

ACTION FOR THE ERITREAN 700

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has ordered U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport some 700 denied Eritrean asylum seekers and certain other Eritreans to Eritrea. There they could face torture, lengthy and brutal imprisonment, and even execution.

The government should not deport Eritreans until it is safe for them to live there. Eritreans across the U.S. can and must help prevent the deportations, by taking the following actions.

Understanding the Issue

Eritreans should read the accompanying document, titled "Stop Eritrean Deportations Now!" which explains the deportations that DHS is seeking, why they are wrong, and how they can be stopped.

Contacting Congress

1. Eritreans should communicate with their members of Congress – both their Senators and their Representatives. They should share with the members of Congress the document titled "Stop Eritrean Deportations Now!" They should share it both by email (so the members of Congress can access the Internet links) and in person (so they can understand the passion of the Eritrean community around the issue).
2. In their own words, they should also explain to the members of Congress how brutal the government of Eritrea is to its citizens in general and to returned deportees.
3. When meeting in person at a Congressional office, they should seek to speak with either the actual member of Congress or with a senior aide. At the local level, the senior-most aide is called the District Director.

Individuals can identify their members of Congress on the Internet by entering their street addresses at <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members> .

Contacting Denied Asylum Seekers

Eritreans should contact the Eritreans they know whose asylum claims have been denied. They should urge them to immediately engage an attorney to reopen their cases and to seek to stay any deportation. This would include any Eritreans who have been released from ICE detention under orders of supervision.

We urge all right-thinking Eritreans in the U.S.
To take these actions immediately.