

“Black hole”: El Salvador disappearing US deportees into CECOT, rights group says




Families and

By GARRETT C
National Affairs

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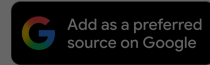
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People held in custody in a cell during a walk around El Salvador CECOT mega prison in the municipality of Tecoluca on January 30, 2026 in San Vicente, El Salvador. (Photo by Alex Peña/Getty Images)



The watchdog group Human Rights Watch accused El Salvador's government of disappearing some nationals deported from the United States.

Some 9,000 Salvadorans who have been deported since the start of 2025, according to Human Rights Watch. Some have been detained at the Center for Terrorism Confinement (CECOT) mega prison, a facility infamous for its rampant abuses. The

organization... contact with their families... previous reporting by... process a year after bei...

Human Right... detention to an "enforced

"Whatever the... process, to be taken bef... ing held and why," Goeber



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Concern among... by the Trump administration has g... in 2025. The administration has worked to designate the Salvadoran deportees as members of criminal gangs, including MS-13. Per Human Rights Watch, there is little evidence that all deportees held in CECOT have gang ties.

"The United States should stop casting people into the black hole of El Salvador's prison system," Goebertus said.

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