



### Diplomacy-Related Issues That Could Arise from ICE's Mass Deportation of Illegal Aliens

Earlier this week, diplomatic tensions between the Trump administration and foreign nations related to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) mass deportation of illegal aliens were on full display. The United States and Colombia engaged in a back-and-forth after the latter had initially refused to accept incoming flights carrying deportees as a part of President Trump's immigration crackdown. This prompted Trump to threaten tariffs and sanctions on Colombia, but ultimately the White House later announced that the South American nation had backed down, as the [momentary act of defiance](#) concluded when Colombian President Gustavo Petro agreed to accept the deported migrants after all. While it was eventually resolved before circumstances deteriorated any further, the incident has led some to wonder about the prospect of other potential diplomacy-related issues that could arise from ICE's mass deportation plans. This is particularly the case due to the fact that Colombia is not the only country that has expressed contention with Trump's plans, as Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum recently [relayed her opposition](#) as well.

Experts have speculated that the mass deportation plans could lead to diplomatic tensions and standoffs between President Trump and other world leaders. We have already seen a notable but short-lived standoff between Trump and the Colombian president. Additionally, many foreign ministries, such as Brazil's, have summoned U.S. senior diplomats to discuss acceptable terms for the repatriation of immigrants. The Brazilian government is also seeking explanations regarding the [degrading treatment](#) of citizens on a deportation flight last Friday. President Trump's aggressive stances and policies surrounding mass deportation will rely on the support of his allies, like his recently confirmed Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The new secretary of state's first international trip includes visits to Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Panama, highlighting Trump's focus on immigration and strategic control in the Americas.

In addition to the diplomatic tensions and standoffs that they might create, the mass deportation plans also raise concern over possible racial profiling and could have negative economic ramifications. Regarding the economy, President Trump has made vows to ["fix it"](#), but some experts have pointed out that he has failed to fully take into account the role that many of these immigrants play in sustaining it. In sectors such as food supply and construction, the mass deportation plans could have a disastrous effect. The United States' food system chain is largely reliant on low-wage immigrant workers. According to the Harvard Business Review, they make up about [61% of workers in the agricultural sector](#), many of which are undocumented or with H-2A visas – which are ones for foreign nationals to work temporarily in the United States. Furthermore, the rhetoric that immigrants are "taking away American jobs" is problematic, as often times they do jobs that most Americans do not want to do. Economists have alluded to [this](#) by explaining that severely cracking down on immigrants is likely to do significant damage both economically and humanitarily. The construction sector, in which a quarter of workers are migrants, is another one that may face notable impacts.

There is also concern that the mass deportation plans could fuel a climate of racial prejudice and as one analyst put it, "unleash forces of hatred that Trump cannot rein back in." As [he continues to implement the ICE raids at an alarming pace](#), fear of [racial profiling](#) comes to light. This might propel some to carry identification in order to try and avoid negative and traumatizing situations with ICE agents. Various [troubling encounters](#) involving ICE agents

have already started to take place which have raised questions of possible racial profiling and accusations that “they are specifically going after certain kinds of people.” An indignation towards ICE’s actions last week was led by a mayor in New Jersey who stated that “This egregious act is in plain violation of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures.”

The mass deportation plans are also worrying because many of those that would be affected fled persecution, repression, or economic challenges in their native countries and came to the United States as a safe haven – therefore sending them back could be dangerous to their well-being and that of their families. One of the many immigrants affected is [Carlos Capiro](#), a Venezuelan immigrant who is on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) due to civil unrest in his home country. He is among roughly 1 million people in the U.S. who are part of the TPS program, which has been utilized by administrations dating back to George H.W. Bush. This situation has caused many immigrants to live in fear, with some trying to get through their everyday lives one day at a time. The removal of the CBP One app, which previously [allowed migrants to share information and schedule interviews with immigration authorities before reaching the U.S. border](#), is troubling as well. With the app taken down and all asylum appointments canceled, many vulnerable migrants are now left in fear and in "limbo," uncertain about what will happen to them whether they are in the United States or still outside of its borders. Trump has also indefinitely paused the Humanitarian Parole Program and the Refugee Resettlement Program, and as a result, many people fleeing persecution, repression, or simply seeking a better life are left to fend for themselves, their hopes crushed, as they once looked to the U.S. as a place of freedom and safety.

Even with these unstable and trying times for many immigrants, there are some possible solutions. In terms of the economic impact, American agricultural lobbyists hope that the Trump administration expands and provides protections to immigrant workers that are part of the H-2A program. Diplomatically, the U.S. should maintain open lines of communication with world leaders in order to find solutions that benefit both countries.