

What you need to know about

# PROCEDURES OF DEPORTATION

from the United States.

Prior to deportation, the United States government must communicate with the government of an individual's country of origin, who must agree to accept each individual.<sup>i</sup> In many cases, the the Department of Homeland Security already holds those it wishes to deport in detention centers across the country. For others, deportation occurs after an order to appear by a local ICE office.<sup>ii</sup> In either case, individuals may request a hearing or stay of removal. This fact sheet is about what happens if that stay of removal is not made or is denied.

Regardless of the type of transportation employed, deported individuals usually arrive at their destinations with nothing beyond the clothes they are wearing.<sup>iii</sup> The US government **does not take responsibility** for making sure that these individuals arrive at their final destinations.<sup>iv</sup> From where they are dropped off, whether it is a bus stop, an airport, or a bridge, they must figure out how to find safety and reunite with relatives **on their own**.



# ICE AIR OPERATIONS



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*When I was deported, ICE chartered a flight with individuals from two countries.*

*We were **shackled up with chains** around our wrists, attached to our waist and feet, for 38 hours. All our wrists, waists, and ankles were swollen and bruised. We*

*were deprived water, restroom access, and food.”* <sup>v</sup>

Individuals deported to Central America are flown via **ICE Air Operations**, a private airline run by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency of Department of Homeland Security.<sup>vi</sup> For many of these individuals, it is their first time flying.<sup>vii</sup> Deportees’ hands and feet are shackled on domestic and chartered flights.<sup>viii</sup> They are frisked, and have their mouths checked for drugs before the flight. The agency claims to meet all safety standards required of commercial flights from the United States, but **safety instructions are only provided in English** (which many of the passengers cannot understand), and shackles remain on during at least the beginning of the flight, jeopardizing safety in case of an emergency. The Federal Aviation Association does not require the safety procedures to be read in Spanish; thus no translation is offered to passengers aboard ICE Air.<sup>ix</sup>

# of deportees: 91,000 during FY 2016<sup>x</sup>  
Cost of operations: \$116 million for FY 2016<sup>xi</sup>

# GROUND TRANSPORTATION ACROSS THE BORDER

*"When I visited the Nogales border in the summer of 2016, I saw a **horrible, degrading** cattle-like chute which recently deported individuals had to walk through to reenter Mexico. The chute extends far past the border and leaves individuals feeling **embarrassed, disoriented, and disrespected**," said Lauren Cueto, Yale University class of 2021.*



Individuals deported to Mexico from within the United States are usually flown to U.S. border cities and walk or transported in buses or vans across the border.<sup>xii</sup> Those intercepted at the border are most often immediately repatriated. An individual's point of departure depends on the state in which they were apprehended.<sup>xiii</sup> As each state contains multiple ports of entry, an individual will be transported to one based on accessibility and feasibility.<sup>xiv</sup> For those deported to towns on the US-Mexico border without any resources or belongings, the only source of support is often small NGOs like Kino Border Initiative's Aid Center for Deported Migrants.<sup>xv</sup> These NGOs provide a place to sleep, food, and sometimes loans for transportation money. These shelters do not have the capacity to help each deported individual, especially when the number of deportations is especially high.<sup>xvi</sup> Migrants are expected to stay and receive aid from these shelters for an average of three days, but special accommodations can be made on a case-by-case basis.<sup>xvii</sup>

# of deportees: approx. 150,000 during FY 2016<sup>xviii</sup>  
Cost of this method: \$140 million for FY 2016<sup>xix</sup>

## "SELF" DEPORTATION



In July of 2017, Nury Chavarria of New Haven, Connecticut was told to leave the country within a week. She had lived in the United States longer than her birth country of Guatemala, but after 24 years, was being deported. "[She's] a mother of four with no criminal history, special needs child. She's not a bad guy," said her Lawyer. Chavarria has four US citizen children.<sup>xx</sup>

Self deportation occurs without an official order of removal and may occur with or without a hearing.<sup>xxi</sup> Individuals undergoing self deportation must reach certain criteria in order to do so.<sup>xxii</sup> If the individual can obtain travel documents, money for departure, and a \$500 bond, he/she may be given a date in which to leave the United States.<sup>xxiii</sup> Failure to depart before the designated date results in a fine and denied access to relief from deportation for the following ten years.<sup>xxiv</sup>

# of deportees: UNKNOWN

Cost of this method: ENTIRELY INCURRED BY DEPORTEES

## CONCLUSION

The methods described above are the most widely-used methods of deportation from the United States. However, this information should be reviewed with skepticism, as there are little definite data and statistics surrounding the topic of deportation. There may also be different methods of deportation that are not widely documented. Special accommodations within each deportation method can also be made on a case-by-case basis. We don't know what happens to most individuals who are deported from the United States, but know that many are put in very perilous circumstances. Especially those who are deported to unfamiliar cities far from relatives and with little social and economic capital to support themselves, the risks of violence and trafficking are great.<sup>xxv</sup>

Compiled by Lauren Cueto and Harper Loonsk

# CITATIONS

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