
Family of Deceased Arizona Detainee Calls for Independent Investigation

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The family of an illegal US immigrant who died in an Arizona detention center is calling on authorities to investigate his death, US advocacy group the Puente Movement said in a press release on Friday. "Family members of Jose de Jesus Deniz-Sahagun, who died in custody at the Eloy Detention Center on May 20th, 2015 are traveling to Arizona to demand an independent investigation that can answer questions about his death," The Puente Movement said. The detainee's death prompted up to 200 illegal immigrants at the Arizona illegal immigrant detention center to start a hunger strike demanding better living conditions and treatment at the facility. The autopsy report stated Deniz-Sahagun's committed suicide and suffered from depression, however, the family said he never had any history of mental health issues, according to the Puente Movement. "They spoke to him two days before his death and reported that he was happy to be closer to his family and hoped to see them soon," the release said. The family is demanding the release of security footage referred to in Deniz-Sahagun's autopsy report and a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death, the Puente Movement added. Deniz-Sahagun is the third person to die in US Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody in 2015. Earlier in June, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said that thousands of undocumented migrants, including children, are denied food, water and medical care while being held in frigid and filthy US detention facilities along the Mexican border. On June 15, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights slammed US immigration detention centers for their inhumane conditions, citing a lack of health care, violence and overcrowding. The UN envoy called for an overhaul of US policy on migrants, especially women and children, whose rights he said are being gravely violated.