



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Detainee Death Report: YANEZ Cruz, Luis

Immigration History

Mr. YANEZ Cruz, a 68-year-old male citizen of Honduras, was arrested on November 16, 2025, and served with a Notice to Appear charging removability under Section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Mr. YANEZ Cruz was initially detained at the Delaney Hall Detention Center in Newark, NJ before being transferred to the Imperial Regional Detention Facility (IRDF) in Calexico, CA, pending removal proceedings.

Synopsis of Events

Upon arrival at IRDF, Mr. YANEZ Cruz underwent an intake screening and comprehensive medical assessment. Mr. YANEZ Cruz initially reported no chronic medical or mental health conditions, though mildly elevated blood pressure was noted. Over the following weeks, he sought medical attention for persistent heartburn, cough, and intermittent gastritis, receiving symptomatic treatment and dietary advice from nursing staff. Despite recurring complaints of acid reflux and epigastric pain, his vital signs remained generally stable, with only slight elevations in blood pressure, and no referral to a higher-level provider was made until his symptoms worsened.

On January 4, 2026, Mr. YANEZ Cruz presented with acute chest pain but had no abnormalities to his skin appearance or heart and lung exam. A registered nurse administered additional medications and instructed Mr. YANEZ Cruz to return to the clinic if symptoms persisted or worsened. His condition deteriorated that evening, with new onset nausea and vomiting, abnormal electrocardiogram results, elevated pulse, and low blood pressure, leading to his transfer to El Centro Regional Medical Center and subsequently to John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital for advanced care. Mr. YANEZ Cruz was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (heart attack). Despite intensive treatment and plans for surgery, Mr. YANEZ Cruz suffered five cardiac arrests and was pronounced deceased on January 6, 2026.