

# Detained Children Forced to Recite Pledge of Allegiance 'Out of Respect' for Country that Tore Them Away From Parents

"This is calculated sadism."

By [Julia Conley](#)

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*Featured image: Children in immigration detention facilities are required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance each morning, according to the Washington Post. (Photo: U.S. Customs and Border Patrol)*

*While tearing children away from parents under a policy designed to keep asylum seekers from entering U.S. society, the Trump administration is forcing those same children to pledge their allegiance to the country that is actively trying to expel them.*

We make the children recite a pledge of allegiance to the country that took them from their parents. This is calculated sadism. <https://t.co/pYHl4VBxRt>

— matt blaze (@mattblaze) [June 25, 2018](#)

President Donald Trump signed an [executive order](#) last week stating that families would be detained together under his "zero tolerance" immigration policy, but thousands of children remain separated from their parents.

The *Washington Post* on Monday [detailed](#) the conditions in which many of those children are living, in detention centers like Casa Padre in Brownsville, Texas, describing "a converted Walmart where each morning they are required to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, in English, to the country that holds them apart from their parents."

A facility employee told the *Post*, "We tell them, 'It's out of respect.'"

Hey, kids-you don't speak English, we ripped you from your parents, we've put you in cages and you'll never be Americans-so now recite the Pledge of Allegiance. <https://t.co/HRGz0uszsp>

— Ameer Vanderpool (@girlsreallyrule) [June 25, 2018](#)

Abducted little refugee kids forced to recite the pledge of allegiance to the country abusing them as a sign of respect. Because nothing says respect like abducting kids.

<https://t.co/TgKS7INCpa> via @Splinter\_news

— PEZ (@Seriously\_usa\_) [June 25, 2018](#)

As *Common Dreams* [reported](#) earlier this month, Casa Padre also features a prominently displayed mural of President Donald Trump.

As details about the treatment of children in detention facilities have emerged, many have drawn comparisons to internment camps for Japanese-Americans that were established during World War II. Actor and activist George Takei's memories of the camp he lived in as a child mirror the descriptions of children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Every morning at the shelter for separated immigrant children begins the same way. The kids are asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. [@washingtonpost](#)

(<https://t.co/Hbxlezl1xz>)

We have been here before. [@GeorgeTakei](#) on his experience during WWII. <https://t.co/aj0qyH5nKT> [pic.twitter.com/qvxgFWyacG](https://t.co/qvxgFWyacG)

— Meghna Chakrabarti (@MeghnaWBUR) [June 25, 2018](#)

As the *Post*'s report coincided with much discussion of the Virginia restaurant whose owner [refused](#) to serve White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders over the weekend—and other [public protests](#) against administration officials—many critics strongly pushed back against the notion that Americans should be concerned with “civility” toward the Trump administration—while children are being forced to show “respect” for the government holding them hostage.

And they want us to believe that the big moral outrage here is that the people behind this aren't welcome at nice restaurants.

— matt blaze (@mattblaze) [June 25, 2018](#)

Let me make sure I have this straight: babies and children who have done nothing wrong are being ripped away from their parents, locked in cages, and being forced to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in front of murals of Donald Trump, but the biggest crisis of today is “civility”?

— Evan Greer (@evan\_greer) [June 25, 2018](#)

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