

August 5, 2024

Open Letter to the Biden Administration

We are a group of people who lived in the U.S. for decades, working and taking care of our families. Many of us have U.S. citizen relatives — spouses and children, nieces and nephews. We are beloved members of our communities. The Trump administration deported us from Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Wisconsin to places we hadn't seen for years — Albania, Cameroon, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Egypt, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Korea, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.

When President Biden took office, we hoped things would change for us and our families. We prayed we could come home. But now, near the end of President Biden's first term in office, we are still separated from our loved ones. We went from taking care of our friends and families to a new reality — one that doesn't feel real, to be honest. Every day is a struggle, for us and for them. Our families and communities need us. We want to come home.

We have a simple question for President Biden and the next administration. Are they going to let the Trump administration's action be our last experience in the United States? Are they going to let this mistake — and we do believe it was a mistake, that we were deported — last for the rest of our lives?

We know that Americans have good hearts. We felt safe there. We are proud of our work there and the things we did to help our communities. All we want is to come back to the place where we feel at home. We are calling on the Biden administration to let us come home.

Signed,
People from 33 states
57 people who were deported
101 loved ones of people who were deported
90 allies

Alabama

People who were deported
JYM (Theodore to Honduras)

Loved ones

Eric Kohel (Huntsville) for Josie Kohel, deported from TX to Mexico

Florence Selman (Leeds) for a large number of people deported to Cameroon, Haiti, Mauritania, and Honduras

Arizona

Loved Ones

Bianca Ballesteros (Phoenix) for person deported to Mexico

Jennifer Elenes (Phoenix) for Mario Bernal (Mexico)

Ok

California

People who were deported

Carlos Amaya (Los Angeles to Guatemala)

Cesar G. (Los Angeles)

Loved ones

E. Munoz (Oxnard)

Gilbert Villegas (Calexico)

Jan Pedersen (Los Angeles) for person deported to Cameroon

Josefina Juarez (Santa Ana) for Arturo Juarez (Mexico)

L. Gonzalez (Lodi) for P. Gonzalez (Mexico)

Naomi Flores (Tijuana, MX) for Luis Flores (deported from CA to El Salvador)

Rosario Garcia (Los Angeles)

S. Gallegos (El Centro)

Veronica Flores De Leon (Rialto) for person deported to Mexico

Allies

Alex (Palm Springs)

Ana Sema (San Diego)

Betty J. Carmona (Sherman Oaks)

Gloria Tavera (San Francisco)

Guerline Jozef

Jeannie Parent (Bakersfield)

K. Karlin (Woodland Hills)

Maxine M. (Los Angeles)

Mayra Méndez (San Jose)

Pat Leach (Rancho Mirage)

Veronica Ramos (Compton)

Colorado

People who were deported

Pier Mada Joue Mefis (Avon to Tunisia)

Loved ones

April Mares (Denver) for Ismael Luna (Mexico)

Gabriela Escobedo (Colorado Springs) for Albero Escobedo (Mexico)

Imelda Stack (Fort Collins) for person deported from CA

Judy Cardenas (Denver) for person deported to Mexico

Allies

Elizabeth Villanueva (Greeley)

Florida

People who were deported

Neal Koni

Usama Elabaidy (Hallandale Beach to Egypt)

Loved ones

N.M. for Bomba Keumedjio Muriel Rodelle

Nancy K. (Orlando) for N.K. (Jordan)

Allies

Vicki Rosenthal, MSW (Fort Lauderdale)

Georgia

People who were deported

Erik Matamoros (Acworth to Honduras)

Loved ones

Nancy Kuznetsov (Duluth)

Sara I. Guerra (Lilburn)

Valentina Burgos (Acworth) for person deported to Honduras

Allies

LeeAnn E. Mathews (Acworth)

Lovette K. Thompson (Norcross)

Illinois

People who were deported

Alpha Ly (Beardstown to Mauritania)

Martin O. (Chicago to Mexico)

Loved ones

Jasmine Pedraza (Bartlett) for person deported to Mexico

Maria P. Perez (Schaumburg) for person deported to Mexico

Allies

K. Olague (Bartlett)

Indiana

Loved ones

Malik Cooper (Indianapolis)

Iowa

Allies

Helen Gourlay (Dubuque)

Kentucky

People who were deported

Ibrahima Sy (Florence to Senegal)

Makita Clement (Louisville to Congo)

Loved ones

F. Mata (Louisville) for Jesus Andres Garcia

Louisiana

Loved ones

Ryan Hopkins (Baton Rouge) for Maria de Jesus Meza Carrillo (Mexico)

Allies

Frances Kelley (Shreveport)

Luis H. Mots (Lafayette)

Michelle MacFadyen (Lafayette)

Maine

Allies

Sister Mary George O'Toole, RSM

Maryland

Loved ones

Aubrey R. Hernandez (Riverdale) for Afilene De La Cruz Hernandez Guzman (Honduras)

Allies

Jean Stokan (Silver Spring)
Maurice Belanger (Takoma Park)
Nubia Fimbres (Silver Spring)
Y.O.A. (Baltimore)

Michigan

People who were deported

Munyaradzi Maumbe (Lansing to Zimbabwe)
Niang Boyline (Detroit to Senegal)
Samba Sarr (Detroit to Senegal)

Loved ones

A.L. (Grand Rapids) for Munyaradzi Maumbe (Zimbabwe)
Mrs. B. Ovalle (Pontiac) for person deported to Mexico
Elizabeth A. (Alpena) for person deported to Honduras
Jacob Maumbe (Grand Rapids) for Munyaradzi Maumbe (Zimbabwe)
Melissa Stek (Grand Rapids)
R.M. (Grand Rapids) for for Munyaradzi Maumbe (Zimbabwe)

Allies

E. Leyrer (Grand Rapids)

Minnesota

Loved ones

Annette Johnson (Spring Valley Mountain) for person deported to Mexico
Daniel D. (Reynosa, MX) for Rosa D., deported from MN
Karen Paschke (Frazee)
Kristen Lippert Peinado (Mahtomedi) for person deported to Mexico
Richard Estry (Rochester)
Shelley De (Rochester)
S.H. (Minneapolis) for person deported to Mexico
Susan Davis (Rochester) for Carlos (Mexico)
Timothy J. McGuire (Rochester) for Carlos Majeja
Wayne Borgen (Rochester) for Carlos (Mexico)
William Davis (Rochester) for Carlos (Mexico)

Allies

B.L. Ziegler (Rochester)
Kathleen A. Estry (Rochester)
Mary Schmidt (Rochester)

Missouri

People who were deported

Abdoulaye Ba (Mauritania)
Manuel Gutierrez (Mexico)

Mississippi

Loved ones

Roland Washington (Gautier) for Laura Elizabeth Carter Martinez Gautier (Honduras)

Nebraska

Loved ones

S.C. (Omaha) for Simon Campuzano (Mexico)

New York

People who were deported

Boubou Koita (Bronx to Mali)
Demba Diallo (Brooklyn)
Yoro Diawara (New York to Mali)

Loved ones

Alfonso Zafra (New York) for person deported to Peru
Lori Rivera (Washingtonville) for Eduardo Balbuena (Newburgh to Mexico)
J.Q. (Ossining) for Ahmed (Egypt)

Allies

A.H. (Fort Edward)
K. Lee (Queens)
Maureen Prochaska (New York)
Stephanie M. (Schenectady)
Tanya Jimenez Lopez (Seneca Falls)
Terence Lover (Woodstock)

New Jersey

Loved ones

Richard Andre McGaw (Orange) for Marlen Elieth Martinez-Pereira (Costa Rica)

Allies

Julie Moreno (Newark)

*New Mexico***Allies**

Jan Thompson (Las Cruces)

*North Carolina***People who were deported**

Djibril Diombera (Charlotte to Mali)

Loved ones

Tina Shull (Charlotte) for Andis Vorfi, deported from NY to Albania

Leonardo Macías (Charlotte) for Rosi Dalia Portillo (Honduras)

*Ohio***People who were deported**

A.T. (Columbus to Mauritania)

Abdourahmane Sy (Cincinnati to Senegal)

Abdoul Aziz Djigo (Canal Winchester to Mauritania)

Alassane Diop (Columbus to Mauritania)

Amadou Aw (Columbus to Mauritania)

Amadou M. Sow (Cincinnati to Mauritania)

Birane Wane (Columbus to Mauritania)

Boutayna Hamdi (Dayton to Morocco)

Demba Ba (Columbus to Mauritania)

Goura Ndiaye (Columbus to Mauritania)

Hamady N. Sylla (Cincinnati to Mauritania)

I.B. (Cincinnati to Mauritania)

Ibrahima Keita (Cincinnati to Mali)

Malick Sy (Columbus to Guinea)

Mamadou Anne (Columbus to Sierra Leone)

Mamadou Dia (Columbus to Mauritania)

Mamoudou War (Cincinnati to Mauritania)

Momodou Jobe (Cincinnati to The Gambia)

Moussa Mballo (Columbus to Guinea)

Moustafa J. Komeh (Columbus to Sierra Leone)

O.T. (Columbus to Guinea)

Osman Bah (Sierra Leone)

Saidu Sow (Cincinnati to Mauritania)

Syedou Sarr (Columbus to Mauritania)

Seyni M. Diagne (Columbus to Mauritania)
Sy. H. (Bexley)
Youssouf Sillah (Cincinnati to Ivory Coast)

Loved ones

A.S. (Columbus) for Abdoulaye Thiaw (Mauritania)
Abdallahi Thiaw (Canal Winchester) for Abdoulaye Thiaw (Mauritania)
Abdou Ndiaye (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Alphonso Kolliesuah (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Djiby Lam (Cincinnati) for person deported to Mauritania
Eric Brewer (Dayton)
Fatimata Sow (Cincinnati) for Osman Bah (Sierra Leone)
Gloria L. Butler (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Grace M. Kolliesuah (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Heather Catalan (Rosarito, MX) for person deported from OH to Mexico
L.T. (Columbus) for Oumar Dia (Mauritania)
M.T. (Columbus) for Abdoulaye Thiaw (Mauritania)
Maribel Gonzalez Perry (McClure)
Mr. Marvis Davis (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Maryann Butler (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Maya Sambou (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Moustapha Ndiaye (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Mrs. Nadja Kolliesuah-Davis (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Nene Kane (Columbus) for Abdoulaye Thiaw (Mauritania)
Nitina Kolliesuah (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Oumar Ndong (Columbus)
Ousmane Sy (Columbus) for Abdoulaye Thiaw (Mauritania)
Pamela Jo-Ann Butler (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Samba N. (Columbus)
Sheryl Rajbhandari (Cincinnati)
Sophie Ndiaye (Columbus) for Goura Ndiaye (Mauritania)
Wafaa Yasmine Hamdi (Dayton) for Boutayna Hamdi (Morocco)

Allies

Bonnie Lass Wojno (Stow)
C.M. (Columbus)
Chantal Dothey (Shaker Heights)
David D. Dexter, PE (Tipp City)
Deb Kline (Cleveland)
Demba Babaly Ndiath (Columbus)

Don Bryant (North Royalton)
Donna Russo (Cincinnati)
Evelyn Rivera (Cleveland)
Frank R. Osborne (Lyndhurst)
G.A. Martin (Cleveland)
Heather Gonzalez (Columbus)
Isabel Coyle (Cincinnati)
J.Y. (Elyria)
Janet Futrell (Miamisburg)
Kathleen J. Bradley (Oberlin)
Kathleen Slogar (Euclid)
Lynn Tramonte (Cleveland Heights)
Maria Wilkinson (Cleveland Heights)
Marlene Tramonte (Wadsworth)
Nancy Averett (Cincinnati)
Nancy Dollard (Uniontown)
Patricia Kellner, MD (South Euclid)
Patrick J. O'Connor (Rocky River)
Rob Loftis (Bay Village)
Samantha Searls (Cincinnati)
Steve Cagan (Cleveland)
Sylvia Coyle (St. Paul)

Oklahoma

Loved ones

Brynn Daves (Norman) for person deported from MN to Mexico

Oregon

Loved ones

Elizabeth Sommo (Portland)

Gina Arellanes (Medford) for person deported to Mexico

Pennsylvania

Loved ones

Adrianna Torres-García (Philadelphia) for person deported to Peru)

Allies

Frances Boyle (Wynnewood)

Gerard (Philadelphia)

Joyce Bell (Springfield)

Laurie Ayre (Kingston)
Rev. Linda Theophilus (Pittsburgh)
Nancy C. Green (Philadelphia)

South Carolina

Loved ones

Mary DuPont (North Augusta) for Oscar Nunez, deported from GA to Mexico

Allies

Kathy Bradley (Lugoff)

Tennessee

People who were deported

Amadou Ba (Memphis to Mauritania)
Amadou Diallo (Memphis to Mali)
Amed Malonga (Memphis to Mali)
Madiengo T.M.S. (Memphis to Mali)

Texas

People who were deported

G. Medina, Jr. (Houston to Mexico)
Juan Enrique Saucedo Oyervides (Houston to Mexico)
Roberto Villegas (Odessa to Mexico)

Loved ones

Annie McGuire (San Antonio) for person deported from MN to Mexico
B.C. (Helotes) for C.M.
Bill McGuire (San Antonio) for person deported to Mexico
Brayan Alexander Saucedo (Houston) for Juan Enrique Saucedo Oyervidez (Mexico)
C. Shaw (San Antonio) for a person deported to Mexico
Dora Martinez (Houston) for D. Coreas and L Martinez (Mexico)
Jennifer Valderrama (Houston) for Juan Saucedo (Mexico)
Ian Shaw (San Antonio) for Carlos (Mexico)
Lois McGuire (San Antonio) for person deported to Mexico
Melanie Shaw (San Antonio) for person deported to Mexico
Pamela Armijo (Garland) for Jose F. Colunga De Leon (Mexico)
Raquel M. Villegas (Odessa) for Roberto Villegas (Mexico)
W.L.R. (Houston) for C.I.R.S. (Mexico)

Allies

A.K.T. (Houston)
K. Barber (Dallas)
Laura H. (San Antonio)
Michelle Serrano (Brownsville)
Sarah Cruz (San Antonio)

Virginia

People who were deported

Oscar Aragón (North Garden to Guatemala)

Loved ones

Amadou Ly (Alexandria) for Abdoulaye Thiaw (Mauritania)

Allies

L.C. (Stafford)
Terry G (Reston)

Washington

Allies

Faustina Robinson (Seattle)
Jill C. (Vancouver)

Washington, DC

Loved ones

Jason L. Miller for person deported to Korea

Allies

D.C.
Denise Woods
M.D
Nayna Gupta
Suma Setty

Wisconsin

People who were deported

Demba Omar Jobe (Madison to The Gambia)
Kolley Touray (Milwaukee to The Gambia)

Allies

Maria Ortega

International

Loved ones

Maggie Loreda (Mexico)

Allies

United We Dream

Tran Dang (Mexico)

Philip S. (United States)

New York