

August 27, 2018

To Members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation
Washington, DC

In a dramatic change in policy, the [US government has begun deporting Ohioans to Mauritania](#), a country that is unable to protect even [basic human rights](#), and [refuses to recognize these individuals as citizens](#).

After [twenty years living here in safety](#), Ohioans born in Mauritania are suddenly being ripped from their lives and families. The US government deported just [four Mauritians in FY2015](#), but more than [seventy-nine, so far, in FY2018](#). There are around [forty Mauritians currently in immigration detention](#), at imminent risk of removal, and around two hundred with final deportation orders who could be next. Most Mauritians in the United States call Ohio home.

While the Trump Administration [recognizes](#) the horrific human rights abuses happening in this country on a daily basis, from [slavery to human trafficking to terrorism](#), it is prioritizing deportation over human life.

We are asking you to call the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, DC and the Detroit Field Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement TODAY and tell them to stop deporting Mauritians to danger and slavery.

For more information, please see this [backgrounder](#) from America's Voice, as well as this [article](#) and [short documentary](#) from The Atlantic; this article in [Newsweek](#); this [editorial](#) and [article](#) in the Columbus Dispatch; and this TV story on [ABC 6](#).

Respectfully,

ORGANIZATIONS

America's Voice Ohio

Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates

Catholics for Greater Cleveland Congregations

Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council

Cleveland Jobs with Justice

CRIS - Community Refugee & Immigration Services (Columbus)

Dominican Sisters of Peace (Columbus)

Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network

Human Rights Awareness and Advocacy Group at UDSL (Dayton)

IndivisibleCLE

Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (Cincinnati)

Ironworkers Local 44 (Cincinnati)

Jewish Center for Justice (Columbus)

JustLOVE Ohio (Cincinnati)

National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland (Beachwood)

La Conexion (Bowling Green)

Ohio Student Association (Columbus, Dayton, Akron, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo)

Radial Church (Canton)

Transformations CDC (Cincinnati)

UFCW (Cincinnati)

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Bocar Ba (Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement, Cincinnati)

Karen S. Dawson (First UU Church of Columbus)

Bocar Demba Dieng (Whitehall)

Maureen DeVito (Rocky River)

Alan Fortnoff (Akron)

Marcus James (Whitehall)

Djiby Kaw (Canal Winchester)

Deb Kline (Cleveland Jobs With Justice)

Eleonor Ramirez (Cleveland)

Rev. Kate Shaner (First Community Church, Columbus)

Charles Smith (AFL-CIO, Cincinnati)

Houleye Thiam (Mauritania Care, Columbus)

Ruth Tisher (Wooster)

Marta Young (Cincinnati)

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Lupe Williams (Wooster)