



Call to Shut Down Detention Center

It sits in a rural area of Central Pennsylvania nestled in the Appalachian Mountains and surrounded by a vast hardwood forest. But what happens inside the low-slung buildings known as the Moshannon Valley Processing Center belies the serene setting.

Moshannon is a privately-run, for-profit detention center for undocumented immigrants who have been picked up by federal agents and await deportation. In recent months, its population has swollen to more than 1,300 detainees as the Trump administration has stepped up its campaign to expel immigrants who do not have legal status. The sprawling facility, which has 1,876 beds, is operated by the Geo Group, Inc. under contract with the federal government and Clearfield County.

On Aug. 5, a Chinese immigrant hanged himself in a Moshannon shower room in what advocates say is the latest indication of ongoing problems at the facility. Last year, reports by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Pennsylvania and Temple University's Beasley School of Law documented wide-ranging human rights abuses at Moshannon including poor supervision, overcrowding, lack of access to proper medical care, inadequate translation services and the use of solitary confinement for punitive purposes.

In response to the recent suicide, Geo issued a statement saying it was committed to ensuring a safe and humane environment.

Immigrant rights groups from across the state are now calling for the facility, which receives more than \$3 million a month in operating funds from the federal government, to be shut down. They are sponsoring a non-violent demonstration at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Philipsburg Memorial Park to urge the Clearfield County Board of Commissioners to terminate its contract with Geo.

Buses sponsored by Indivisible Philadelphia, a progressive grassroots group, will leave Philadelphia's 30th Street Station at 10 a.m. on Aug. 24 and return at 10 p.m. Snacks and water will be provided and the buses will have bathrooms. To reserve a seat, click [here](#). You can also car-pool to the event or donate \$45 to pay for a seat for someone else on the bus.

– Huntly Collins