

WEEKEND OF ACTION

Shut Down ICE Jails in Georgia

Organizer's Action Guide

This guide is for everyone - first-time protesters and veteran organizers alike. You will find information for the No New Ice Jails Georgia Weekend of Action (March 20-22, 2026) including general safety & legal tips, adaptable WoA flyers & press releases, action ideas, and more

PART 1: LEGAL PREPARATION (READ FIRST)

All actions carry a risk of arrest whether or not you are doing something “unpermitted,” “illegal,” or “disorderly.” Arrest can be (and on the real, just is) absolutely arbitrary. This is not meant to deter or scare you. It helps to be pragmatic and prepared! Below are some recommendations we make so that you can be in the best shape possible.

Before the Action

1. Write the legal support/bail fund number on your arm in permanent marker. Do not rely on your phone.
2. Find your local NLG (National Lawyers Guild) chapter: <https://www.nlg.org/chapters/>
3. Memorize or write down: your name, your emergency contact, jail support number (there is a local bail fund and jail support for ATL & Athens—reach out to fellow activists for more information), and/or the NLG number.
4. Communicate to at least 1-2 trusted people where you will be and what they should do if they don't hear from you post action (i.e., should they reach out to your job the next day to say you're sick; do they need to let out your dog, etc).
5. Find a buddy at the action who you keep eyes on and who keeps eyes on you. If you lose sight of each other, notify marshals, jail support, and/or the action organizers.

6. You may not want to bring your phone with you, depending on the action. If you chose to you may want to either temporarily exit sensitive Signal groups or add an extra layer of protection to open up sensitive texts. We highly recommend that you do not have face ID or fingerprint ID enabled to open your phone.
7. If you have immigration status concerns, a pending legal case, a professional license, or are on probation or parole, you may want to consult a lawyer before participating in any arrestable action. These factors can significantly change the consequences you face.
8. Extra Credit: Attend or review the Know Your Rights training. The Know Your Rights handout accompanies this guide.

What To Bring to Higher-Risk Actions

- ID (optional - you are not required to carry ID in Georgia, but it can speed up release)
- The phone number for jail support/bail fund
- Legal support number written on your skin
- Medications you need within 24 hours in a labeled prescription bottle

If You Are Arrested

1. Do your best to stay calm.
2. **You are under no obligation to answer questions, and we'd actually advise that you don't, even if it seems like innocuous questions/answers.**
 - a. If you are feeling pressured to speak, you can say: "I am invoking my right to remain silent and my right to an attorney."
3. Do not sign anything or consent to searches.
4. Give your name if asked (Georgia law requires this after a lawful arrest). Give nothing else.
5. Use your phone call to either call jail support or a trusted loved one who can notify jail support and handle whatever personal matters you may need. Assume you have access to 1 call and be strategic about who to call. You will likely not have access to your phone, so this will be a number you have memorized or written down.
6. You can also reach out to Southern Center for Human Rights' Bridge Program at bridge@schr.org for potential help with legal fees.
7. When you are released, document everything you can remember immediately - officers' badge numbers, what was said, times, witnesses.