

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Secretary Noem:

I write today with serious concern about the conditions in which detainees are held at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field office at 180 Ted Turner Drive in Atlanta.

Recent reporting reveals a facility that is overwhelmed and unprepared to house people overnight. This field office processes detainees in a basement that was never intended for long-term detention, nor detention beyond 12 hours. As such, it does not have beds, showers, or space for detainees to meet with counsel. The field office contains just four holding cells, two single-occupancy cells, and an interview room, and has capacity for 125 detainees.¹ Per U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) guidance, detainees are not to be held in field offices for longer than twelve hours.² Nonetheless, in the past six months alone, nearly 1200 people have been detained for at least twenty-four hours in poor conditions. Roughly 300 people were detained in the field office for between three and five days. Over the summer, fifty to seventy people were regularly housed in these few rooms overnight.³

Overcrowding, harsh conditions, and limited facilities jeopardize the health and safety of detainees, who may not have adequate access to medical care or counsel.

Given the frequency with which detainees are now held at the Atlanta Field Offices for longer periods, it is urgent that conditions be assessed and improved. Given the urgency of the situation, we ask that you respond to the following questions no later than **October 31, 2025**.

- How many people are detained at the Atlanta Field Office on an average night? Where do they sleep, and in what conditions?
- Please provide a breakdown of individuals detained for more than 12 hours at the Atlanta Field Office who are:
 - U.S. citizens
 - Pregnant
 - Over the age of 60
 - Under age 18
- What are your procedures to evaluate the medical needs of detained people and who is tasked with this responsibility? Please describe the training for these individuals and a copy of any training documents.
- When an individual is identified with a serious medical or mental health issue or disability, what are your procedures to ensure the individual has timely access to appropriate care?

¹ https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/prea_audit/atlantaDistrictHoldRoom_Mar7-8_2023.pdf

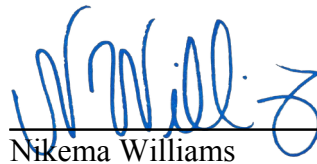
² <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/policy/directive11087.2.pdf>

³ https://www.ajc.com/news/2025/10/ice-detaining-immigrants-for-long-periods-in-atlanta-field-office-basement/?utm_campaign=mrf-facebook-ajc&mrfeed=2025100268de6560db798d24441a714c

- Are detainees being given meals every six hours as required by ICE ERO Holding Facilities policy?⁴ If not, how frequently do individuals receive meals?
- How can detained individuals communicate in a timely manner with their attorneys or family members?
- What percentage of detainees are legally required to be detained, as opposed to eligible for parole? What is the process by which staff at the Atlanta Field Office assesses detainees for parole eligibility? What percentage of those eligible for parole remain detained longer than 24 hours?
- Please provide copies, with all necessary redactions, to all Detention Logs for detainees since January 20, 2025 for the Atlanta Field office.

Thank you for your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

⁴ <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/policy/directive11087.2.pdf>