



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Demand to #AZFreeThemAll increases as 34 people incarcerated inside the DOC test positive for COVID-19.**

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**Florence, Arizona, April 24th, 2020** – Impacted family members, Puente Human Rights Movement, and community organized a car rally to Florence Prison on its second stop in the [United for Freedom Caravan](#), to hold the AZ Department of Corrections and Governor Ducey accountable to the COVID-19 crisis inside detention centers and prisons demanding they release and empty these cages immediately starting by [releasing our loved ones and providing quality healthcare](#).

*"We are coming out as impacted family members that have relatives incarcerated during a pandemic. We're concerned about the lack of accountability that the Department of Corrections is taking, there is very little transparency. We are coming out and using our voices to uplift what is happening inside these cages."  
-Erika Ovalle, Puente Member*

As of April 23rd, [34 people incarcerated have tested positive for COVID-19](#). With less than 1% of people incarcerated tested, It is evident the department is ill-prepared to keep everyone safe and flatten the curve. We chose Florence State Prison next because we already know of 22 positive cases confirmed. The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate against previous convictions when everyone's lives are equally at risk, and we cannot sit idly until prisons become an epicenter of the virus.

Our goal is to flatten the curve and we can't do that with our folks in crowded, deadly prison camps. Being the state that holds the 5th largest incarcerated population in the nation, [data predictions show a 99% infection rate inside AZ prisons](#). We need immediate action to free our loved ones.

*"They don't tell us anything about COVID-19, all we know is what we hear on TV. Soap is only provided if you ask for out or if you buy it in the commissary, and that nothing is provided to clean the cells. If Marshall law kicks in, we'll be the first ones to die" - Incarcerated person inside Florence State Prison*



**Who:** Family members directly impacted by incarcerated relatives, and community

**When:** 4 pm PST, Friday, April 23rd, 2020

**Where:** Florence State Prison, 1305 E Butte Ave, Florence, AZ 85132

[Footage from car rally April 14th, 2020 at AZ Department of Corrections. Phx. AZ](#)