

32. Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir

Who was Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir? Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir was a 46-year-old imam at the Islamic Center of Northeast Ohio and a well-respected community leader from Eritrea, born in Saudi Arabia. He was also the father of four children and a lawful permanent resident of the US since 2018. Sheik Fouad began as an imam at the Islamic Center of Northeast Ohio starting in June 2014. Community members described him as a deeply caring religious leader who supported local families, mediated disputes, and guided youth with compassion.

How did Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir end up in ICE custody? After being taken by ICE agents, Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir spent 215 days in ICE detention in Pennsylvania at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center (part of GEO Group) awaiting a hearing before immigration court.

How did Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir die under ICE custody? While in ICE detention at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center, Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir began experiencing chest pain. On Dec. 11, 2025, Abdulkadir filed a federal habeas corpus petition and an emergency motion for a temporary restraining order in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. In the filings, he cited deteriorating conditions at the facility, inadequate access to medical care, and pleaded for judicial intervention. The judge denied his emergency motion the same day, writing that Abdulkadir "failed to make a sufficient showing" for relief. Sheik Fouad Abdulkadir died just three days after filing the emergency federal motion, which alleged deteriorating conditions and inadequate access to medical care at the facility. He died after weeks of complaining to medical staff of his chest pain.

What happened after Sheik Fouad's death? Shutdown Detention Campaign, an advocacy group calling for the closing of detention centers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, wrote: "Imam Fouad's death is not an isolated tragedy; it is the predictable outcome of a violent detention system that continues to cage people for profit and punishment,... No amount of 'oversight' can fix a profit-driven system that treats human beings as disposable, a system designed to cage people."

Sources:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/imam-fouad-abdulkadir-dies-in-pa-ice-jail-days-after-lawsuit/ar-AA1SMMMma>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/imam-fouad-abdulkadir-dies-in-pa-ice-jail-days-after-lawsuit/ar-AA1SMMMma>

<https://5pillarsuk.com/2025/12/23/imam-from-eritrea-dies-after-215-days-in-ice-custody/>