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US Will Open the Fourth Detention Facility for Immigrant Families

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The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will soon begin the construction of the fourth detention facility for immigrant families, according to a statement released by the agency this Thursday.

The building that will be located in Dilley, Texas will be capable of holding 2,400 people. This kind of centers are used to detain entire families who try to enter illegally to the United States while they await court hearing or deportations.

There are currently three family detention centers already in operation in the United States. They are located in Karnes City, Texas; Artesia, New Mexico and Leesport, Pennsylvania.



holding area, where hundreds of mostly Central American immigrant children are being processed and held at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Nogales Placement Center in Nogales, Arizona. (Photo: Reuters)

The Dilley Texas facility will be operational next November and will hold up to 480 people. The facility will operate at full capacity starting next summer, said the ICE.

However, several human rights organizations criticized the ICE for building more family detention centers.

"We're extremely disappointed in the administration's decision to dramatically expand the warehousing of vulnerable mothers and children fleeing violence in Central America," said Laura W. Murphy, director of American Civil Liberties Union in Washington.

She went on to say that, "In just a few short months, the family detention system will have increased from just 90 beds to almost 4,000."

More than 50,000 young immigrants have been arrested in the last year by U.S. authorities while trying to enter the country through the Mexican border. The situation forced President Barack Obama to declare a humanitarian crisis.

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