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## Concerns Mount Over New Florida Detention Center Ahead of Trump Visit

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A new immigrant detention facility deep in the Florida Everglades is drawing scrutiny from legal and human rights experts just days before President Donald Trump is expected to visit. Nicknamed “Alligator Alcatraz” due to its isolated, swamp-filled location, the temporary facility has sparked serious concerns about humanitarian conditions and limited access to legal representation.

The site, which may house up to 5,000 detainees, is being managed by Florida's Division of Emergency Management in coordination with the Florida National Guard, with logistical support from the Department of Homeland Security. Officials have cited the isolation of the Everglades, home to alligators, snakes, and pythons, as an added security measure. However, immigration law specialists and policy analysts say the facility's structure, location, and rapid construction create serious risks for abuse and neglect.

"This facility is a human rights disaster waiting to happen," said Dr. Caitlin Patler, a public policy professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Patler cited the remote location as a major concern, noting that detainees may struggle to access legal representation, an issue long criticized in existing detention infrastructure.

Set to be one of the largest facilities of its kind in the United States, the site is composed of climate-controlled tents and trailers, rather than permanent buildings. This makes it particularly vulnerable to Florida's extreme heat and humidity, raising questions about the adequacy of shelter and basic care. "This is a tent facility, so it's a temporary one, and those even more so than the brick-and-mortar facilities raise questions about just the necessities of life," said Kathleen Bush-Joseph, a policy analyst with the Migration Policy Institute.

Experts have raised concerns about the adequacy of medical care in large detention centers. According to Lindsay Harris, a law professor at the University of San Francisco, "Medical concerns at these large detention centers are serious. Negligent deaths within immigrant detention centers have been documented, and there is often limited access to medical personnel and treatment for even common illnesses or injuries."

The lack of proximity to major cities adds another complication. Harris noted that "the detention center's remote location raises serious doubts about whether standard protocols and monitoring will safeguard rights and humane treatment."

Though DHS and the Florida Governor's Office have remained largely silent, the expedited construction of such a large facility is drawing comparisons to past US immigration controversies. Human rights organizations have long documented failures in oversight and care in detention centers nationwide. The addition of yet another high-capacity, remote site is only heightening those concerns.

As Trump prepares to visit "Alligator Alcatraz," supporters view the facility as a symbol of his tough stance on border security. Critics argue it risks repeating past mistakes, this time

in a facility even less equipped to provide transparency, oversight, and humane treatment.