



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Puente Human Rights Movement Hosts Series of Caravans to Commemorate One Year Anniversary of  
COVID-19 Inside Arizona Prisons**

***There have been 53 lives lost inside since the start of the pandemic.***

**Phoenix, Arizona**--In observation of the first year anniversary of COVID-19 hitting Arizona jails, prisons, and detention centers, and in honor of the 53 lives lost inside, Puente Human Rights Movement (Puente) is planning to hold weekly Comply & Release Freedom Caravans each Friday in March beginning today, Friday, March 12. This week's Freedom Caravan will rally outside Tucson State Prison -- the state's deadliest prison during the pandemic.

Since the pandemic hit Arizona one year ago, Puente Human Rights Movement (Puente) has advocated for Arizona officials to protect the health and safety of individuals in Arizona jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers. Over the past year, Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry (ADOCRR) has become notorious for controlling one of the deadliest prison systems in the nation during the pandemic. As of March 5, 2021, ADOCRR confirmed 12,010 positive cases and 53 total deaths, with a positivity rate of 32.49% out of the tested population. ICE has reported a total of 1,115 confirmed positive cases. Both ICE and ADOCRR have failed to supply comprehensive and up-to-date data.

People trapped in Arizona's cages have reported to Puente the inhumane conditions and human rights abuses they experience first-hand, including lack of access to cleaning supplies, running water, toilet paper, personal protective equipment, as well as the facility's overreliance on solitary confinement as a quarantine method. Last month, Puente released a ["Human Rights Report on the State of Confinement & Detention During COVID-19."](#) recounting the abuses that have occurred during the pandemic. Despite Puente's nine months of campaigning for Arizona officials to prioritize the health and safety of people who are incarcerated, meaningful action has not been taken to provide proper care to meet the basic needs of people inside. Puente has since called on the Biden administration to investigate ADOCRR'S negligence and abuse through their Comply & Release campaign.

Learn more about the campaign and sign up to receive updates on upcoming actions at <https://puenteaz.org/complyrelease>. Below is a list of dates for upcoming Comply & Release Freedom Caravans:

- **March 12th, Tucson State Prison**
- **March 19th, Fourth Avenue Jail**
- **March 21st, Vigil at Perryville Prison**
- **March 26th, ICE Detention Center**

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*Puente Human Rights Movement is a grassroots migrant justice organization based in Phoenix, Arizona that develops, educates, and empowers migrant communities to protect and defend families and communities.*