

**KICK US OUT.**



**LOCK US UP.**



**KEEP US OUT.**

**THE FIRST 100 DAYS:**  
An Overview of the Trump  
Administration's Immigration  
Policies and Their Impact on  
Black Migrants



# **Kick Us Out. Lock Us Up. Keep Us Out.**

The First 100 Days: An Overview of the Trump Administration's Immigration Policies and Their Impact on Black Migrants

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## **About Us:**

**Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)** fights for the rights of Black migrants and African Americans through organizing, legal advocacy, research, policy, and narrative building to improve the conditions of Black communities by advancing racial justice and migrant rights. BAJI was founded seventeen years ago by veteran civil and human rights activists concerned about a wave of unjust immigration enforcement laws. BAJI has offices, staff, and organizers in Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Houston, TX; Miami, FL; Minneapolis, MN; Wichita, KS; New York, NY; and Washington, D.C. More at [baji.org](http://baji.org).

## Abstract:

In the first 100 days in office, the Trump administration launched a series of executive actions aimed at instilling fear and undermining the protections that safeguard vulnerable migrants. This toolkit outlines how the Trump administration's immigration agenda is driven by three core strategies: to "kick us out," "lock us up," and "keep us out." Each strategy plays a part in expelling immigrants regardless of legal status, increasing enforcement operations and expanding the U.S. detention system, and dismantling the remaining pathways to enter the country and seek asylum.

Despite several legal challenges, the Trump administration is openly refusing to comply with federal court rulings and setting the stage to limit the judicial branch's constitutional powers to check his authority. Black migrants, who are disproportionately targeted, over-policed, and subjected to detention and deportation, face heightened risks under this administration's policies.

*The information on this document is subject to change based on future court decisions and executive actions, but is current as of April 21, 2025.*

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## Executive Summary

This report, authored by the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), outlines the Trump administration's aggressive immigration strategy during his second term, which disproportionately targets Black migrants. It presents a detailed analysis of the administration's three-pronged approach: "Kick Us Out," "Lock Us Up," and "Keep Us Out."

- **Kick Us Out:** Legal protections such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and humanitarian parole programs have been terminated or rolled back, impacting hundreds of thousands of Black immigrants from countries like Haiti, Cameroon, and Sudan. The administration is also fast-tracking deportations using the Alien Enemies Act and bypassing legal due process, including outsourcing deportations to third countries.
- **Lock Us Up:** Immigration enforcement has been escalated through expanded law enforcement partnerships, militarization of the southern border, and increased detention, including offshore detention in El Salvador and Guantanamo Bay. Black migrants are disproportionately detained, often subjected to abuse, and denied legal protections. Laws like the Laken Riley Act criminalize minor offenses and broaden the authority of the police state to enforce immigration policy.

- **Keep Us Out:** Entry pathways for Black migrants have been aggressively dismantled. The refugee resettlement program has been suspended, asylum access restricted, and travel bans targeting predominantly Black nations expanded. Black migrants fleeing persecution are now being denied entry or redirected to dangerous third countries under “safe country” agreements.

The report concludes that these policies reinforce systemic racism within U.S. immigration enforcement. The United States criminal enforcement system has become a funnel for Black migrants into the immigration detention and deportation system. Black immigrants make up only 5% of the undocumented population in the U.S., but make up 20% of the immigrants facing removal based on criminal convictions. In these last 100 days, the Trump Administration has continued to threaten the safety and rights of Black migrants while undermining constitutional checks and international legal obligations. BAJI calls for urgent resistance and policy reforms to protect vulnerable Black immigrant communities.

## Kick Us Out

The Trump Administration swiftly established its plan to expel immigrants from the country, regardless of their legal status. This strategy seeks to criminalize migrants by stripping away the legal protections that enable their lawful presence in the United States, fast-tracking deportations to bypass the right to seek asylum, and creating pathways for the removal and detention of migrants outside U.S. borders. Suggestion

## How They Kick Us Out:

### Revoking Protections:

The Trump Administration’s efforts to kick us out center on stripping legal protections away from lawfully present immigrants, deeming them “illegal” and thus deportable.

- On February 20, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) cut Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS), setting it to expire on August 3, 2025. Haitians make up a significant portion of Black TPS holders, and this recent move to cut protections leaves nearly 500,000 Haitians without legal status, work permits, and at high risk for deportation.

- There are currently 552,957 Black immigrants eligible for TPS from six countries, including South Sudan, Cameroon, Haiti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. Many of these designations are set to expire this year, and with the Trump administration's persistent efforts to criminalize and deport Black immigrants, there is a strong likelihood that these protections will be abruptly terminated as well.
- On March 25, the administration also announced the termination of the CHNV program, which provided humanitarian parole for immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Once again, over 200,000 Haitian immigrants are targeted, criminalized, and stripped of their legal status. Since then, a federal judge has blocked the order to end the humanitarian parole program on April 14, 2025. The legal status of over 530,000 migrants remains in limbo as the legal battle continues.

## Fast-Tracking Deportations:

The Trump administration has taken steps to carry out what he says will be “the largest deportation operation in US history”, accomplished by bypassing due process protections and expediting the deportation of immigrants, regardless of their legal status.

- On March 15, 2025, the Trump Administration invoked the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) of 1798, granting the president the authority to detain and deport foreign nationals without the opportunity to go before an immigration or federal court judge. Soon after, the administration callously deported hundreds of Venezuelan immigrants to a prison in El Salvador without notice or cause. This marks the first time the AEA has been used since World War II, a period that saw the forcible internment of over 120,000 Japanese-Americans. The constitutionality of the administration's use of the AEA to deport immigrants is highly contested and is currently being challenged in the courts.

- On January 21, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security issued a directive that expanded the use of expedited removals to include undocumented immigrants who are encountered anywhere in the United States and cannot prove they have lived in the United States continuously for two years or more. Expedited removal also allows for low-level immigration officers to summarily remove noncitizens from the United States without a hearing before an immigration judge. This directive bypasses due process and violates international and human rights law. In an effort to cut costs while executing Trump’s mass deportation plan, the administration circumvents the detention of migrants on US soil, denying them their chance to present their asylum cases in court.
- Many of the deportations carried out by the Trump Administration are not returning migrants to their home countries, but rather rerouting them to “third countries.” The administration is increasingly entering agreements with Latin American countries to serve as stopover points, expanding the [US’s longstanding practice](#) of outsourcing its legal and moral obligation to process asylum claims. According to data from Witness at the Border, the Trump administration has carried out over 350 deportation flights this year alone. These flights often included the use of military aircrafts, which were largely seen as a political performance that proved to be too costly and inefficient to maintain and have since been scaled back.

## Lock Us Up

The Trump Administration uses the criminal legal system as its tool to instill fear, circumvent due process, and unlawfully detain immigrants with little accountability. This is achieved through increased enforcement efforts and expanding the capacity of the US detention system, both achieved through the deliberate reversal of due process rights. The expansion of immigration enforcement bleeds into the same criminal legal system that disproportionately criminalizes and kills Black Americans.

## How They Lock Us Up:

### Increasing Law Enforcement:

The Trump Administration has called for the “maximal enforcement of immigration law”, which includes legislation that increases penalties for immigrants, facilitates cooperation between local law enforcement and immigration enforcement agencies,

and expands the authority of the military to conduct immigration enforcement operations.

- The first piece of legislation that Trump signed into law was the Laken Riley Act, a draconian and anti-Black piece of legislation that prioritizes and glorifies the cruel and discriminatory criminalization of migrants. This law requires immigration officials to arrest and detain immigrants suspected of minor theft of \$100 or more. It would also expand the power of state attorneys general and state officials in enforcing immigration policy, which is currently under the federal government. The law further exacerbates wrongful convictions and will contribute to the increasing numbers of both documented and undocumented immigrants in prison, detention, and ultimately deportation.
- The administration is expanding and enforcing 287G contracts, which allow local law enforcement agencies to partner with ICE. Under these agreements, local officers can detain individuals suspected of being in the U.S. without legal status, question them about their immigration status, and initiate deportation proceedings. The Trump administration has threatened to cut off funding to the states and cities that refuse to cooperate with its federal immigration enforcement agenda, which actively violates the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- In a disturbing effort to comply with Trump's attack on Sanctuary Cities, the House Oversight Committee held a hearing on March 5, 2025, targeting the mayors of liberal cities, Boston (Michelle Wu), Chicago (Brandon Johnson), Denver (Mike Johnston), and New York City (Eric Adams), to testify. Republicans attacked the mayors for not "complying" with ICE and CBP deportation orders, even though immigration enforcement is not the responsibility of state and local governments. In addition, the administration rescinded guidelines on ICE and CBP enforcement actions in "safe areas", allowing immigration officers to enter schools, places of worship, and hospitals.
- By declaring a national state of emergency at the southern border, the Trump administration can sidestep existing law that prohibits the military from participating in arrests, searches, or seizures. Since taking office, nearly 10,000 active duty soldiers have been ordered to the border to assist with the apprehension and detention of migrants.



## Expanding Detention:

One major challenge for the Trump administration was that existing immigrant detention facilities simply didn't have enough space to lock us all up. One of the most troubling aspects of Trump's mass deportation agenda is the outsourcing of immigrant detention to third-party countries. Stripping legal statuses and fast-track deportations paves the way for an influx of immigrants to be forcibly incarcerated in prisons in Central America, where they face heightened risks to their rights and safety. In addition, protections against family detention have been revoked.

- To expand the government's capacity to hold detained immigrants, the administration plans to [expand detention facilities](#) in 10 states across the country. Much of the funding for this expansion is slated to go to private immigrant detention companies, such as CoreCivic and GEO Group, which are subject to minimal regulation and oversight.
- Immigrant detention is expanding to include U.S. military bases, including Guantanamo Bay. While federal courts decide on its legality, the administration swiftly deported all immigrants detained at the naval base. Despite the legal challenge, the administration cited the unsustainable financial costs, rather than human rights considerations. The detention of migrants at Guantanamo may resume if more funding is secured.
- The Trump Administration is outsourcing immigrant detention to third-party countries, namely El Salvador. Trump has fostered a close relationship with Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele to detain immigrants deported from the US in the largest prison in the Americas. After invoking the AEA, the administration reportedly paid El Salvador \$6 million in exchange for detaining over 200 Venezuelans deported from the US. This strategy is a clear end run around one of the Trump administration's biggest obstacles to mass immigrant detention, as it's cheaper and eliminates the need to build or maintain costly detention facilities. However, the trade-offs are incredibly dangerous. Immigrants are being deported without due process, subjected to human rights violations, and held in a foreign prison under inhumane conditions.
- In February, the administration deported over 300 migrants to Panama, where they were unlawfully detained in a remote camp for several weeks. As the Trump administration accelerates its mass deportation plan, it is using detention centers in Central America to hold migrants from countries that are difficult to

deport to, including countries in Asia and Africa. In addition to El Salvador and Panama, the United States has also entered agreements with Honduras and Costa Rica to detain migrants deported from the US, regardless of their nationality.

- The Trump administration [revived](#) the controversial practice of detaining migrant families with children in ICE custody, the latest front in its effort to execute its mass deportation goals. Federal officials have re-operationalized two Texas family detention centers, one of which will funnel about [\\$180m](#) in annual revenue to the private prison corporation CoreCivic.

## Keep Us Out

The Trump administration has made a concerted effort to detain us and remove us. However, their plan goes even further. The Trump administration is intent on building an immigration system that offers no path to re-entry and no meaningful process for Black migrants to seek refuge in the United States. From the outset of Trump's second term, his administration has aggressively worked to slash refugee admissions and shut the door on those fleeing violence and persecution.

## How They Keep Us Out:

### Dismantling Programs:

One of the Trump administration's priorities was dismantling the very programs and processes that allow migrants to seek asylum and enter the United States on humanitarian grounds.

- On his first day in office, President Trump signed an executive order indefinitely suspending the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). This action has left many refugees, including those from African nations, in limbo.
- Trump further restricted migrants' ability to seek asylum in the U.S. by ending the use of the CBP One app at the southern border. This app was the primary tool for scheduling asylum appointments, and its termination left thousands of migrants stranded after waiting months for a chance to secure one. In its place, the administration introduced a new platform called "CBP Home," which promotes so-called "self-deportation" by encouraging undocumented

immigrants to voluntarily report their departure plans. This shift, combined with a wave of increasingly punitive immigration policies, has drastically reduced access to asylum, with Black migrants among the hardest hit.

### **Barring Entry Into the United States:**

The administration takes its efforts to keep us out a step further by reviving and expanding its travel ban policy, which imposes visa restrictions on dozens of "countries of particular concern". In addition, the Trump administration is adopting a "safe third country" policy that allows the U.S. to turn away asylum seekers by sending them to other nations they've already passed through, regardless of whether the country can actually provide protections.

- As of April 2025, the Trump administration is reportedly finalizing a sweeping new travel ban that could restrict entry from as many as 43 countries. The proposed policy categorizes nations into three tiers of escalating restrictions and builds upon the original 2017 travel ban. Citing vague "security concerns," the administration claims these countries failed to meet criteria related to information sharing, passport security, and counterterrorism.
- 26 of the 43 countries targeted by the updated travel ban have majority Black populations. Notably, the inclusion of Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous nation, along with Eritrea, Sudan, and Tanzania, would severely limit immigration and diversity visa opportunities for African migrants, further exposing the administration's discriminatory approach to immigration policy.
- The administration has considered designating Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador as "safe third countries," effectively requiring asylum seekers to apply for protection there before reaching the U.S. This tactic shifts the burden of humanitarian responsibility to countries that are often ill-prepared or dangerous for Black migrants, who are increasingly traveling through these countries on their way to the U.S. By enforcing these agreements, the U.S. denies migrants the opportunity to seek asylum within its borders, forcing Black migrants to remain in countries where they may face racism, violence, and a lack of basic legal protections.

## Impact on Black Migrants

### Kick Us Out:

- The dismantling of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and CHNV humanitarian parole program makes it clear that the Trump administration is targeting the few remaining protections available to Black migrants. Across the country, Black immigrant communities are living in fear and uncertainty as their legal status hangs in the balance. Instead of upholding its obligations to provide refuge, the administration is slashing programs and shutting down pathways to safety, deliberately abandoning those most in need of humanitarian protection.
- The administration is setting an alarming precedent through its expanded use of expedited removals and detaining migrants abroad. With the administration's refusal to comply with a Supreme Court order demanding the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, it is clear that this administration's "mass deportation plan" is akin to state-sponsored kidnappings, where the government can disappear people across borders. Once they're out, they may never be heard from again. This is especially alarming for Black migrants, as the administration is aggressively stripping away existing protections while ramping up enforcement operations. Black migrants are already over-policed and now face an even greater risk of being deported and detained in foreign countries.

### Lock Us Up:

- Just as the U.S. has the largest prison population in the world, it also operates the largest immigration detention system, both marked by racial disparities that disproportionately impact Black people. The parallels are no coincidence. Black immigrants, like all Black people in the U.S., are disproportionately targeted by the criminal legal system and are overrepresented in arrests, detentions, and deportations. More than 75% of Black immigrants are deported due to contact with law enforcement, compared to 54% overall. As immigration detention expands, so too do the dangers for Black immigrants, who already face deeply unequal treatment in ICE custody. They are more likely to be deported due to

contact with the criminal system and more likely to face solitary confinement, higher bond amounts, and physical or emotional abuse.

- The forced detention of Haitian refugees at Guantanamo Bay and in offshore camps during the 1990s laid the groundwork for today's immigration detention system. Now, the U.S. is pushing to expand offshore detention once again in El Salvador, reviving a troubling legacy of denying due process to migrants. Even more disturbing is the Trump administration's interest in deporting U.S. citizens, a move that poses a serious threat given how Black people are disproportionately criminalized in this country.

## Keep Us Out:

- The Trump administration is deliberately keeping Black migrants out by targeting majority-Black countries through expanded travel bans and dismantling the refugee admissions program. For many Black migrants, refugee resettlement was one of the last viable legal pathways to safety in the United States. Now, that door is being slammed shut. Countries across Africa and the Caribbean will soon be disproportionately affected by visa restrictions, slow processing, and arbitrary denials.
- Many of the Black countries targeted by the U.S. were destabilized by decades of American intervention, through coups, sanctions, military involvement, and economic manipulation. The U.S. helped create the conditions that forced people to flee, and now it seeks to criminalize those same migrants for doing so. Rather than take responsibility for its role in global displacement, this administration is doubling down on policies that punish migrants and evade its responsibilities under international law.