

To President Barack Obama, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, John Morton, and Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano:

I, the undersigned, sign this petition to draw your attention to almost **50 Cambodian American Refugees**, many who are due to be deported to a country they barely knew as a child, and are expected to leave behind their community and families as soon as August 31st. I am asking that you **IMMEDIATELY halt their deportations.**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has acted as a rouge agency, operating in direct contradiction to President Obama's stated priorities for Immigration Enforcement. As a Senator, Mr. Obama clearly understood that our Immigration Laws are broken. He argued: "When communities are terrorized by ICE immigration raids, when nursing mothers are torn from their babies, when children come home from school to find their parents missing, when people are detained without access to legal counsel, when all that is happening, the system just isn't working, and we need to change it."

Our community is standing up and asking for change!

ICE has created an intense climate of fear and paranoia in all of the Cambodian American communities across the country. It is NOT okay for anyone, especially ICE, to terrorize our communities, make them feel unsafe, tearing our families apart. We should be supporting the value and importance of families. We need to keep families united.

Many of these Cambodian Nationals arrived to the United States before the age of 12 as Refugees, escaping from the Khmer Rouge Genocide in Cambodia. Most have grown up and have lived in the United States for more than 20 years. Among those who have already been deported or await deportation, many were born in refugee camps and have never set foot in Cambodia. They barely remember their journeys to America. America will lose much by deporting them; all are assets to their communities as fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, and community leaders, all of whom reside in the US. Their ability to survive in Cambodia is uncertain; due to the Khmer Rouge Genocide, they have little or no surviving family connections to Cambodia, and they barely speak its language or understand the culture.

Most of the 50 Cambodian Nationals to be deported are the main income earners of their families and have US citizen children and spouses. Many also are respected leaders in our communities. If they are deported, what will happen to their families and communities?

They have already paid their debt to society and deporting them now will send their family into poverty.

All these people know as far as nationalism is America, and we are letting them, their families, and communities down by allowing this to go on.

Please do not deport our family and community members without giving them their civil and human right to due process. We ask for justice for these individuals, their families and their communities.

Sincerely,

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