart of the movement against detention and for immigrant rights.

Learn about their work here:



Donate to Detention Bond Funds

Detained immigrants sometimes have the opportunity to be released on cash bond - which is like bail - while fighting for immigration cases. Bonds range from \$1,500 to \$250,000, and many families can't afford these amounts to free their family members - who might have been arrested in ICE raids, or have been in the US for decades, or who are mothers separated from their children at the border, among many other types of people detained. Without the ability to pay a bond, longtime lawful permanent residents, asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants who may be eligible for relief from deportation are forced to languish in immigration detention. This is one way you can help: Please donate to free immigrants from jail while we work towards a human solution that allows families to stay together and lets individuals focus their efforts on winning their immigration cases. Below is a listing of national and local bonds named by our organizational partners.

[#MeltICE Freedom Fund](#) your contribution to the 2020 Freedom Fund at the Community Justice Exchange will be distributed across the 36 immigration bond funds of the National Bail Fund Network to help post bond for individuals in immigration detention. Support your local fund directly by finding them in [this national directory](#) of 36 local community-run bond funds.

[Black Immigrants Bail Fund](#) provides free assistance and relief to black immigrants in pursuit of Liberation and Justice.

[Bay Area Immigrant Bond](#) All donations to the Bay Area Immigration Bond Fund are tax-deductible and will be recycled in the future to help win the freedom of other people from immigration detention.

[First Friends' Bond Fund](#) supports people detained in New Jersey's four Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers.

[Free Our Neighbors Bond Fund](#) uses donor funds to pay immigration bonds for people held in immigration jail who currently lack the means to pay the bond themselves. We are a completely volunteer-run organization. We are dedicated to using donations to pay immigration bonds as directly as possible and collaborate with community-led bond funds and community-based organizations.

[Immigrant Liberation Fund](#) supports immigrants detained in Adelanto whom have been granted bond, but are still detained because they can't afford to pay it (each bond ranges from \$1500-\$10,000+). Getting out of detention may well save their lives. Fight back by donating all or part of yours to free someone at high risk for COVID-19 from detention.

[Inland Coalition 4 Immigrant Justice Commissary Fund](#) provides resources for people currently detained.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is a precondition for folks' bond to be set. There is currently an extremely high demand for sponsors to offer refuge so folks may be released. You can learn more about this via the link below. Freedom for Immigrants is working with the Asylum Seeker Sponsorship Project and other collectives across territories to recruit more sponsors for this decarceration effort.

[Freedom for Immigrants Sponsor- Freedom](#) - pledge to welcome immigrants in your community as a [sponsor](#).

Join the Movement

[#FreeThemAll Campaign](#) - In response to the growing public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the United States government's inadequate response, thousands of advocates have been sounding the alarm since March that all people in immigration detention must be released from detention immediately. ICE's detention system is notorious for its fatally flawed medical care and abysmal conditions that only worsen in times of crisis. The government can and should release all people from detention immediately. All levels of government actors have a role to demand Free Them All.

This moment highlights why cages are a public health nuisance, people can't heal, recuperate, or avoid infection in jails and prisons. Learn more about the [#FreeThemAll](#) campaign [here](#).

[#AbolishICE](#) - Immigration and Customs Enforcement exists to target, imprison, and deport immigrants. Locking up and exiling people are their only reason for being. Immigration enforcement officers are now the largest federal police force. Their budget is more than that of all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. They are accountable to no one, and take their marching orders directly from Trump. We need to defund ICE, and we need legislation that dismantles the agency. They have only been around for 15 years, and their continued existence is far from inevitable. There's already movement: at least 21 Democratic congressional primary candidates have come out in favor of abolishing the agency. Trump's deportation squad should cease to exist. Immigration enforcement as we know it must end.

Vote

For those eligible to vote in the US, it's crucial to use your voice in this year's election. Visit [vote.org](#) to find out how to register, and get your friends, family, and community to the polls. Elect public officials who are accountable and hold up the values of human rights and fairness in our immigration system.

Instagram / Facebook For posting June 22-July 2

ART FORCING CHANGE: LOOK UP

Fairness, freedom, opportunity, and respect for human rights should be at the core of our immigration system. This so-called “Independence Day” 80 artists and immigrant rights organizations are joining together to launch @inplainsightmap – a stunning effort to make visible the injustices of the largest immigration detention system in the world.

In Plain Sight's collective of artists – representing an array of ages, gender presentations and subjective lived experiences that have come together in solidarity to help abolish immigrant detention. ICE detention is the practice of incarcerating immigrants—from those who have just arrived to those who've lived in the U.S. for years—while they await a determination of their status or potential deportation. Various reports detail horrifying conditions. The federal government wastes more than \$25 billion each year on ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to profile, detain and deport immigrants.

YOU CAN HELP END IMMIGRANT DETENTION:

Join the movement #FreeThemAll Campaign + #AbolishIce.

Donate to the National Immigration Detention Bond Fund [[link in bio](https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/CIVIC/GivingTuesday) - [link to: https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/CIVIC/GivingTuesday](https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/CIVIC/GivingTuesday)].

Get to know our work and other partners in this effort [[add other org handles as relevant](#)]

Video credits: Editor: @grahamkolbeins + Music:@dorianwoodmusic

#InPlainSight #XMAP #LookUp #FreeThemAll #AbolishICE #DefundHate #HomeisHere #HeretoStay #WithDACA #si-sepuede #prisonindustrialcomplex #resist #closethecamps + **ADD OTHER MOVEMENT HASHTAGS AS RELEVANT**

Twitter For posting June 22-July 2

On July 3rd we're joining 80 artists to launch @inplainsightmap – to make visible the injustices of the U.S. immigration detention system- the largest in the world. #InPlainSight #XMAP #LookUp #FreeThemAll #AbolishICE #DefundHate <https://xmap.us/>

Fairness, freedom, opportunity, and respect for human rights should be at the core of our immigration system. #LookUp July 3rd #InPlainSight #XMAP #FreeThemAll #AbolishICE #DefundHate <https://xmap.us/>

On July 3rd #LOOKUP + join the movement to #FreeThemAll + #AbolishICE; Donate to the National Immigration Detention Bond Fund [<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/CIVIC/GivingTuesday> + if you're eligible, make sure you are ready to vote in November! Take action: <https://xmap.us/>

#LOOKUP on July 3 as we join 80 artists for @inplainsight, making visible the injustices of the U.S. immigration system. Learn about what is being done with YOUR \$\$, in YOUR name <https://xmap.us/> #InPlainSight #XMAP #LookUp #FreeThemAll #AbolishICE #DefundHate

For posting July 2

*Please coordinate / your tweets today at the following times in your time zone as we attempt to get the hashtag to trend: 10am PT / 12pm CT / 1pm ET

Tomorrow, July 3 #LOOKUP + join the @inplainsightmap coalition of 80 artists + immigrant rights orgs to make visible the injustices of the U.S. immigration system. #InPlainSight #XMAP #FreeThemAll #AbolishICE #DefundHate <https://xmap.us/>

Google Drive Link to all images: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1EqxXhYIMeZ5KoHTk5l2E35F-2U6UmYsh>



What *In Plain Sight* is an activist artwork conceived to speak out and support organizers working to abolish immigrant detention and dismantle the culture of incarceration in the United States. The goal is to educate, engage, and mobilize people to end immigrant detention.

How This action strategically highlights the geographic proximity of detention camps that are hiding “in plain sight” to the American public through an artist-created sky-typing performance at each site. The sky-typing will consist of messages highlighting detention centers and sites of historic relevance across the US. In addition, a website (<https://xmap.us/>) with an interactive map will locate detention facilities and internment camps in the user’s vicinity, paid for with your tax dollars in your name. The website also serves as a pipeline to partner organizations. There will be simultaneous on the ground creative actions and mobilizations with local communities at relevant sites. Additionally, a docuseries is being created that will delve more deeply into the project’s themes of migration, identity and belonging via the personal and creative lives of the participating artists and activists, many of whom are themselves immigrant, first generation, and/or undocumented.

Who Artists Cassils and rafa esparza have invited 80 artists—known for addressing subjects of mass incarceration, xenophobia, borders and migrant communities— to collaborate in this public art work.

Where *In Plain Sight* has the nation’s entire fleet of skytypers typing across the US, with each message designed by one of 80 artists, to take place directly above immigrant detention centers, former camps, prisons, and other historic landmarks nationwide.

Why The ultimate goal of this artwork is to educate, engage and empower people to end for-profit immigrant detention.



Demonstrations nationwide and a federal judge's order led the Trump administration to back down from its zero tolerance border policy, but the government has missed a deadline to reunite families. (Joshua Lott / Getty Images)



Demonstrators protest the detentions and deportations of Cambodian Americans in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Sacramento, Calif., on Oct. 3, 2019. (Salgu Wissmath / for NBC News)

When This action will take place on the 3rd and 4th and 5th of July, 2020.

Stats In 2019, ICE detained, on average, over 50,000 people each day. As of January 2020, 81 percent of people detained in ICE custody nationwide are held in facilities owned or managed by private prison corporations — a record high. On October 24th, 2019, ACLU reported more than 5,400 children have been separated from their families at the Mexico border since July 2017. Adults and children have been suffering and dying in taxpayer funded facilities. Since 2003 there have been over 207 deaths in ICE detention, and this does not include children.

On top of these brutal actualities, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 within these facilities. Prompt action to release individuals from ICE detention is not only the just and moral course, but the most reasonable health intervention to prevent unnecessary deaths.

Testimonials Hear testimonials of people incarcerated/formerly incarcerated in immigrant detention centers around Southern California in this series from *In Plain Sight* partner ACLU Southern California:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVyEsrj4VzwYMRlpTcYut2T4Xq4cYJajS>

Resources

[IPS Cell Phone Video Guide](#)

[WITNESS: Filming Protests and Police Abuse](#)

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FAQ

What is immigration?

Immigration is the act of leaving one's countries and moving to another country, to settle or reside there, especially as permanent residents or naturalized citizens, or to take-up employment as a migrant worker or temporarily as a foreign worker.

Why are people on the move?

People leave one country for another -- as immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers -- for many reasons, some of which include economic or political reasons, family reunification, natural disasters, or the desire to change one's surroundings.

What is immigrant detention?

Immigration detention is the inhumane practice of incarcerating immigrants while they await a determination of their immigration status or potential deportation. There are over 200 ICE detention centers across the country.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), subcontracts the majority of detention space to county jails and private prison corporations like the notorious GEO Group and CoreCivic.

The United States locks up survivors of torture, people seeking asylum, people who have been granted the right to live in the United States, visa holders, people who have lived here for years and may have American citizen spouses and children, individuals with mental health and medical conditions and other vulnerable groups including pregnant women and families with children—even babies.

In detention, immigrants are subjected to life-jeopardizing conditions of confinement and denied access to adequate medical care, legal counsel and family contact.

Instead, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their families and in community not behind bars in immigration detention and for those that need support, they can access it through community-based groups.

[\(DWN Immigration 101\)](#)

What is ICE?

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), targets, detains, and deports immigrants. ICE was created as part of a racist and Islamophobic response to the September 11th attacks. The racist roots of ICE grew to target Black and brown immigrant communities, combining demonizing rhetoric, racial profiling and criminalizing practices that spread xenophobia and galvanize white supremacists.

[\(DWN Immigration 101\)](#)

Number of ICE facilities as of July 2020:

More than 200 ICE detention centers. This includes family detention centers and some juvenile facilities. This does not include BOP or ORR facilities.



FAQ (continued)

Number of families separated:

On Oct. 24, 2019, ACLU reported more than 5,400 children were separated from their parents at the Mexico border since July 2017.

Number of those currently held in ICE detention:

25,421 people are incarcerated in immigrant detention as of May 30, 2020.

What is the #FreeThemAll campaign?

In response to the growing public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the United States government's inadequate response, thousands of advocates have been sounding the alarm since March that all people in immigration detention must be released from detention immediately. ICE's detention system is notorious for its fatally flawed medical care and abysmal conditions that only worsen in times of crisis. The government can and should release all people from detention immediately. All levels of government actors have a role to demand [#FreeThemAll](#).

This moment highlights why cages are a public health nuisance, people can't heal, recuperate, or avoid infection in jails and prisons.

What is the #AbolishICE campaign?

Immigration and Customs Enforcement exists to target, imprison, and deport immigrants. Locking up and exiling people are their only reason for being. Immigration enforcement officers are now the largest federal police force. Their budget is more than that of all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. They are accountable to no one, and take their marching orders directly from Trump. We need to defund ICE, and we need legislation that dismantles the agency. They have only been around for 15 years, and their continued existence is far from inevitable. There's already movement: at least 21 Democratic congressional primary candidates have come out in favor of abolishing the agency. Trump's deportation squad should cease to exist. Immigration enforcement as we know it must end.

What is the Defund Hate campaign?

For too long, our elected officials have said they care about our communities while simultaneously funding deadly immigration jails, the militarization of our Southern border, and abusive ICE and Customs and Border Patrol agents. The federal government wastes more than \$25 billion each year on ICE and CBP. That money needs to be redirected from dangerous, deadly immigration enforcement and border militarization to programs that benefit all of us. We want our tax dollars used to strengthen our communities by investing in education, housing, and health care programs that increase well-being, not bankroll xenophobic policies. The Defund Hate campaign calls to defund ICE and CBP, while investing in communities. ([DWN Defund Hate Campaign](#))



FAQ (continued)

What are Immigrant Detention Bond Funds?

Detained immigrants, including people arrested in ICE raids and mothers separated from their children at the border sometimes have the opportunity to be released on cash bond - which is like bail - while fighting for immigration cases. Many families cannot afford the bond amounts set by ICE or immigration judges. Bonds range from \$1,500 to \$250,000. Without the ability to pay a bond, longtime lawful permanent residents, asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants who may be eligible for relief from deportation are forced to languish in immigration detention. Please donate to free immigrants from jail while we work towards a human solution that allows families to stay together and lets individuals focus their efforts on winning their immigration cases.

Who are the artists involved in this project?

Artist biographies are available at www.xmap.us/artists

What is skytyping?

Digital Skytyping is executed by a number of planes that coordinate to print different segments of a message. The average message is up to thirty (30) characters long and can stretch four to six miles long. Skytyping uses five planes and white smoke is emitted like writing across the sky, composed of a special combination of oils, which is emitted through the plane's exhaust system. They fly parallel in line and the message to be written is loaded onto a computer, and as the planes fly, electronic signals trigger the smoke-emission mechanism in each plane to release the smoke accordingly.

Is there a plan in place to offset the carbon usage from the skytyping?

Using several Carbon Footprint Calculators, we have estimated that each one-half hour skywriting flight can be offset by planting 5 trees. *In Plain Sight* artist Sam Van Aken has generously offered to plant the equivalent trees to offset *In Plain Sight* CO2. These trees will be placed in close proximity to detention facilities and sights of incarceration.

Do you have a question?

Contact us at contact@xmap.us



#XMAP IN PLAIN SIGHT

THANK YOU!

