For Immediate Release

Detainees are in Appleton; Prairie Alliance, Community & Allies Join To Speak, Pray, Rally

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Event Details:

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026

Time & Place:
Press Conference: 1 PM, Appleton Cemetery (by Appleton Detention Facility)
555 S Munsterman St, Appleton, MN
Vigil: 2 PM, Civic Center Grounds, 323 W Schlieman Ave, Appleton, MN

Rally: 3 PM, Civic Center Grounds, 323 W Schlieman Ave, Appleton, MN

Event Description:

Members of Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity, residents of Appleton, MN along with fellow Minnesotans from communities near and far will gather in Appleton with one united message: Every person held in Appleton deserves to be treated with basic human dignity, and we will be watching to make sure they are.

Since the first people to be detained at the Appleton Detention Facility have arrived, we are gathering together to affirm that every person who is detained deserves to be treated with dignity.

We believe every person detained in Appleton deserves:

- Clean conditions
- Humane medical care
- Decent food and clean water
- Access to communicate with their family and lawyer

We believe every person in Appleton deserves to know what happens inside the detention

facility in our community. What happens in our community affects all of us, inside and outside of the detention facility walls. We intend to ask questions and say clearly what we know and what we don't. This is our town. We want to be known for treating *everyone* with dignity and respect.

The people detained in the Appleton Detention Facility did not receive their due process. Many of them were grabbed by ICE agents. They did not stand trial before a jury of their peers. Seventy percent of people in ICE detention have no criminal record.

Human suffering should never be a business model. In August, CoreCivic, one of the nation's biggest private prison and detention facility operators, sold their former private prison, the Prairie Correctional Facility, to the federal government for a massive $495 million. CoreCivic reaped massive profits from the sale. But since the federal government does not pay local or state property taxes, Appleton and Swift County lost about $800,000 a year in property taxes. And U.S. taxpayers lost too, since the Department of Homeland Security vastly overpaid CoreCivic almost half a billion dollars for a long-closed prison it had offered to sell to the state of Minnesota for $75 million. KARE 11 Investigates: Private prison was on sale for $75 million; ICE PAID $495 million

CoreCivic has a record of :

- inadequate staffing levels that have led to riots and deaths within some of their facilities Frontier article about deadly prison riot in Oklahoma
- requiring those detained to work for substandard wages, sometimes just a $1 dollar a day SPLC Settlement in Forced Labor Case Against Private Prison Company Operating Immigration Detention Center
- providing little or substandard medical care and inadequate food Reuters "California's Largest ICE Facility Did Not Provide Adequate Medical Care, Monitor Says

We want to ensure that everyone in the facility, from the people detained to the staffers, are safe. Given the track records of both CoreCivic and the Department of Homeland Security, we believe it is imperative that community members and elected officials stand united and monitor as much as possible what happens in the newly opened Appleton Detention Facility.

"Appleton deserves a future built on good jobs, strong local services, and investment that helps our community thrive. Making our town's livelihood depend on locking people up puts families and our community at risk. Human suffering should never be a source of corporate profit. Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity will continue organizing against this detention facility and standing with families affected by detention. Our rural communities deserve better, and so do the people ICE brings here," said Nicole Meyer, Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity.

1 PM PRESS CONFERENCE

On Saturday, Nov 14 at 1 PM, at the public cemetery by the detention facility, members of the Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity and other local and statewide allies will hold a brief press conference calling for the Appleton City Council and Swift County Board to create a public oversight board for the detention facility, like the one Leavenworth, Kansas created.

2 PM VIGIL

At 2 PM, at the Civic Center Grounds, clergy members from Appleton, neighboring communities or allied faith groups will lead an interfaith vigil, offering prayers for all those whose lives and families are affected by what happens inside and out of the Appleton Detention Facility,

3 PM RALLY

At 3 PM, at the Civic Center Grounds, local residents, neighboring community neighbors and other Minnesota allies, will rally in support of human dignity for all those inside and outside the detention facility.

About Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity:

Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity brings people and organizations together to stand in solidarity with immigrant families. We oppose inhumane treatment of our neighbors through detention at the Appleton Detention Facility in Minnesota. We peacefully and legally organize, advocate and provide practical, compassionate support to people affected by detention.

The Immigrant Defense Network convenes the Prairie Alliance for Human Dignity with:

- ACLU-MN
- COPAL
- CURE
- Fey y Justicia
- ICOM
- Indivisible Kandiyohi
- Indivisible Twin Cities
- Land Stewardship Project
- MN8
- MUUSJA
- North Star Alliance
- St. Joan of Arc's Welcome the Stranger
- Unidos
- And many individual volunteers

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