

22. Geraldo Lunas Campos

Who was Geraldo Lunas Campos? Geraldo Lunas Campos was a 55-year-old man who had lived in the United States for 30 years. He came to the United States from Cuba in 1996. Jeanette Pagan-Lopez was the mother of his two youngest children. Pagan-Lopez, who had been with Lunas Campos for about 15 years before they separated eight years ago, described him as an attentive father who had worked at a furniture store until his detention. "He was a good dad. He was a human being."

How did Geraldo Lunas Campos end up in ICE Custody? Geraldo Lunas Campos was detained by ICE in July 2025 while living in Rochester. He was transferred to Camp East Montana in El Paso Texas in September. In the family's last phone call, the week after Christmas, he talked to his kids about his expected deportation back to Cuba, saying he wanted them to visit the island so he could stay in their lives.

How did Geraldo Lunas Campos die under ICE Custody? Geraldo Lunas Campos died on January 3, 2026, while in ICE custody at Camp East Montana. A detainee who witnessed Geraldo's death told the Associated Press that guards handcuffed Lunas Campos, tackled him, and put him in a chokehold until he lost consciousness. The detainee also said that he heard Geraldo repeatedly saying "I can't breathe" in Spanish. A second witness said the altercation began when Geraldo requested his asthma medication and was being dragged to a segregated detention area.

What happened after Geraldo Lunas Campos's death? On January 21, 2026, the El Paso County coroner ruled Lunas Campos's death a homicide, reporting he died from asphyxia caused by compression of the neck and torso. The same day, a federal judge blocked deportation of two detainees who witnessed Lunas Campos's death.

El Paso Mayor Renard Johnson called for an independent investigation into Lunas Campos's death.

A Government Accountability Office report released in June found that "evidence associated with the incident was missing or destroyed", which hampered investigation.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Geraldo_Lunas_Campos