

# Trump administration seeking to exile immigrants to Ukraine, Libya and Rwanda

Jacob Crosse

6 May 2025

Multiple reports in recent days indicate that the Trump administration is attempting to deport immigrants and refugees in the United States to distant countries where they are not citizens—some of which are currently embroiled in active armed conflicts.

Over the past week, the *Wall Street Journal*, CBS News, *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have reported that the Trump administration has been engaged in ongoing talks, some dating back to January, with multiple governments about accepting deportees from the United States.

Under the proposed agreements, the US government would offer cash payments or political concessions to governments in exchange for accepting deported immigrants. These individuals would be expelled to distant countries with which they or their families have no prior connection and to which they never intended to immigrate.

One of the central grievances that led to the American Revolution was the British Crown's practice of transporting colonists to England or other colonies for trial and punishment, thereby denying them the right to be tried by local juries and courts.

This denial of basic due process was cited in the Declaration of Independence as one of the formal charges against King George III: "For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences."

In his speech and practice, Trump has made clear he considers himself unbound by the Constitution and that all basic democratic rights are null and void.

Some deportations have already taken place. Last month, independent journalist Marisa Kabas reported on a series of US State Department cables from the American Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, which confirmed that the US government had deported Omar Abdulsattar Ameen, an Iraqi national, to Rwanda after

Ameen stated that he feared persecution if returned to Iraq.

Ameen and his family fled Iraq for Turkey in 2012. In 2014, they were granted refugee status in the United States. Four years later, in 2018, the Trump administration initiated deportation proceedings against Ameen, falsely accusing him of being a high-ranking member of ISIS.

Ameen was arrested, incarcerated and faced deportation until a judge ruled in 2021 that the allegations against him "were simply not plausible." However, after his release, the Biden administration re-arrested him and renewed deportation proceedings under the false pretense that he had lied about being a terrorist.

On April 4, Ameen, against his will, was forcibly deported to Rwanda. According to journalist Marisa Kabas, a US State Department cable dated April 22 revealed that the Rwandan government had requested policy concessions and a one-time payment of \$100,000 to cover social services, residency documents and work permits. The payment was made, and the cable indicated that Rwanda was willing to "accept another ten TCNs [third-country nationals] of various nationalities."

According to the cable, Rwanda's "primary motivation" for accepting Ameen and others was "to improve U.S. relations and show it can advance the America First agenda."

On Tuesday, the *New York Times* reported that the Trump administration is implementing plans this week to deport migrants to Libya. A flight "could leave as soon as Wednesday," the newspaper reported, citing unnamed US officials.

Libya has descended into war and sectarian conflict since the 2011 NATO war destroyed the country's

government and society. The most horrific conditions of torture and abuse prevail. The *Times* cites the State Department's own report, which refers to "harsh and life-threatening" conditions detention centers, where migrants have "no access to immigration courts or due process."

Earlier, the *Washington Post* reported that following the inauguration, the Trump administration "urged" the Zelensky regime to accept deportees from the United States. The lawless and criminal Ukrainian government, backed by the US-NATO alliance, has canceled elections, imposed martial law and banned all left-wing and socialist organizations, including the *World Socialist Web Site*.

For over one year, the Zelensky regime has imprisoned Bogdan Syrotiuk, a 26-year-old Trotskyist, on bogus charges of "treason" for his public opposition to the ongoing proxy war.

The Trump administration is already illegally kidnapping and deporting immigrants, legal residents and even US citizens to nearby countries in Latin America, including Costa Rica, Panama and Honduras.

In March, nearly 300 men, including Kilmar Abrego Garcia and Andry Hernandez Romero, were banished to the Terrorism Confinement Center, a notorious mega-prison and torture complex in El Salvador. Nearly two months after their deportation—many under the pretext of the Alien Enemies Act—the US government has yet to release a full list of those who were removed.

On Sunday, CBS News reported that the US government is in negotiations with Angola and Equatorial Guinea. The *Wall Street Journal* and other outlets previously reported that the administration had also contacted Benin, Eswatini, Libya, Moldova and Rwanda.

While an Angolan government spokesperson issued a statement on Monday denying that the country is "accepting deported individuals of other nationalities," Rwanda's Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe confirmed to the Associated Press that his government is in discussions with the US about hosting exiled immigrants and refugees.

Nduhungirehe told the Associated Press that discussions between the US and Rwanda were underway, after previously telling state media that the plans were still in the "early stage."

This is not the first time Rwanda has been proposed

by a major imperialist power as a penal colony for immigrants and refugees fleeing their home countries. In 2022, then-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveiled the "Rwanda asylum plan," under which asylum seekers would be deported to the African nation. The policy was continued by his successor, Rishi Sunak.

However, upon taking office in July 2024, Prime Minister Keir Starmer scrapped the plan, arguing that the funds would be better spent deporting asylum seekers directly to their "home" countries.

However, in November, the Labour government announced a similar "Rwanda plan" proposal, under which immigrants arriving in the Chagos Islands would be deported to the remote island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic.



To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

**[wsws.org/contact](http://wsws.org/contact)**