

# Trump plans to expand asylum ban, deploy ICE Gestapo against Somali immigrants

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In a social media post on Monday night, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced that after a meeting with President Donald Trump the administration is expanding asylum and immigration restrictions.

In language fascists use before exterminating people, Noem said she is “recommending a full travel ban on every damn country that’s been flooding our nation with killers, leeches, and entitlement junkies.”

Referencing the shooting last week of two National Guard soldiers in Washington D.C. by Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, a CIA asset and Afghan national, Noem railed against “foreign invaders” who “slaughter our heroes, suck dry our hard-earned tax dollars, or snatch the benefits owed to AMERICANS.”

She added: “WE DON’T WANT THEM. NOT ONE.”

The expanding blacklist is reinforced by racist incitement that now accompanies every major policy announcement. At the end of an over two-hour long cabinet meeting Tuesday, in which each of Trump’s secretaries took their turn praising the would-be dictator, Trump attacked the country of Somalia and all Somalis in overtly racist language.

Prompted by a right-wing reporter to comment on Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Trump, who called Walz “seriously retarded” in a social media post on Thanksgiving, said Walz was a “grossly incompetent man.”

In a barely coherent rant, he said, “And you look at what [Walz] has done with Somalia, with Somalia, which is barely a country. They have no anything... They just run around killing each other...”

Turning to Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar from Minnesota—the first Somali American in the US Congress, one of the first two Muslim women to be elected, and a frequent target of the far-right—Trump said:

and when I see somebody like Ilhan Omar... for years I’ve watched her complain about our country, our Constitution, how she’s being treated badly, our Constitution, the United States of America is a bad place, hates everybody, hates Jewish people, hates everybody, and I think she’s an incompetent person. She’s a real terrible person.

Trump went on to refer to Omar and “her friends” as “garbage.” His incitement against Omar comes less than six months after Vance Boelter, an anti-abortion zealot and Trump fanatic, assassinated Melissa Hortman, a state representative and former speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, and her husband Mark in their home. Boelter also nearly killed State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette. The shootings occurred in the early morning of June 14, the same day millions marched in the first “No Kings” protests in opposition to Trump and dictatorship.

Seeking to stoke violence not just against elected officials, but against all non-white people and immigrants in Minnesota, Trump added:

But what I watch is happening in Minnesota... this beautiful place and I see these people ripping it off... ripped off that state for billions of dollars, billions... And they contribute nothing. The welfare is like 88 percent. They contribute nothing.

In the same language Adolf Hitler used to describe Jews, or Benjamin Netanyahu uses to describe Palestinians, Trump added:

I don’t want them in our country to be honest with you... Some will say, “Oh that’s not politically correct.” I don’t care. I don’t want them in our country. Their country is no good for a reason. Their country stinks and we don’t want them in our country. And I can say that about other countries too.

Currently there are about 80,000 Somalis living in Minnesota, mostly in the Twin Cities region. Somalis began immigrating to the region in the early 1990s and there are now tens of thousands of second-generation Somali Americans. *Minnesota Compass*, citing data from American Community Survey, found that over 50 percent of Somalis in Minnesota are

naturalized US citizens, (this figure does not include US-born children of Somali immigrants), while nationally, the US Census Bureau determined that about 73 percent of Somali immigrants are naturalized citizens.

Trump ended his racist rant by expressing the fear that is gripping not only his crisis-ridden administration, but the capitalist ruling class as a whole, which knows it is despised by large sections of the population for its greed, warmongering and lies, rooted in its defense of the capitalist system and the inequality it creates.

Trump said:

You know our country is at a tipping point. We could go bad. We are at a tipping point. I don't know if people mind me saying that, but I'm saying it. We could go one way or the other.

Venting his racism, he added:

And we are going to go the wrong way if we keep taking in garbage into our country. Ilhan Omar is garbage... Her friends are garbage. These aren't people that work... These are people that do nothing but complain... they came from hell and they complain and do nothing but bitch. We don't want them in our country. Let them go back to where they came from and fix it.

After Trump's racist tirade on Tuesday, the assembled cabinet secretaries burst into applause and the meeting concluded.

The administration let it be known it planned to launch a drive by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and other federal agents against Somali immigrants in Minnesota's Twin Cities. Some 100 immigration Gestapo from around the country are being brought in for the operation. In recent days, Trump has moved to end temporary legal protections for Somalis, many of whom have had the protections for decades. Already there are reports of masked agents kidnapping workers.

The real human scum are the politicians, billionaires and military killers who are currently overseeing genocide in Gaza and war crimes in the Caribbean. Every serious study of crime in the United States shows that immigrants commit crime at lower rates than the native-born population.

Census data reveal that immigrants are incarcerated at roughly half the rate of citizens born in the United States, a pattern repeated every year for more than a century. Texas, the

only state that records immigration status at arrest, reports that undocumented immigrants are 37 percent less likely to be convicted of homicide than native-born Texans, while legal immigrants have the lowest violent crime rates of all. Peer-reviewed studies by the National Academy of Sciences confirm that increased immigration does not raise crime and is often associated with declines in violence.

The claim that immigrants are a threat to public safety is a lie used by the ruling class to justify repression, divide workers and prepare wider attacks on democratic rights.

The widely unpopular Trump administration is using the shooting of National Guard troops in Washington D.C. as a pretext to expand the mass deportation operation and deepen attacks on the working class as a whole. Following the shooting last week, the administration halted all visa and asylum applications for Afghan nationals. It has also ordered a review of 3.3 million green card holders from 19 countries designated by Trump in June, as well as 180,000 refugees admitted during the Biden administration.

The Department of Homeland Security has yet to provide a list of the countries that will be added to the expanding travel ban list. Countries currently under near-total restrictions include Afghanistan, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen; while partial bans are in place for residents of Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Trump's racist rant and expanded pogrom against immigrants come less than two weeks after Democratic Socialists of America member and New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani held a love-fest in the White House with Trump, where the pair shook hands, smiled and posed for photographers. During their public appearance, Mamdani said nothing as Trump confirmed he would continue with the immigrant kidnapping operations in New York City. Trump said he and Mamdani had the same goal, declaring, "He wants to have a safe New York ... If there are horrible people, we want to get them out ... He wants to get them out more than I do."

Democrats in Minnesota responded to Trump's rant with pleas for partnership and precision. In response to the coming raids, Governor Walz wrote, "We welcome support in investigating and prosecuting crime... But pulling a PR stunt and indiscriminately targeting immigrants is not a real solution to a problem."



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