

# GOLDEN STATE ANNEX DETENTION CENTER. MCFARLAND, KERN COUNTY & MESA VERDE, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Labor and Hunger Strikes:** Immigrants detained by ICE at Mesa Verde and GSA are coerced into working for GEO Group for **\$1-a-day pay**. After a 10-month **labor strike** in 2022–2023 before escalating to a **hunger strike**, which was paused due to brutal and violent **retaliation** by ICE and GEO. Instead of addressing the issues, ICE and GEO repressed detained **organizing**, leading to worsening conditions and a **200% increase** in detainee population in early 2024.

Learn more at [bit.ly/MV-GSA-Resist](https://bit.ly/MV-GSA-Resist)

## COVID-19 FAILURES:

Since the pandemic began, GEO and ICE have consistently **failed** to protect people detained at Mesa Verde and GSA. Early on, **a judge stated** that ICE had “avoided widespread testing of staff and [detained people] at the facility, not for lack of tests but for fear that positive test results would require them to implement safety measures.” On August 25, 2023, 30 detained individuals signed a **letter** reporting denial of antiviral medication and receiving only cough drops or electrolytes for COVID-19. In August 2024, a COVID outbreak at GSA was revealed when two individuals were hospitalized and tested by outside providers, exposing ICE’s cover-up attempt. ICE and GEO spread the virus by moving symptomatic individuals between dorms and putting some COVID-positive individuals in solitary confinement, showing their failure to keep people safe.



## HISTORY OF STRIKES

**2022-2023**  
10-month labor strike

**July 1, 2024**  
Relaunch of labor strike by 59 detainees.

**July 23, 2024**  
Hunger strike paused after threats of transfer.

**Ongoing**  
Continued labor strike with increased retaliation; new COVID-19 outbreaks

**Early 2023**  
Escalation to hunger strike, paused due to retaliation

**July 11, 2024**  
42 detainees at GSA begin hunger strike.

**August 1, 2024**  
Relaunch of hunger strike by 62 detainees across both facilities.

## CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS & HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS:

In 2024, Federal civil rights complaint:

- **excessive use of force** by GEO guards-sanctioned by ICE-against people inside GSA just days after detained immigrants held two peaceful protests to call for improved conditions.
- GEO Group staff's **sexual abuse and harassment, and discrimination** based on people's gender and sexual orientation.
- Resistance, Retaliation, Repression: a **report that analyzes hundreds of complaints** filed by detained people through the ICE grievance system over inhumane conditions: hazardous facilities, medical neglect, sleep deprivation, abuse of solitary confinement, and sexual assault.

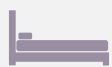
## FACTS AND FIGURES

**Kern County** second-largest U.S. food producer. Key supplier of energy including oil, gas, solar, and wind. However, another main industry sector in Kern County is the carceral system, with 27 jails, prisons and private immigration detention centers.

## GOLDEN STATE ANNEX AND MESA VERDE DETENTION CENTER IMMIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS

- **Private Prison Company:** GEO Group Inc. holds a contract with ICE for three immigration centers in Kern; the **Mesa Verde ICE processing Center, the Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility and the Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility** (capacity 700) which is not currently in use by ICE.
- **ICE contract terms:** The current end date is **2034** with 5-year renewal review options, next one up is December 2024, but the legality of the contract is questionable. GEO previously contracted with the California Department of Corrections to use Golden State and Central Valley as state prisons, with the land and facilities owned by GEO. After California ended this contract, GEO opened Mesa Verde for immigration detention in 2015.
- **Contract paid each year for Golden State Annex and Mesa Verde= \$105Million**
- Key Decision-Maker for GSA: **City of McFarland** has the power to discontinue the land use permit.
- Key Decision-Maker for Mesa Verde: **City of Bakersfield** has the power to discontinue the land use permit.

### MESA VERDE



Guaranteed Minimum Payment by ICE

**320 BEDS**

(Regardless of occupancy)

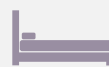


Total Capacity

**400**

As of August 19th, 2024, there are a total of **47 people** at this facility. This is the same as 2023.

### GOLDEN GATE ANNEX



Guaranteed Minimum Payment by ICE

**560 BEDS**

(Regardless of occupancy)



Total Capacity

**700**

As of August 19th, 2024, there are a total of **332 people** at this facility. This is an *increase* from 154 in 2023.



## WHO TO CONTACT TO GET INVOLVED

The MV-GSA Strike Support Committee at:

[eunice@pangealegal.org](mailto:eunice@pangealegal.org), [alex@ccijustice.org](mailto:alex@ccijustice.org), [rlopez@aclusocal.org](mailto:rlopez@aclusocal.org).