

Unforgivable

“Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live.”

Elie Wiesel: Night

When Kristi Noem’s ICE brigade deported 255 Venezuelan men to the CECOT¹ prison in El Salvador, assumed guilty with no chance to prove their innocence, they did not just condemn them to a foreign concentration camp². They condemned them to a cruel and unusual death.

When the deportees arrived at CECOT in shackles to be shorn of their hair and their human identities before being crammed into cages not fit for shelter dogs, the prison director told them: *“This is hell and you’re never going to get out.”*³ As Donald Trump and Kristi Noem surely knew, being incarcerated at CECOT is a one-way ticket to an agonizing death.⁴

CECOT is a slow motion extermination camp!

Slaves on a Roman galley ship received more humane treatment than those imprisoned Venezuelan men that Trump and Noem deported to this manmade hellhole. They did not care that inmates of the CECOT concentration camp were doomed to slowly lose their humanity as they lost their hope...

Hope they will ever again walk free in the sunshine.

Hope they will ever again feel the touch of a loved one.

Hope they will ever again taste the sweetness of a freshly peeled orange.

Noem and Trump did not care that most of the men they condemned to CECOT’s tiger cages did not have criminal records. They did not care that their families would never see them again. They did not see those men as human beings who have a right to life. They cared no more for the lives of the men they shipped away to this hell on earth than Caesar cared for the lives of slaves he sent to die in the Colosseum.

And just as Caesar saw his gladiator slaves as possessions to be traded away at his whim, Trump and Noem used these deported men as bargaining chips to be exchanged for the release of ten Americans held in Venezuela. Including one who had been convicted of brutally murdering three people (making him, unlike the Venezuelan deportees, among the worst-of-the-worst).

Trump’s mass deportation crusade was never about making America safe. It has always been about inflicting cruelty and humiliation upon the people he and his minions call “vermin” and accuse of “poisoning the blood” of white America.

To Trump and Noem these men are not human beings.

They are mere props for Republican prison porn and bargaining chips for the Trumpian version of *Game of Thrones*.

Do not forgive them Father, for they damn well know what they do.

And yet still they have the temerity to call themselves Christian.

1. Terrorism Confinement Center: *Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo*
2. CECOT inmates are allocated 6 square feet per person, about the same that the Nazis allocated to inmates at the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp.
3. Teo Armus et al: “U.S. deportees, freed from Salvadoran prison, describe ‘horror movie’” *The Washington Post*, 07-22-2025
4. “The Salvadoran government has described people held in CECOT as ‘terrorists,’ and has said that they ‘will never leave.’ Human Rights Watch is not aware of any detainees who have been released from that prison.”

Human Rights Watch declaration on prison conditions in El Salvador for the J.G.G. v. Trump case, March 20, 2025