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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEO And Dr. Cary Walker Sued for Wrongful Death of Melvin Calero Mendoza while in ICE Custody at the Aurora Contract Detention Facility

(ADAMS COUNTY, CO. – October 11, 2024) The surviving children of Melvin Ariel Calero Mendoza, a Nicaraguan man who came to the United States seeking asylum, sued The GEO Group, LLC (“GEO”) and Dr. Cary Walker for wrongfully causing his death while incarcerated in civil immigration detention at the Aurora Contract Detention Facility (“ACDF”) in Aurora, Colorado on October 13, 2022. GEO is a private, for-profit corporation that owns and operates the ACDF. Dr. Walker was the Medical Director and sole physician working at the ACDF at the time Melvin died.

The family’s [lawsuit](#), filed today in Adam’s County District Court, alleges Melvin died because Defendants GEO and its only doctor, Cary Walker, failed to diagnose and treat a blood clot in his leg. The blood clot eventually traveled in Melvin’s bloodstream to his lungs and caused a pulmonary embolism - a blockage in a crucial lung artery that stopped the blood flow to his lungs and caused his death. Melvin tried at least three times to get medical care from GEO because of unbearable pain in his right leg in the weeks leading up to his death.

Melvin’s death occurred after years public scrutiny about the inadequate medical care at the ACDF which had already caused the death of two other men incarcerated there, Evalin-Ali Mandza in 2012 and Kamyar Samimi in 2017. Melvin’s family retained [Novo Legal Group, LLC](#) to represent them in their efforts to hold GEO and Dr. Walker accountable for Melvin’s death.

The family’s lawsuit furthers the ongoing national dialog about the problems of inadequate medical care in immigration detention facilities across the United States and the harmful and potentially deadly consequences of failing to fix them—an issue advocacy groups like the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and Professor Jordan have been working to address for years.

Aaron Slade and Luis Cortes Romero, the family’s attorneys at Novo Legal Group, LLC, Laura Lunn, the Director of Advocacy & Litigation at RMIAN, and Professor Elizabeth Jordan, Director of the DU Immigration Law & Policy Clinic will hold a public press conference on Tuesday October 15, 2024, starting at 9am with prepared remarks, and the opportunity for questions from media immediately thereafter.

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