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**ACTIVISTS GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE DAY OF THE DEAD OUTSIDE OF IMMIGRANT
DETENTION CENTER**

The event will honor those who are detained, have been deported, or have died while in ICE custody and demand an end to deaths in detention

[GADSDEN, AL] -- Local community members and national human rights advocates gathered together outside of the Etowah County Detention Center on Thursday, November 3 from 5:00-7:00pm to participate in a procession around the jail in honor of Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead). The action serves to remember those who have died in detention or after deportation--including Teka Gulema, an Etowah detainee who died in January, and is part of a [national series](#) of Day of the Dead actions at detention centers across the country.

An organizer with the Shut Down Etowah campaign, Carlos Ramos Colorado explained, "Dia de Los Muertos is a tradition which honors people who have died and it is also is a time when we can stand up to death and celebrate our lives. When we stand up to death, which is all-powerful, we can also stand up to institutions like ICE and the out of control power that it has over the lives of immigrants. We are taking our power back and celebrating the fight for justice and for our lives outside of ICE's control."

[Recent investigations](#) into deaths in immigration detention have found that inadequate medical care at detention centers have contributed to numerous deaths.

Since 2003, 164 people have died in immigration detention. This year alone, there have been 10 deaths in detention centers across the country at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The shameful record of deaths amassed by ICE exposes their inability to guarantee the safety and health of people in their custody. ICE allows rampant abuses, substandard medical care, and other violations to continue undetected – sometimes with fatal consequences.

"ICE is allowing people to die in their custody. We demand ICE conduct an investigation into the 10 deaths that have occurred this year and publicly release the findings by January 30th," said Danny Cendejas, DWN Organizing Director. "People are dying due to medical neglect with no accountability. The evidence is clear and indisputable; ICE needs to start shutting down detention centers now."

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Visit www.shutdownetowah.org and www.facebook.com/ShutDownEtowah to learn more

Detention Watch Network (DWN) is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to expose and challenge the injustices of the United States' immigration detention and deportation system and advocate for profound change that promotes the rights and dignity of all persons. Founded in 1997 by immigrant rights groups, DWN brings together advocates to unify strategy and build partnerships on a local and national level to end immigration detention. Visit www.detentionwatchnetwork.org.