EXHIBIT N

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Interview highlights

DHS official defends Mahmoud Khalil arrest, but offers few details on why it happened

MARCH 13, 2025 · 4:18 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION

By Michel Martin, Destinee Adams

5-Minute Listen PLAYLIST TRANSCRIPT



Troy Edgar testifies during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on February 25, 2025.

Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

President Trump has ramped up efforts to deliver on a campaign promise to carry out the largest ever deportation of immigrants in U.S. history.

Parallel to those deportation plans is a crackdown on what the administration calls antisemitism on college campuses.

Both efforts came to the forefront this week when Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers arrested Mahmoud Khalil, a recent Columbia University graduate student, who has not been charged with any crime yet. This is likely the first high profile arrest of a legal permanent resident in connection with the pro-Palestinian protests that rippled across the nation's campuses last year. Trump has vowed that this is the first of many arrests to come as he lays a framework for

increased deportations. Trump officials are standing beside his efforts and doubling down on accusations that Khalil's actions align with those of a terrorist.

One of those officials is Troy Edgar, the deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, who defended Khalil's arrest on *Morning Edition*. When NPR's Michel Martin asked him to explain what Khalil did to be arrested, aligned with terrorist activity and potentially deported, Edgar did not give a clear answer.

"I think you can see it on TV, right?" Edgar said. "We've invited and allowed the student to come into the country, and he's put himself in the middle of the process of basically pro-Palestinian activity. And at this point, like I said, the Secretary of State can review his visa process at any point and revoke it."

Khalil, a Syrian national of Palestinian descent, does not have a U.S. visa of any kind. Therefore an immigration judge would be the one to decide whether or not his status is revoked, not administration officials. He does however hold a green card, making him a lawful permanent resident in the U.S.

Khalil participated in pro-Palestine student protests at Columbia University last year, and he also negotiated with the administration on behalf of students pushing for the university to divest from Israel because of its war in Gaza against Hamas.

After his arrest, Khalil was taken to a detention center in Louisiana. Though ICE officers said that his green card was revoked, U.S. District Judge Jesse M. Furman ordered he cannot be deported while the court weighs a legal challenge brought by his lawyers.

The day before Khalil's arrest, Edgar was sworn into his new position with the Department of Homeland Security. During Trump's first term, Edgar served as the department's chief financial officer.

Edgar spoke to Martin about Mahmoud Khalil's arrest and the Trump administration's ramped-up deportations of migrants.

The following excerpt has been edited for length and clarity.

Interview highlights

Michel Martin: Mahmoud Khalil says he acted as a spokesperson for pro-Palestinian demonstrators and as a mediator with Columbia University, where he was a graduate student. As you know, Mr. Edgar, any conduct that can be legally sanctioned must be described. So, what is the specific conduct the government alleges that Mr. Khalil engaged in that merits removal from the United States.

Troy Edgar: I think what you saw there is you've got somebody that has come into the country on a visa. And as he's going through the visa process, he is coming in to basically be a student that is not going to be supporting terrorism. So, the issue is he was let into the country on this visa. He has been promoting this antisemitism activity at the university. And at this point, the State Department has revoked his visa for supporting a terrorist type organization. And we're the enforcing agencies, so we've come in to basically arrest him.

Martin: A White House official told the Free Press that there's no allegation that he broke any laws. So, again, I have to ask, what specifically constitutes terrorist activity that he was supporting? What exactly do you say he did?

Edgar: Well, like I said, when you apply for a visa, you go through the process to be able to say that you're here on a student visa, that doesn't afford you all the rights of coming in and basically going through this process, agitating and supporting Hamas. So, at this point, yeah, the Secretary of State and the State Department maintains the right to revoke the visa, and that's what they've done.

Martin: How did he support Hamas? Exactly what did he do?

Edgar: Well, I think you can see it on TV, right? This is somebody that we've invited and allowed the student to come into the country, and he's put himself in

the middle of the process of basically pro-Palestinian activity. And at this point, like I said, the Secretary of State can review his visa process at any point and revoke it.

Martin: He's a permanent resident. He's not a visa holder. He's a legal permanent resident. He has the green card, at least he did, until it's alleged that it was revoked.

If the allegation is that Mr. Khalil organized protests and made speeches after which other people engaged in prohibited activity, or, say, violent activity. Well, Mr. Trump gave a political speech on January 6, 2021, after which some individuals engaged in violent and illegal acts. How is this any different?

Edgar: President Trump's a citizen and the president of the United States. This is a person that came in under a visa. And again, the secretary of state at any point can take a look and evaluate that visa and decide if they want to revoke it.

Martin: He's a legal permanent resident. I have to keep insisting on that. He is a legal permanent resident.

So what is the standard? Is any criticism of the Israeli government a deportable offense?

Edgar: Like I said, I think that at this point when he entered into the country on a student visa, at any point we can go through and evaluate what his status is.

Martin: Is any criticism of the United States government a deportable offense?

Edgar: Like I said, if you go through the process and you're a student and you're here on a visa and you go through it, at any point ...

Martin: Is any criticism of the government a deportable offense?

Edgar: Let me put it this way, Michel, imagine if he came in and filled out the form and said, 'I want a student visa.' They asked him, 'What are you going to do here?' And he says, 'I'm going to go and protest.' We would have never let him into the country.

Martin: Is protesting a deportable offense?

Edgar: You're focused on protests. I'm focused on the visa process. He went through a legal process ...

Martin: Are you saying he lied on his application? He's a lawful permanent resident, married to an American citizen.

Edgar: I think if he would have declared he's a terrorist, we would have never let him in.

Martin: And what did he engage in that constitutes terrorist activity?

Edgar: I mean, Michel, have you watched it on TV? It's pretty clear.

Michel: No, it isn't. Well, explain it to those of us who have not or perhaps others have not. What exactly did you do?

Edgar: Well, I think it's clear or we wouldn't be talking about it. I mean, the reality is that if you watch and see what he's done on the university ...

Martin: Do you not know? Are you telling us that you're not aware?

Edgar: I find it interesting that you're not aware.

Martin: I think you could explain it to us. I think others would like to know exactly what the offenses are, what the propaganda was that you allege, what the activity was that you allege. Well, perhaps we can talk again and you can give us more details about this.

We really appreciate your coming to join us, and we do hope we'll talk again.

Edgar: Thank you.

This story was edited by Kristian Monroe. Ximena Bustillo contributed to this story.

EXHIBIT O

Fox News, "JD Vance Reveals Whether More Deportations of Green Card Holders Are Coming" (Mar. 13, 2025), https://www.foxnews.com/video/6369982152112.

TRANSCRIPT:

JD Vance: Laura, a green card holder, even if I might like that green card holder doesn't have an indefinite right to be in the United States of America. Right? American citizens have different rights from people who have green cards, from people who have student visas. And so my attitude on this is: this is not fundamentally about free speech. And to me, yes, it's about national security, but it's also, more importantly, about who do we as an American public decide gets to join our national community? And if the Secretary of State and the President decide this person shouldn't be in America, and they have no legal right to stay here, it's as simple as that.

Laura Ingraham: Do you see more such deportations happening?

JD Vance: I think we'll certainly see some people who get deported on student visas if we determine that it's not in the best interest of the United States to have them in our country. So yeah, I don't know how high that number is going to be, but you're going to see more people.

EXHIBIT P

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Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

VIDEO: Columbia University Student Whose Visa Was Revoked for Supporting Hamas and Terrorist Activities Used CBP Home App to Self-Deport

Release Date: March 14, 2025

Another student who supported Hamas was arrested by ICE HSI for overstaying her student visa.

WASHINGTON – Today, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced that one of the Columbia students who had her student visa revoked for advocating for violence and terrorism self-deported using the CBP Home App and ICE arrested a Palestinian student for overstaying her expired F-1 visa.

Ranjani Srinivasan, a citizen and national of India, entered the United States on a F-1 student visa as doctoral student in Urban Planning at Columbia University. Srinivasan was involved in activities supporting Hamas, a terrorist organization. The Department of Homeland Security has obtained video footage (https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1900562928849326488) of her using the CBP Home App to self-deport on March 11.

Another student Leqaa Kordia, a Palestinian from West Bank, was arrested by ICE HSI Newark officers for overstaying her expired F-1 student visa. Her visa terminated on January 26, 2022, for lack of attendance. Previously, in April 2024 Kordia was arrested for her involvement in pro-Hamas protests at Columbia University in New York City.

The below statement is attributable to Secretary Noem:

"It is a privilege to be granted a visa to live and study in the United States of America. When you advocate for violence and terrorism that privilege should be revoked, and you should not be in this country. I am glad to see one of the Columbia University terrorist sympathizers use the CBP Home app to self-deport."

Topics

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (/TOPICS/CITIZENSHIP-AND-IMMIGRATION-SERVICES)

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IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) (/KEYWORDS/IMMIGRATION-AND-CUSTOMS-ENFORCEMENT-ICE)

Last Updated: 03/21/2025

EXHIBIT Q

How a Columbia Student Fled to Canada After ICE Came Looking for Her

Ranjani Srinivasan's student visa was revoked by U.S. immigration authorities. That was just the start of her odyssey.

Listen to this article · 11:35 min Learn more




By Luis Ferré-Sadurní and Hamed Aleaziz

March 15, 2025

The first knock at the door came eight days ago, on a Friday morning.

Three federal immigration agents showed up at a Columbia University apartment searching for Ranjani Srinivasan, who had recently learned her student visa had been revoked. Ms. Srinivasan, an international student from India, did not open the door.

She was not home when the agents showed up again the next night, just hours before a former Columbia student living in campus housing, Mahmoud Khalil, was detained, roiling the university. Ms. Srinivasan packed a few belongings, left her cat behind with a friend and jumped on a flight to Canada at LaGuardia Airport.

When the agents returned a third time, this past Thursday night, and entered her apartment with a judicial warrant, she was gone.

"The atmosphere seemed so volatile and dangerous," Ms. Srinivasan, 37, said on Friday in an interview with The New York Times, her first public remarks since leaving. "So I just made a quick decision."

Ms. Srinivasan, a Fulbright recipient who was pursuing a doctoral degree in urban planning, was caught in the dragnet of President Trump's crackdown on pro-Palestinian demonstrators through the use of federal immigration powers. She is one of a handful of noncitizens that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has targeted at Columbia in recent days.

In the week since that first knock at the door, Ms. Srinivasan says she has struggled to understand why the State Department abruptly revoked her student visa without explanation, leading Columbia to withdraw her enrollment from the university because her legal status had been terminated.



Ranjani Srinivasan was pursuing a Ph.D. in urban planning at Columbia. Ranjani Srinivasan

On Friday, while considering her future in Canada, she received some answers.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a statement that characterized Ms. Srinivasan as a terrorist sympathizer and accused her of advocating violence and being "involved in activities supporting Hamas, a terrorist organization." The department did not provide any evidence for its allegations.

Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary, posted surveillance footage on social media that showed Ms. Srinivasan lugging a suitcase at LaGuardia as she fled to Canada. Secretary Noem celebrated Ms. Srinivasan's departure as a "self-deportation."

"It is a privilege to be granted a visa to live & study in the United States of America," Secretary Noem wrote on X. "When you advocate for violence and terrorism that privilege should be revoked and you should not be in this country."

Ms. Srinivasan's lawyers have vehemently denied those allegations and have accused the Trump administration of revoking her visa for engaging in "protected political speech," saying she was denied "any meaningful form of due process" to challenge the visa revocation.

"Secretary Noem's tweet is not only factually wrong but fundamentally un-American," Naz Ahmad, one of Ms. Srinivasan's lawyers, said in a statement, adding: "For at least a week, D.H.S. has made clear its intent to punish her for her speech, and they have failed in their efforts."

In response to questions, officials with the Homeland Security Department said that when Ms. Srinivasan renewed her visa last year, she failed to disclose two court summonses related to protests on Columbia's campus. The department did not say how the summonses made her a terrorist sympathizer.

"I'm fearful that even the most low-level political speech or just doing what we all do — like shout into the abyss that is social media — can turn into this dystopian nightmare where somebody is calling you a terrorist sympathizer and making you, literally, fear for your life and your safety," Ms. Srinivasan said in the interview on Friday.

Ms. Srinivasan's current situation can be traced back to last year, when she was arrested at an entrance to Columbia's campus the same day that pro-Palestinian protesters occupied Hamilton Hall, a university building. She said she had not been a part of the break-in but was returning to her apartment that evening after a picnic with friends, wading through a churning crowd of protesters and barricades on West 116th Street, when the police pushed her and arrested her.

She was briefly detained and received two summonses, one for obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic and another for refusing to disperse. Her case was quickly dismissed and did not result in a criminal record, according to her lawyers and court documents. Ms. Srinivasan said that she never faced disciplinary action from the university and was in good academic standing.

"She was taken in with roughly 100 other people after being blocked from returning to her apartment and getting stuck in the street," said Nathan Yaffe, one of her lawyers. "The court recognized this when it dismissed her case as having no merit. Ranjani was just trying to walk home."

Ms. Srinivasan said she did not disclose the summonses in the visa renewal form later in the year because her case had been dismissed in May and she did not have a conviction.

"Because I had not and the charges were dismissed, I sort of marked it as 'no,'" she said. "But maybe that was my mistake. I would have been happy to disclose that, but just the way they had questioned us was sort of assuming that you had a conviction."

The State Department has broad discretion to revoke student visas, which it typically does if someone overstays or the government discovers fraud; convictions and arrests can also lead to revocations. Immigration lawyers said it was highly unusual for ICE to descend on college campuses searching for students with recently revoked visas as the agency has the past few days at Columbia, rattling many students.

"It is more rare for the government to act the way it has, such as in the cases in Columbia University, where they're going on campus and conducting an operation to apprehend somebody," said Greg Chen, a lawyer at the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

The Trump administration's targeting of students with visas at a university enveloped in a cultural firestorm opened a new front in the president's attempts to ramp up deportations and tamp down pro-Palestinian views. The president canceled $400 million in grants to the university after accusing it of failing to protect Jewish students. The arrests and attempted detentions of the Columbia students has led to an uproar among Democrats and civil rights groups.

Jason Houser, a senior ICE official during the Biden administration, said that "criminalizing free speech through radicalized immigration enforcement is a direct attack on our democracy."

Last week, ICE arrested Mr. Khalil, a green card holder who had become a leading face of the pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia. Mr. Trump hailed the arrest as "the first of many to come." On Friday, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it had arrested Leqaa Kordia, who had been involved in the protests at Columbia. Federal officials said she had overstayed her visa and had previously been arrested at a Columbia protest in April.

Unlike Mr. Khalil, Ms. Srinivasan said she was not an activist or a member of any group that organized demonstrations on campus.

Ms. Srinivasan said she was an architect who came to the United States from India as part of the Fulbright program in 2016 and that she enrolled at Columbia in 2020. She said she was in the fifth year of an urban planning doctoral program at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and was supposed to graduate in May.

She said that her activity on social media had been mostly limited to liking or sharing posts that highlighted "human rights violations" in the war in Gaza. And she said that she had signed several open letters related to the war, including one

by architecture scholars that called for “Palestinian liberation.”

“I’m just surprised that I’m a person of interest,” she said. “I’m kind of a rando, like, absolute rando,” she said, using slang for random.

It was March 5 when she received an email from the U.S. Consulate in Chennai, India, indicating that her visa had been revoked. The notice did not provide a reason, saying only that “information has come to light” that may make her ineligible for a visa.

Confused, she emailed Columbia’s office for international students the following day seeking guidance. An official informed her that the revocation would take effect only if she left the country and that she could remain in the United States to pursue her studies for the time being, according to emails reviewed by The Times.

The next morning, on March 7, Ms. Srinivasan was on a call with an official from the international student office when the federal agents first knocked on the door of her apartment, which is off campus but operated by Columbia. The official told Ms. Srinivasan to call campus security, while her roommate engaged with the agents from behind the closed apartment door.

In an interview, her roommate said that the agents had initially identified themselves as “police,” declined to provide their badge numbers, saying they feared they would be doxxed, and stood to the side of the door so that they were not visible through the peep hole. The roommate, a fellow Columbia student who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear for her safety, said that the building’s doorman, who is an immigrant, later told her that he had let the three agents into the building because he was frightened.

Ms. Srinivasan abandoned the apartment that night, so she was not there when officials returned the following evening. Her roommate once again refused to open the door to let them in and recorded audio of the interaction, which she shared with The Times.

"We were here yesterday," one of the officials says, believing he was talking to Ms. Srinivasan because the roommate had not identified herself. "We're here today. We're here tonight. Tomorrow. You're probably scared. If you are, I get it. The reality is, your visa was revoked. You are now amenable to removal proceedings."

The official stressed that he and his colleagues were not trying to break the law, that she would have the right to go before an immigration judge and left a phone number for the Homeland Security Department that she could call if she had "a change of heart."

"That's the easiest and fastest way to do this, as opposed to you being in your apartment and us knocking on your door every day, which is just silly," he said. "You're a very smart person. It's just not — it's not worth it."

The next day, Ms. Srinivasan received an email from Columbia saying that homeland security had alerted the university that her visa had been revoked and her legal status in the country had been terminated. Because she had to immediately leave the United States, the email said, her enrollment at Columbia had been withdrawn and she had to vacate student housing.

The email, signed by the university's international student office, said that, in compliance with its legal obligations, Columbia was asking her to meet with the homeland security agents. The university declined to comment on Ms. Srinivasan's case.

On Thursday night, three federal agents returned to Ms. Srinivasan's apartment with a search warrant signed by a judge and went inside to search for her, according to her roommate and lawyers.

By then, Ms. Srinivasan was already in Canada.

Edward Wong contributed reporting. Alain Delaquérière contributed research.

A correction was made on March 15, 2025*: An earlier version of this article, relying on information provided by a spokesperson, misstated the surname of one of Ranjani Srinivasan's lawyers. She is Naz Ahmad, not Ahmed.*

When we learn of a mistake, we acknowledge it with a correction. If you spot an error, please let us know at nytnews@nytimes.com. Learn more

Luis Ferré-Sadurní is a Times reporter covering immigration, focused on the influx of migrants arriving in the New York region. More about Luis Ferré-Sadurní

Hamed Aleaziz covers the Department of Homeland Security and immigration policy. More about Hamed Aleaziz

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A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 13 of the New York edition with the headline: A Fleeing Student's 'Dystopian Nightmare'

EXHIBIT R

An official website of the United States Government Here's how you know

Secretary of State Marco Rubio with Margaret Brennan of CBS's Face the Nation

INTERVIEW

MARCO RUBIO, SECRETARY OF STATE
MIAMI, FLORIDA

MARCH 16, 2025

QUESTION: Let's get straight to it this morning with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who joins us from Miami, Florida. Mr. Secretary, for our audience, just to explain, this Red Sea area is a really important transit point for global shipping. The Houthis out of Yemen have been disrupting transit there for some time. President Trump cited these concerns when he announced the strikes. I'm wondering, how long will this campaign last and will it involve ground forces?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, first of all, the problem here is that this is a very important shipping lane, and in the last year and a half, last 18 months, the Houthis have struck or attacked 174 naval vessels of the United States, attacking the U.S. Navy directly 174 times, and 145 times they've attacked commercial shipping. So we basically have a band of pirates with guided precision anti-ship weaponry, and exacting a toll system in one of the most important shipping lanes in the world. That's just not sustainable. We are not going to have these people controlling which ships can go through and which ones cannot. And so your question is how long will this go on. It will go on until they no longer have the capability to do that.

QUESTION: Well, what does U.S. intelligence tell us at this point? Because the U.S. had been conducting strikes for some time but has not stopped the Houthis.

SECRETARY RUBIO: No.

QUESTION: So what's going to be different right now? Do you have more fidelity in the intelligence that would make this more successful?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, those strikes were retaliation strikes. So they launched one missile, we hit the missile launcher, or we sent something to do it. This is not a message. This is not a one-off. This is an effort to deny them the ability to continue to constrict and control shipping, and it's just not going to happen. We're not going to have these guys, these people with weapons able to tell us where our ships can go – where the ships of all the world can go, by the way. It's not just the U.S. We're doing the world a favor.

QUESTION: Yeah.

SECRETARY RUBIO: We're doing the entire world a favor by getting rid of these guys and their ability to strike global shipping. That's the mission here, and it will continue until that's carried out. That never happened before. The Biden administration didn't do that. All the Biden administration would do is they would respond to an attack. These guys would launch one rocket; we'd hit the rocket launcher. That's it.

This is an effort to take away their ability to control global shipping in that part of the world. That's just not going to happen anymore.

QUESTION: And it could –

SECRETARY RUBIO: So this will continue until that's finished.

QUESTION: It could involve ground raids?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, I – those are military decisions to be made, but I've heard no talk of ground raids. I don't think there's a necessity for it right now. I can tell you that as of last night, some of the key people involved in those missile launches are no longer with us, and I can tell you that some of the facilities that they used are no longer existing, and that will continue.

Look, it's bottom line – easy way to understand it, okay? These guys are able to control what ships can go through there. They've attacked the U.S. Navy.

QUESTION: Yeah.

SECRETARY RUBIO: A hundred and seventy-four times they've attacked the United States Navy. We're not going to have people sitting around with the missiles, attacking the U.S. Navy. It's not going to happen – not under President Trump.

QUESTION: The President also referenced Iran in his statement. Iran provides some support for the Houthis, as you know. Put this in context for me, because U.S. intelligence has been suggesting for some time that Israel has the desire and intent to conduct an attack on Iran's developing nuclear program in the coming months. President Trump has extended an offer for negotiations. Have you heard anything back from Iran? Is this strike in Yemen a signal to Iran?

SECRETARY RUBIO: This strike in Yemen is about their ability – the ability of the Houthis – to strike global shipping and attack the U.S. Navy, and their willingness to do it: 174 times against the U.S. Navy; 145-some times against global shipping. That's what the strike is about. What we can't ignore, and the reason why the President mentioned Iran, is because the Iranians have supported the Houthis. They've provided them intelligence. They've provided them guidance. They've provided them weaponry. I mean, there's no way the Houthis – okay, the Houthis – would have the ability to do this kind of thing unless they had support from Iran. And so this was a message to Iran: Don't keep supporting them, because then you will also be responsible for what they are doing in attacking Navy ships and attacking global shipping.

QUESTION: They also get support from Russia, potentially, which you leveraged sanctions in regard to. But I want to ask you about tariffs because you were just in Canada this past week. China is Canada's second-biggest export market; Mexico's third. In this ongoing trade back-and-forth the U.S. is having, isn't there a risk that China will ultimately be the winner? If it's too costly to deal with the United States, won't they benefit?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, actually, China and Canada are involved in a mini trade war right now. In fact, the Chinese have imposed a bunch of tariffs, reciprocal or retaliatory tariffs, on Canada after Canada imposed tariffs on them. So here's the way everyone needs to understand this, okay? The President rightfully believes that the balance of global trade is completely off-kilter. For 30 or 40 years, we have allowed countries to treat us unfairly in global trade, much of it

during the Cold War because we wanted them to be rich and prosperous because they were our allies in the Cold War. But now that has to change. You look at the European Union. The European Union's economy is about the same size as ours. It's not a low-wage economy. It's very comparable to ours in terms of its composition and so forth. Why do they have a trade surplus with us?

So what the President is saying is two things. Number one, there are critical industries – like aluminum, like steel, like semiconductors, like automobile manufacturing – that he rightfully believes, President Trump rightfully believes, the U.S. needs to have a domestic capability, and the way you protect those industries and build that capability is by ensuring that there's economic incentives to produce in the United States.

The second is global, and that is, we are going to put tariffs on countries reciprocal to what they impose on us. And so this is global – it's not against Canada, it's not against Mexico, it's not against the EU; it's everybody. And then from that new baseline of fairness and reciprocity, we will engage, potentially, in bilateral negotiations with countries around the world on new trade arrangements that make sense for both sides – fairness. But right now it's not fair. We're going to reset the baseline and then we can enter into these bilateral agreements, potentially, with countries so that our trade is fair.

What's not going to continue is – of course these countries are upset.

QUESTION: So this is all just about leverage to get bilateral, not free – not North American free trade deals –

SECRETARY RUBIO: No, it's not leverage.

QUESTION: – renegotiation.

SECRETARY RUBIO: No, no, it's not leverage. It's fairness. It's resetting baseline fairness. And then from there we can work on deals and so forth, because they'll have products we don't make, we have products they don't make. That's where trade works the best. It has to be free, but it has to be fair in that – and right now it's only free on one side and it's not fair for the other side.

QUESTION: Well, you know, sir, that –

SECRETARY RUBIO: It's an unsustainable position.

QUESTION: – the ad hoc nature of these policy announcements and pullbacks are causing concern in the marketplace, as we saw this past week. So I heard you describe what seemed like a strategy to get to negotiations on a bilateral front. You also seemed to negotiate – say this was national security-minded. But then we also see –

SECRETARY RUBIO: Yeah.

QUESTION: – comments by the President of, like, 200 percent tariffs on champagne. That's not a critical industry for the United States. That seems more emotional.

SECRETARY RUBIO: No, that – I mean, that's called retaliation. That's what happens in these trade exchanges. They're going to increase tariffs on – they already have high tariffs. They're going to add more to their tariffs? Fine. Then we'll have to find something to – I mean, you tell me. I mean, Canada is going after whiskey and orange juice and, I mean –

QUESTION: In retaliation.

SECRETARY RUBIO: Right, exactly. So that sounds pretty petty to me as well. So what's the difference? The point is – I get it. I understand why these countries don't like it, because the status quo of trade is good for them. It benefits them. They like the status quo. We don't like the status quo. We are going to set a new status quo and then we can negotiate something, if they want to, that is fair for both sides. But what we have now cannot continue. We have deindustrialized this country, okay, deindustrialized the United States of America. There are things we can no longer make, and we have to be able to make in order to be safe as a country and in order to have jobs. That's why we had a Rust Belt. That's why we have suffered all these important jobs that once sustained entire communities, wiped out by trade that basically sent these factories, these jobs, this industrial capability to other places. That cannot and will not continue. I don't –

QUESTION: Yeah.

SECRETARY RUBIO: President Trump – this is no mystery; he's been talking about this since the 1980s, actually.

QUESTION: Yeah.

SECRETARY RUBIO: Even before he was a political figure. This is going to happen and it's going to happen now.

QUESTION: I want to ask you about Russia. You said Envoy Steve Witkoff's meeting with Vladimir Putin that happened last week would answer the fundamental question of whether we're moving towards a ceasefire or whether Putin is using a delay tactic. You spoke with Sergei Lavrov, the foreign minister, yesterday. Is this a delay tactic?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, I think it was a promising meeting. As I've said repeatedly, we're not going to negotiate this in the public. Hopefully we'll have something to announce at some point fairly soon. I can't guarantee that, but I certainly think the meeting was promising, the exchange was promising. I don't take away from Steve's meeting, from Ambassador Witkoff's meeting, negativity. There are some challenges. This is a complex, three-year war that's been ongoing along a very long military front with a lot of complexity to it.

So no one's claiming that it's easy, but I want everyone to understand here's the plan. Plan A is get the shooting to stop so that we can move to plan B, phase two, which is have everybody at a table, maybe not – maybe with some shuttle diplomacy, to figure out a way to permanently end this war in a way that's enduring and that respects everybody's needs and so forth. No one is saying that that second part is easy, but we can't get even to that second part until we get past the first part. It's hard to negotiate an enduring end to a war as long as they're shooting at each other, and so the President wants a ceasefire. That's what we're working on. Assuming we can get that done – that won't be easy in and of itself – we move to the second phase, which is negotiating something more enduring and permanent.

That will be hard. It will involve a lot of hard work, concessions from both sides, but it has to happen. This war cannot continue. The President has been clear about that, and he's doing everything he can to bring it to an end.

QUESTION: Okay. We'll talk about that later in the program as well with Envoy Witkoff. I want to ask you about a decision you made to revoke a student visa from someone at Columbia University this past week. The *Wall Street Journal* editorial board writes: "The... Administration needs to be careful... [it's] targeting real promoters of terrorism... not breaking the great promise of a green card by deporting anyone with controversial political views." Can you substantiate any form of material support for terrorism, specifically to Hamas –

SECRETARY RUBIO: Yes.

QUESTION: – from this Columbia student, or was it simply that he was espousing a controversial political point of view?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, not just the student – we're going to do more. In fact, every day now we're approving visa revocations, and, if that visa led to a green card, the green card process as well. And here's why – it's very simple. When you apply to enter the United States and you get a visa, you are a guest, and you're coming as a student, you're coming as a tourist, or what have you. And in it, you have to make certain assertations. And if you tell us when you apply for a visa, I'm coming to the U.S. to participate in pro-Hamas events, that runs counter to the foreign policy interests of the United States of America. It's that simple. So you lied. You came – if you had told us that you were going to do that, we never would have given you the visa. Now you're here, now you do it, so you lied to us. You're out. It's that simple; it's that straightforward.

QUESTION: But is there any – but is there any evidence of a link to terrorism, or is it just his point of view?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Sure – yeah, they take over – I mean, do you not – I mean, you should watch the news. These guys take over entire buildings. They vandalize colleges; they shut down colleges.

QUESTION: We covered it intensely.

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, then you should know that this is –

QUESTION: I'm asking about the specific justification for the revocation of his visa. Was there any evidence of material support for terrorism?

SECRETARY RUBIO: Well, this specific individual was the spokesperson, was the negotiator – negotiating on behalf of people that took over a campus, that vandalized buildings. Negotiating over what? That's a crime in and of itself that they're involved in being the negotiator or the spokesperson, this, that, the other. We don't want – we don't need these people in our country. We never should have allowed them in in in the first place. If he had told us, I'm going over there and I'm going over there to become the spokesperson and one of the leaders of a movement that's going to turn one of your allegedly elite colleges upside down, people can't even go to school, the library – buildings being vandalized, we never would have let him in. We never would

have let him in to begin with. And now that he's doing it and he's here, he's going to leave and so are others, and we're going to keep doing it.

We are – and by the way, I find it ironic that a lot of these people out there defending the First Amendment speech – alleged free speech rights of these Hamas sympathizers –

QUESTION: Yes.

SECRETARY RUBIO: – they had no problem, okay, pressuring social media to censor American political speech. So I think it's ironic and hypocritical. But the bottom line is this: If you are in this country to promote Hamas, to promote terrorist organizations, to participate in vandalism, to participate –

QUESTION: Yeah.

SECRETARY RUBIO: – in acts of rebellion and riots on campus, we never would have let you in if we had known that, and now that we know it, you're going to leave.

QUESTION: Is it only pro-Palestinian people who are going to have their visas revoked, or other points of view as well?

SECRETARY RUBIO: No, I think anybody who's here in favor – look, we want to get rid of Tren de Aragua gang members. They're terrorists too. We – the President designated them, asked me to designate, and I did, as a terrorist organization. We want to get rid of them as well. You are – we don't want terrorists in America. I don't know how hard that is to understand. We want people – we don't want people in our country that are going to be committing crimes and undermining our national security or the public safety.

QUESTION: Yeah. Okay.

SECRETARY RUBIO: It's that simple. Especially people that are here as guests – that is what a visa is.

QUESTION: Yes.

SECRETARY RUBIO: I don't know when we've gotten it in our head that a visa is some sort of birthright. It is not. It is a visitor into our country, and if you violate the terms of your visitation, you are going to leave.

QUESTION: Yeah. Okay. Secretary Rubio, we'd like to have you back, talk to you about a lot more on your plate another time, but we have to leave it there.

SECRETARY RUBIO: Thank you.

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EXHIBIT S

D.H.S. Detains a Georgetown University Academic

A federal judge on Thursday temporarily blocked the deportation of Badar Khan Suri, an Indian citizen teaching on an academic visa.




By Hank Sanders and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

March 19, 2025

The U.S. government has detained an Indian citizen who was studying and teaching at Georgetown University, and said he had been deemed "deportable" for violating the terms of his academic visa.

On Thursday, a federal judge in Virginia ruled that the scholar, Badar Khan Suri, could not be deported from the United States for now, pending further litigation.

Mr. Suri was detained at his home in Rosslyn, Va., on Monday night, according to his lawyer, Hassan Ahmad. Mr. Suri was "awaiting his court date in immigration court" in Alexandria, La., Mr. Ahmad said.

Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said Mr. Suri was "spreading Hamas propaganda and promoting antisemitism on social media." Ms. McLaughlin did not provide evidence to support the claim.

Mr. Suri has no criminal record and has not been charged with a crime, according to Mr. Ahmad. Politico first reported on the news of Mr. Suri's detention.

Mr. Ahmad said that Mr. Suri denied all of the allegations in Ms. McLaughlin's statement. He said that he believed the accusations against Mr. Suri were "seemingly based on who his father-in-law was," but that he was still researching the case.

Mr. Suri's wife is Palestinian American. Her father, Ahmed Yousef, is a former adviser to Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader whom Israel assassinated last year in Iran. Mr. Yousef confirmed in a voice message that Mr. Suri is his son-in-law and said that Mr. Suri was not involved in any "political activism," including on behalf of Hamas.

Mr. Yousef, who lives in Gaza, said he had left his position in the Hamas-run government in Gaza more than a decade ago and does not currently hold a senior position with the militant group. He has publicly criticized Hamas's decision to attack Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which set off the war in Gaza.

Ms. McLaughlin said that Mr. Suri had "close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, who is a senior adviser to Hamas," and that Secretary of State Marco Rubio had deemed him "deportable."

Ms. McLaughlin said Mr. Suri had been detained under a rarely used provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which the administration is using to try to deport Mahmoud Khalil, a recent Columbia University graduate and legal permanent resident who had a prominent role in the pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia.

The measure says the secretary of state can initiate deportation proceedings against any noncitizen whose presence in the United States he deems a threat to the country's foreign policy interests. Mr. Trump said earlier this month that Mr. Khalil's case was the first of "many to come." Civil rights groups have said such arrests of immigrants with legal status are a clear violation of the First Amendment.

While both men were deemed deportable under the same statute, Mr. Suri has a J-1 visa, which is used for students and academics, while Mr. Khalil has a green card.

Georgetown University, where Mr. Suri is a postdoctoral fellow, said in a statement that it was not aware of Mr. Suri "engaging in any illegal activity, and we have not received a reason for his detention."

“Seeing our government abduct and jail another innocent person is beyond contemptible,” Mr. Ahmad said.

Aaron Boxerman contributed reporting.

Hank Sanders is a Times reporter and a member of the 2024-25 Times Fellowship class, a program for journalists early in their careers. More about Hank Sanders

Zolan Kanno-Youngs is a White House correspondent for The Times, covering President Trump and his administration. More about Zolan Kanno-Youngs

EXHIBIT T

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Higher Education

Judge orders that Georgetown researcher detained by ICE remain in the U.S.

The arrest of Badar Khan Suri, who is in the U.S. legally and who DHS said was spreading "Hamas propaganda," is part of an increase in Trump administration detentions of people with legal status.

Updated March 20, 2025

By Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff and Teo Armus

A federal judge on Thursday ordered that a Georgetown University fellow working in the United States legally and detained by immigration authorities cannot be removed from the country, pending the outcome of a lawsuit seeking his release from detention.

Federal judge Patricia Tolliver Giles in Virginia's Eastern District did not rule on the Trump administration's efforts to deport Indian national Badar Khan Suri, who was apprehended earlier this week for what a DHS spokesperson said was "Hamas propaganda and promoting antisemitism on social media." Suri is scheduled to appear before an immigration judge in Los Fresnos, Texas, on May 6.

Suri is the latest of a handful of scholars with legal status who have been detained in recent weeks after opposing U.S. foreign policy on Israel, inflaming outrage from critics of the Trump administration.

They argue that targeting people over their opposition to U.S. policy is a violation of the First Amendment that could have chilling effects on free speech.

The administration has been using concerns over terrorism as a reason to escalate deportations, with Venezuelan migrants among the groups targeted for alleged ties to a transnational gang that the Trump administration has designated as a terrorist organization.

"Badar Khan Suri's detention is a clear violation of his constitutional rights, and he must be released," Rep. Don Beyer (D-Virginia) said in a statement Thursday. "The 'justification' given for these violations of Mr. Suri's right to due process is another violation of the Constitution: a blatant attack on the First Amendment. Mr. Suri and his family are unfortunately the latest victim of President Trump's assault on the freedom of speech."

Suri, 41, a postdoctoral fellow specializing in peace and conflict studies at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, was detained outside his home Monday in the Rosslyn neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia, by Department of Homeland Security agents, his attorneys told The Washington Post. He has no criminal record, according to a search of court documents.

Suri, who entered the United States in 2022, was told his visa had been revoked, and he was taken to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Louisiana, said his lawyers, one of whom filed the lawsuit that prompted Giles's temporary stay of removal.

A DHS spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

Earlier this week, department spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin alleged on X that Suri — who was admitted to the country on a J-1 visa reserved for scholars and professionals working for a U.S. employer — had a connection to a senior adviser to Hamas, an apparent reference to his wife, a U.S. citizen who once worked with the Gaza foreign ministry and whose father, Ahmed Yousef, is a former political adviser to the now-deceased Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Court documents filed on Suri's behalf note that the government has not alleged any crimes. Suri's attorney, Hassan Ahmad, also said he did not commit any crime but did not address the administration's claims about Suri's social media activity.

In a statement, Georgetown spokesperson Meghan Dubyak said Suri was "duly granted a visa" to the United States to continue his research on peace-building in Iraq and Afghanistan and that the university expects the "legal system to adjudicate this case fairly."

"We support our community members' rights to free and open inquiry, deliberation and debate, even if the underlying ideas may be difficult, controversial or objectionable," Dubyak said.

Several scholars have been arrested in recent days on charges of advocating violence and terrorism.

Last week, Department of Homeland Security agents arrested Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian protest leader at Columbia University and green-card holder who has also been taken to Louisiana. President Donald Trump had accused Khalil and other pro-Palestinian activists of engaging in "pro-terrorist, antisemitic, anti-American activity," but a federal judge temporarily blocked that deportation.

First Amendment attorneys have said that Khalil's arrest — over charges that federal officials have tied only to his activism — was unconstitutional and could cause some to limit their criticism of the administration over fears of deportation or other retribution.

Writing an op-ed in the Guardian earlier this week from detention, Khalil called himself a "political prisoner" and said: "My arrest was a direct consequence of exercising my right to free speech as I advocated for a free Palestine and an end to the genocide in Gaza."

Trump has said on his Truth Social social media platform that Khalil's arrest was the "first of many to come."

"We know there are more students at Columbia and other Universities across the Country who have engaged in pro-terrorist, antisemitic, anti-American activity, and the Trump Administration will not tolerate it," the president said in his post.

The Department of Homeland Security followed through on that promise by arresting two more Columbia University pro-Palestinian protesters, who are also being forced to leave the country, the agency said Friday.

The first student — Ranjani Srinivasan, a citizen of India — left the country on her own on Tuesday after her visa was revoked on March 5 for "advocating for violence and terrorism," the agency said.

A Brown University doctor was also deported to Lebanon on Friday, despite her cousin winning a restraining order to keep her in the country. DHS officials alleged she had attended the funeral of Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah.

Ahmad, Suri's attorney, called his client's arrest in the wake of those incidents "beyond contemptible."

"And if an accomplished scholar who focuses on conflict resolution is whom the government decides is bad for foreign policy, then perhaps the problem is with the government, not the scholar," he said Wednesday.

Suri's arrest is based on the same section of the Immigration and Nationality Act that federal authorities have used to attempt to deport Khalil.

McLaughlin, the DHS spokeswoman, said on X that Suri's "activities and presence in the United States rendered him deportable" under this obscure, rarely cited provision, which grants the secretary of state the power to move to deport an individual whose presence in the United States could have "potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio made such a determination in Suri's case on March 15, McLaughlin said.

ICE did not immediately respond on Thursday to a request for comment on the detainment, news of which was previously reported on by Politico.

According to his Georgetown biography, Suri is a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Foreign Service's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU) examining what makes cooperation more difficult among religiously diverse societies — and what can be done to solve those difficulties. He has traveled across conflict zones in India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and the Middle East. He wrote his 2020 doctoral thesis at a college in India on state-building in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In a statement, the ACMCU alleged the Trump administration was trying to "punish their political opponents," including those who oppose U.S. support for Israel, and institutions of higher education more broadly.

"First, they came for Mahmoud Khalil and Badar Khan Suri," the statement said. "Their 'crime' is defending Palestinian human rights. Do you think the Trump Administration will stop there?"

Suri's wife, Mapheze Saleh, is a first-year graduate student in the School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Saleh was born in Missouri and raised in Gaza, she said in a court filing. In addition to her work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there, she was a researcher at the Qatar Embassy in New Delhi. She has also served as the executive director of the IndoPal Foundation, according to her Georgetown biography.

Suri was detained after 9 p.m. upon returning from an Iftar dinner, the meal Muslims eat at the end of a day of fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, as DHS agents in masks surrounded him, the complaint said.

The father of three called his wife and asked that she be allowed to bring his passport and other documents downstairs. The agents took his passport and a form making him eligible for his J-1 visa and stood with the couple for 10 minutes before driving him to a detention center in Farmville, Virginia, the complaint said.

In a separate filing, Saleh said that Suri had met her father in person twice: once, when he visited Gaza with an international humanitarian convoy in 2011 as a masters student, and again about a year later when he returned to ask for Saleh's hand in marriage and her father's blessing.

The couple met in 2011, when Suri visited Gaza with an international humanitarian convoy as a masters student and Saleh served as the convoy's interpreter, she said in court filings. After marrying, they moved to New Delhi in 2013 and started a family there before Suri applied to come to Georgetown in late 2022.

Ahmad argued in the court filing that the Trump administration was weaponizing immigration law "to punish noncitizens whose views are deemed critical of U.S. policy as it relates to Israel."

The couple has been the subject of multiple articles in recent weeks that have brought them into public focus. The articles alleged that, in addition to their family ties to Hamas, they have cheered on or defended the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel. The Israeli Embassy in the U.S. further spread the allegations, calling Saleh a threat to Israeli and Jewish students — which their attorneys deny.

According to the complaint, Saleh is featured on the Canary Mission, a website that says it features people who "promote hatred of the USA, Israel and Jews on North American college campuses and beyond."

When reached by phone, Saleh referred a Washington Post reporter to his lawyer.

But, in a court filing, she recounted the impact of seeing her husband taken away in a black SUV.

"I watched him being driven away with no idea why he has been arrested," Saleh said in a court filing. "I feel completely unsafe and can't stop looking at the door, terrified that someone else will come and take me and the children away as well."

Alice Crites, Aaron Schaffer, Miriam Berger and Marianne LeVine contributed to this report.

What readers are saying

The comments express strong disapproval of the detainment of Badar Khan Suri, viewing it as a violation of free speech and likening it to McCarthyism and authoritarian tactics. Many commenters see

this as part of a broader pattern of intimidation against intellectuals and... Show more

This summary is AI-generated. AI can make mistakes and this summary is not a replacement for reading the comments.

EXHIBIT U

[VIA ELECTRONIC FILING]
The Honorable Elizabeth C. Coombe
U.S. District Judge
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
James M. Hanley Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse
100 S. Clinton St.
Syracuse, NY 13261

To The Honorable Elizabeth C. Coombe:

Last night at 12:52 AM, the Department of Justice contacted the undersigned via email. Under the subject line "Momodou Taal et al v. Trump, 25-cv-335 (NDNY)," the government informed the undersigned for the first time that the government intended to serve Mr. Taal with a Notice to Appear (NTA), and that they intended to take Mr. Taal into the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Given that this information confirms the factual basis for Plaintiffs' request for an emergency temporary restraining order, ECF No. 23, and the increased urgency with which the Court's intervention is needed, we respectfully request the Court construe this letter as any procedurally appropriate vehicle to obtain the same. Plaintiffs' counsel is immediately available to follow up with any submissions the Court deems appropriate in this extraordinary situation. Attached to this letter is an affidavit from Counsel Eric Lee (Exhibit 4), the government's 12:52 AM email (Exhibit 5), and Plaintiffs' counsel's reply (Exhibit 6).

The email reads:

> My colleagues and I represent the United States in this matter. The applications for admission of Messrs. Stone, Moss, and myself to the bar of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York are pending, so we have not noticed our appearances yet. But we wanted to reach out to establish a line of communication, and relate some information concerning your client.
>
> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has asked us to convey to you the following. ICE invites Mr. Taal and his counsel to appear in-person at the HSI Office in Syracuse at a mutually agreeable time for personal service of the NTA and for Mr. Taal to surrender to ICE custody. Accordingly, if you are interested in proposing such a date and time, we will promptly forward it to ICE for consideration.

Exhibit 5. The undersigned are not aware of any other instance in which the government has attempted to initiate service of an NTA through the Department of Justice in response to the non-citizen filing a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of presidential action. The highly unusual circumstances of the government's request are also colored by the fact that Mr. Taal presently has a TRO/Order to Show Cause request pending before this Court challenging the legality of his potential detention.

Here, the text of the 12:52 AM email not only appears under a subject line with the case caption, it was also communicated to the undersigned via Justice Department attorneys who are introducing themselves as counsel on that litigation. It is not yet clear what grounds for removal the government alleges exist here. Moreover, in the two years Mr. Taal has lived in the United States, he has been admitted to enter the country numerous times, including as recently as December 2024. ECF No. 1, ¶ 34. The only changes between Mr. Taal's last admission and now are the executive orders and the initiation of this legal action challenging them. It is plain that the government's effort to serve and detain Mr. Taal are in reaction to this litigation.

The 12:52 AM email and the information contained therein underscore the need for timely adjudication of yesterday's TRO motion/request for an Order to Show Cause. The government must not be allowed to detain Mr. Taal while the March 15, 2021 TRO/PI is pending before this Court, as this would substantially impede counsel's ability to directly communicate with Mr. Taal and render it impossible to provide the Court with the information it needs to render a decision. This also constitutes an unlawful attempt to remove this Court's jurisdiction over this case. Moreover, this Circuit has held that it is "outrageous" for immigration officers to place an individual in removal proceedings in retribution for exercising his speech rights under circumstances less egregious than those present here. *Ragbir v. Homan*, 923 F.3d 53, 73 (2d Cir 2019).

Should the Court so instruct, Plaintiffs' counsel and Mr. Taal will comply with the government's request in the 12:52 AM email and have so informed the government via email (attached at Exhibit 6).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Eric Lee
/s/Christopher Godshall-Bennett

Counsel for Plaintiffs

EXHIBIT V

Columbia Student Hunted by ICE Sues to Prevent Deportation

Yunseo Chung, a legal permanent resident who has lived in the U.S. since she was 7, participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Immigration agents visited residences looking for her.




By Jonah E. Bromwich and Hamed Aleaziz

Published March 24, 2025 Updated March 26, 2025

A 21-year-old Columbia University student who has lived in the United States since she was a child sued President Trump and other high-ranking administration officials on Monday after immigration officials tried to arrest and deport her.

The student, Yunseo Chung, is a legal permanent resident and junior who has participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations at the school. The Trump administration is arguing that her presence in the United States hinders the administration's foreign policy agenda of halting the spread of antisemitism.

Administration officials, including the secretary of state, Marco Rubio, cited the same rationale in explaining the arrest this month of Mahmoud Khalil, a graduate of the university and permanent resident who is being held in Louisiana.

Unlike Mr. Khalil, Ms. Chung does not appear to have been a prominent figure in the demonstrations that shook the school last year. But she was one of several students arrested this year in connection with a protest at Barnard College.

Ms. Chung, a high school valedictorian who moved to the United States with her family from South Korea when she was 7, has not been detained by ICE. She remains in the country, but her lawyers would not comment on her whereabouts.

Her lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan shows the extensive, if so far unsuccessful, efforts by U.S. immigration officials to arrest her. Agents historically prefer to pick up immigrants in jail or prisons. Other types of arrests are more difficult, often requiring hours of research, surveillance and other investigative resources.

But federal agents believed that those efforts were merited in the case of Ms. Chung, according to her lawyers at CLEAR, a legal clinic at the City University of New York.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials visited several residences, called for help from federal prosecutors and searched Ms. Chung's university housing on March 13.

The involvement of federal prosecutors was particularly notable. According to Ms. Chung's lawsuit, agents apparently seeking her searched two residences on the Columbia campus with warrants that cited a criminal law known as the harboring statute, aimed at those who give shelter to noncitizens present in the United States illegally.

That signaled that the searches were related to a broader criminal investigation by federal prosecutors into Columbia University. Todd Blanche, the deputy attorney general, has said that the school is under investigation "for harboring and concealing illegal aliens on its campus."

Operating under the aegis of a federal investigation could signal a new tactic. ICE officers and agents often are unable to arrest their targets because they don't answer the door, and an administrative warrant does not provide agents access to a home.

The Trump administration has prioritized the detention of pro-Palestinian demonstrators, particularly those who are not legal residents. They have sought the arrest of Momodou Taal, a doctoral student in Africana studies at Cornell University, and Ranjani Srinivasan, another Columbia University student who left the country for Canada after learning that her student visa had been revoked.

But the attempted arrest of Ms. Chung, like the detention of Mr. Khalil, appears to be part of a new front in the Trump administration's immigration crackdown — targeting immigrants who are farther along in their paths to citizenship.

In their lawsuit, Ms. Chung's lawyers asked that a judge bar the government from taking enforcement action against Ms. Chung or from detaining her, transferring her to another location or removing her from the United States. They also asked the judge to bar the government from targeting any noncitizen for deportation based on constitutionally protected speech and pro-Palestinian advocacy.

One of Ms. Chung's lawyers, Naz Ahmad, said that the administration's "efforts to punish and suppress speech it disagrees with smack of McCarthyism."

"Like many thousands of students nationwide, Yunseo raised her voice against what is happening in Gaza and in support of fellow students facing unfair discipline," said Ms. Ahmad, a co-director of CLEAR. "It can't be the case that a straight-A student who has lived here most of her life can be whisked away and potentially deported, all because she dares to speak up."

A senior press representative for the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that Ms. Chung had "engaged in concerning conduct, including when she was arrested by N.Y.P.D. during a pro-Hamas protest at Barnard College. She is being sought for removal proceedings under the immigration laws."

The statement added that Ms. Chung would have an opportunity to present her case before an immigration judge and said that ICE would "investigate individuals engaged in activities in support of Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization."

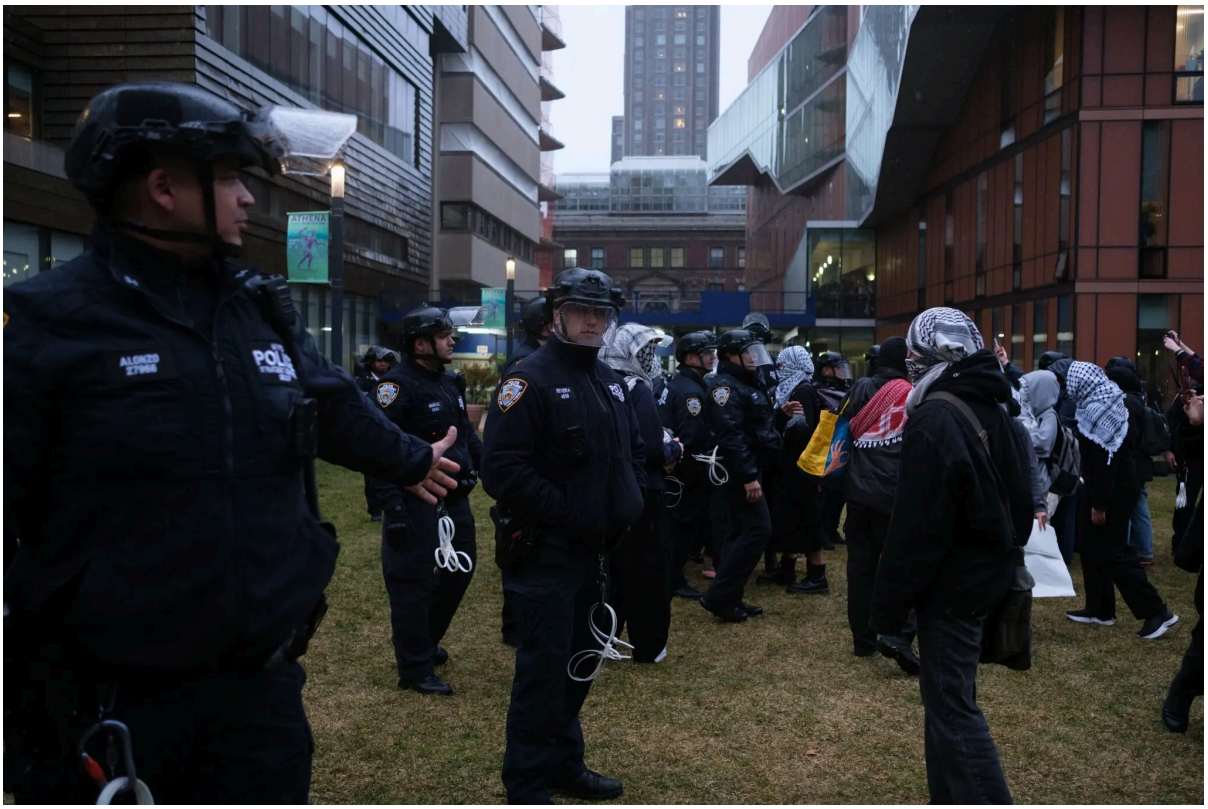
Press representatives for the secretary of state and the Justice Department did not respond to requests for comment.

Ms. Chung, who majors in English and gender studies, has participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations since last year. Her lawyers say that she did not speak to reporters, negotiate on behalf of student demonstrators, or in any other way take a leadership position.

She was, however, accused by the university of joining other students in posting fliers that pictured members of the board of trustees with the phrase “wanted for complicity in genocide.” According to the lawsuit, the school did not find that Ms. Chung had violated any of its “applicable policies.”

The dizzying sequence of events that appears to have prompted ICE agents to show up at her house appears to have begun this month.

On March 5, Ms. Chung protested outside a Barnard College building where pro-Palestinian student demonstrators were holding a sit-in. She was arrested by police officers, given a desk appearance ticket on the misdemeanor charge of obstructing governmental administration and released.



Ms. Chung was arrested in a protest at Barnard College. The Trump administration has prioritized the detention of students who participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Marco Postigo Storel for The New York Times

Four days later — and the day after Mr. Khalil was arrested — immigration officials appeared at the home of Ms. Chung’s parents.

Around that time, according to the lawsuit, someone identifying herself as "Audrey with the police" texted Ms. Chung. When a lawyer for Ms. Chung called the number, the woman said that she was an agent with ICE, that the State Department was free to revoke Ms. Chung's residency status and that there was an administrative warrant for her arrest.

At the same time, Columbia University's public safety office emailed Ms. Chung to inform her that the federal prosecutor's office in Manhattan had been in touch, repeating that ICE officials were seeking Ms. Chung's arrest.

On March 10, Perry Carbone, a high-ranking lawyer in the federal prosecutor's office, told Ms. Ahmad, Ms. Chung's attorney, that the secretary of state, Mr. Rubio, had revoked Ms. Chung's visa. Ms. Ahmad responded that Ms. Chung was not in the country on a visa and was a permanent resident. According to the lawsuit, Mr. Carbone responded that Mr. Rubio had "revoked that" as well.

The conversation echoed an exchange between Mr. Khalil's lawyers and the immigration agents who arrested him and who did not initially appear to be aware of his residency status.

After his arrest, Mr. Khalil was swiftly transferred, first to New Jersey and ultimately to Louisiana, where he has been detained since. The statute that the Trump administration used to justify his detention and Ms. Chung's potential deportation says that the secretary of state can move against noncitizens whose presence he has reasonable grounds to believe threatens the country's foreign policy agenda. Homeland security officials have since added other allegations against Mr. Khalil.

Mr. Rubio's memo targeting Mr. Khalil also included Ms. Chung's name, according to a person with knowledge of its contents.

In Ms. Chung's lawsuit, her lawyers accused the government of obtaining warrants "under false pretenses," suggesting that the search under the harboring statute was merely a pretext for an attempt to detain Ms. Chung and another student

whom the suit did not name. A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan declined to comment on the claims involving the office and Mr. Carbone.

Jonah E. Bromwich covers criminal justice in the New York region, with a focus on political influence and its effect on the rule of law in the area's federal and state courts. More about Jonah E. Bromwich

Hamed Aleaziz covers the Department of Homeland Security and immigration policy. More about Hamed Aleaziz

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A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 17 of the New York edition with the headline: Columbia Student, a Legal Resident, Sues to Fight Efforts to Deport Her

EXHIBIT W

Judge Orders U.S. to Stop Attempts to Deport Columbia Undergraduate

The administration has been seeking to arrest and deport Yunseo Chung, who immigrated from South Korea as a child, after she participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations.




By Santul Nerkar and Jonah E. Bromwich
March 25, 2025

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the Trump administration to halt its efforts to arrest and deport a 21-year old Columbia University student who participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

The administration began seeking to arrest the student, Yunseo Chung, this month, according to a lawsuit filed by Ms. Chung's lawyers.

The judge, Naomi Buchwald, said during a hearing in Manhattan federal court on Tuesday that "nothing in the record" indicated that Ms. Chung posed a danger to the community or a "foreign-policy risk" or had communicated with terrorist organizations.

Ms. Chung is a legal permanent resident. She was not a prominent participant in demonstrations on Columbia's campus; she was arrested along with several other students this month at a protest at Barnard College, the Manhattan university's sister school.

A high school valedictorian who moved to the United States from South Korea when she was 7, she has not been detained by federal agents, and her lawyers have declined to comment on her whereabouts.

Ramzi Kassem, a lawyer for Ms. Chung and co-director of CLEAR, a legal clinic at the City University of New York, said at a news conference after the hearing that his client "remained a resident of the Southern District of New York" and that Immigration and Customs Enforcement had not been able to find her. During the hearing, he said that she was "keeping up with her coursework."

Ms. Chung expressed her relief at the judge's ruling in a statement on Tuesday evening. "After the constant dread in the back of my mind over the past few weeks, this decision feels like a million pounds off of my chest. I feel like I could fly," she said, adding that she was grateful to her legal team, as well we professors, students and staff members at Columbia who she said "have given me strength at every turn."

The Trump administration has cited a rarely used legal statute to justify its mission to detain and deport Ms. Chung. The government argues that her presence in the United States hinders the administration's foreign policy goal of stopping the spread of antisemitism.

Judge Buchwald's order said that if the government were to try and detain Ms. Chung under the basis of a different statute, it must "provide sufficient advance notice" to her and her attorneys.

The secretary of state, Marco Rubio, had offered the same rationale it is using in the Chung case after the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil, a graduate of a Columbia master's program who is detained in Louisiana.

Mr. Khalil was arrested before his lawyers were able to petition a judge in his defense. Ms. Chung, by contrast, sued while she was still free, and Judge Buchwald moved swiftly on Tuesday without explicitly mentioning the Khalil case.

"No trips to Louisiana here," Judge Buchwald said, and barred transferring Ms. Chung away from the Southern District of New York.

Ramzi Kassem, a lawyer for Yunseo Chung, said she is keeping up with her studies even as ICE seeks her arrest. Jefferson Siegel for The New York Times

Mr. Kassem said that the court had done the "just and fair thing," and that the government was trying to silence pro-Palestinian activism.

"She's a college junior doing what generations of college students before have done, which is speak up and protest," Mr. Kassem said.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement on Monday that Ms. Chung's conduct had been "concerning" and mentioned her arrest by the New York Police Department at what it called a "pro-Hamas protest at Barnard College." She was issued a desk appearance ticket on a misdemeanor charge of obstructing governmental administration and released.

The statement said that ICE would "investigate individuals engaged in activities in support of Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization." They did not immediately respond to a request to provide evidence that Ms. Chung had supported Hamas, and press representatives for the department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Judge Buchwald's decision.

ICE officials tried hard to arrest the 21-year-old, according to her lawsuit. Federal agents visited her parents' home, texted Ms. Chung directly and, after federal prosecutors became involved, searched two residences on the Columbia University campus.

The search warrants, which were included in court filings, cited a criminal law that targets those who shelter noncitizens present in the United States illegally.

Santul Nerkar is a Times reporter covering federal courts in Brooklyn. More about Santul Nerkar

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A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 19 of the New York edition with the headline: Judge Orders U.S. to Stop Attempts to Deport Columbia Undergraduate

EXHIBIT X

Democracy Dies in Darkness

New Trump demand to colleges: Name protesters — and their nationalities

The demand for student information came after the administration promised to deport non-citizens who participated in what it called "pro-jihadist protests."

March 25, 2025



By Laura Meckler

When federal civil rights attorneys launched investigations in February into whether universities properly responded to antisemitism on campuses, they noticed something unusual about the marching orders from their bosses at the Education Department.

An early step in civil rights investigations is always a letter to the university demanding certain information. Typically, the department asks how many discrimination complaints were received and what school officials did in response.

But the Trump administration told the attorneys working on the cases to also collect the names and nationalities of students who might have harassed Jewish students or faculty, according to documents and three attorneys with the Office for Civil Rights who have direct knowledge of the situation and who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the cases publicly.

The attorneys said they immediately wondered whether the list was meant as a tip sheet that the administration might use to target or deport foreign students who participated in protests.

"My first thought was, 'This is a witch hunt,'" one attorney said.

Asked why the department was asking for the data and whether it related to immigration, Craig Trainor, the Education Department's acting assistant secretary for civil rights, replied that the information was necessary to assess how the universities handled the antisemitism cases. His statement did not directly address the question of deportations.

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has signaled his administration's intent to aggressively investigate universities for their handling of campus antisemitism. Trump has argued that pro-Palestinian protests have repeatedly morphed into antisemitism that infringed on the rights of Jewish students, and that neither universities nor the Biden administration took it seriously.

The request for student names is only one way in which the Trump administration is breaking with precedent in investigating these cases.

On March 3, the administration announced it was investigating Columbia University and, four days later, canceled $400 million in grants and contracts with the school. It then demanded significant changes from the university before it would even discuss restoring the money — many of which Columbia agreed to Friday.

In the past, by contrast, the government would close an investigation after the school agreed to implement usually modest policy changes and perhaps allowed federal officials to monitor future actions, according to people who have worked at the agency. The department would try to levy financial penalties only if universities refused to reach or abide by an agreement, which rarely happened.

In a March 7 memo to the Office for Civil Rights enforcement staff obtained by The Washington Post, Trainor made clear that the office's top priority would be antisemitism investigations and that the department would begin insisting on more sweeping agreements with schools to close investigations.

The agreements "will no longer serve as an avenue in which institutions can avoid accountability by negotiating toothless reform proposals or reciting empty platitudes," he wrote.

Three days later, the Education Department sent warning letters to almost 60 other universities, saying they, too, may face sanctions for failing to protect the civil rights of Jewish students.

Around the same time, the administration moved to deport several students involved in pro-Palestinian protests — including one activist from Columbia University who has a green card — even though these protesters have not been convicted of any crimes. Administration officials say they advocated for Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, and for violence.

The Education Department's demand for the names and ethnicities of students followed a Feb. 3 notice that the agency's Office for Civil Rights planned to investigate five universities "where widespread antisemitic harassment has been reported." They were Columbia University, Northwestern University, Portland State University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Investigations such as this begin with federal civil rights attorneys sending the universities a list of questions and data requests. One of the letters, for instance, began by asking for basic information, such as a list of policies and practices outlining how the school investigates complaints; reports and complaints of alleged antisemitic discrimination; and actions in response to each complaint.

But the demand for information also included a broad request for the names of students potentially involved in harassment of Jews on campus. This request was not limited to people convicted of crimes or those found to have violated university policies.

The request asked for a list of all students that the university notified of potential violations of the code of conduct or who were referred for suspension, suspended, expelled and/or referred to law enforcement for harassment of, or violence toward, students and faculty "on the basis of their Jewish ancestry." The request covered the last academic year and the current one.

It also demanded these students' "national origin/ethnicity/shared ancestry," in addition to other details about how their cases were handled.

It is unclear whether the universities provided the students' names or information on their ethnicities. Spokespeople for the five universities involved declined to comment.

The job of the Office for Civil Rights is to investigate whether schools properly handled complaints of discrimination and harassment. Its role does not include disciplining students who may have been responsible for the harassment, so the government does not normally request their names — much less their nationalities.

A second attorney familiar with the process said, "There is no investigative reason for us to be asking for that information." This person added that making the request might be a violation of civil rights law.

"There is no doubt that it can be used improperly," a third attorney said.

Trainor, the acting assistant secretary for civil rights, said in his statement that there were legitimate reasons for collecting the information.

"President Trump has made clear that this administration will not allow educational entities receiving federal funding to violate federal antidiscrimination laws," he said. "Inconsistent application of disciplinary policies based on national origin could be a violation of the Civil Rights Act. This information is therefore necessary to investigate compliance with Title VI."

The attorneys said that Trainor's explanation did not make sense to them because an investigation focused on whether protesters were consistently disciplined would have asked for other information as well. Also, it was not clear why, in that situation, the office would ask for student names.

The request comes as the Trump administration works to amp up deportations of those in the country illegally. On Saturday, The Post reported that the IRS is nearing an agreement to allow immigration officials to use tax data to confirm the names and addresses of people suspected of being in the country illegally.

Trump first issued his deportation threat against protesters during the 2024 presidential campaign and repeated it after taking office. On Jan. 29, an executive order vowed to take campus antisemitism more seriously. A White House fact sheet that day promised to deport noncitizens who have joined in "pro-jihadist protests" and to cancel student visas of all sympathizers of Hamas, the militant group that attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Then, in early March, immigration agents arrested a Columbia University Palestinian activist, and even though he is a legal permanent resident with a green card, he faces deportation. Trump celebrated it as "the first arrest of many to come."

A few days later, two more Columbia protesters were targeted. One had her visa revoked and left the country soon after; the second had an expired visa and was arrested.

Private-sector attorneys with experience in federal civil rights investigations said they were surprised by the request from the Education Department and suggested that universities that comply could be violating student privacy and other laws.

“This is unusual,” said Jack Sharman, an attorney in Birmingham, Alabama, who has represented universities in civil rights investigations. “If I were representing the institution, my first response would be, ‘I’m happy to give you all that information at the gross level — how many cases were brought, what were the outcomes, how many referred to law enforcement. But with regard to the specifics of the individuals, the burden is on you to tell me why that’s needed.’”

Bridget A. Blinn-Spears, an attorney in Raleigh, North Carolina, who also represents universities, suggested that the purpose for collecting names relates to immigration or national security enforcement.

“The only reason that they would need names is if they intend to look into those names and do something with them or maybe put them on a watch list for other future enforcement,” she said. “If you’re collecting names, you’re going to want to use them for something down the road.”

What readers are saying

The comments express strong opposition to the Trump administration's demand for universities to provide the names and nationalities of students involved in protests. Many commenters draw parallels to historical authoritarian regimes, such as Nazi Germany and McCarthyism, and view... Show more

This summary is AI-generated. AI can make mistakes and this summary is not a replacement for reading the comments.

EXHIBIT Y

U.S. NEWS

Turkish student at Tufts University detained, video shows masked people handcuffing her

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BY JAKE OFFENHARTZ, KATHY MCCORMACK AND MICHAEL CASEY
Updated 10:35 PM EDT, March 26, 2025

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (AP) — A Turkish national and doctoral student at Tufts University has been detained by U.S. Department of Homeland Security agents without explanation, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Rumeysa Ozturk, 30, had just left her home in Somerville on Tuesday night when she was stopped, lawyer Mahsa Khanbabai said in a petition filed in Boston federal court.

Video obtained by The Associated Press appears to show six people, their faces covered, taking away Ozturk's phone as she yells and is handcuffed.

"We're the police," members of the group are heard saying in the video.

A man is heard asking, "Why are you hiding your faces?"



In this image taken from security camera video, Rumeysa Ozturk, a 30-year-old doctoral student at Tufts University, is detained by Department of Homeland Security agents on a street in Sommerville, Mass., Tuesday, March 26, 2025. (AP Photo)



In this image taken from security camera video, Rumeysa Ozturk, a 30-year-old doctoral student at Tufts University, is detained by Department of Homeland Security agents on a street in Sommerville, Mass., Tuesday, March 26, 2025. (AP Photo)

Khanbabai said Ozturk, who is Muslim, was meeting friends for iftar, a meal that breaks a fast at sunset during Ramadan.

“We are unaware of her whereabouts and have not been able to contact her. No charges have been filed against Rumeysa to date that we are aware of,” Khanbabai said in a statement. Ozturk has a visa allowing her to study in the United States, Khanbabai said.

‘This isn’t public safety, it’s intimidation’

Neighbors said they were rattled by the arrest, which happened at 5:30 p.m. on a residential block.

"It looked like a kidnapping," said Michael Mathis, a 32-year-old software engineer whose surveillance camera captured the arrest. "They approach her and start grabbing her with their faces covered. They're covering their faces. They're in unmarked vehicles."

Tufts University President Sunil Kumar said in a statement that the school learned that authorities detained an international graduate student and the student's visa had been terminated.

"The university had no pre-knowledge of this incident and did not share any information with federal authorities prior to the event," Kumar said.



Hundreds of people gather in Somerville, Mass., on March 26, 2025, to demand the release of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish student at Tufts University, who was arrested by federal agents Tuesday night. (AP Photo/Michael Casey)

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Kumar did not name the student, but university spokesperson Patrick Collins confirmed that Ozturk is a doctoral student in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley called the arrest "a horrifying violation of Rumeysa's constitutional rights to due process and free speech."

"She must be immediately released," Pressley said in a statement. "We won't stand by while the Trump Administration continues to abduct students with legal status and attack our fundamental freedoms."

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell called the video "disturbing."

"Based on what we now know, it is alarming that the federal administration chose to ambush and detain her, apparently targeting a law-abiding individual because of her political views," she said. "This isn't public safety, it's intimidation that will, and should, be closely scrutinized in court."

Court says not to remove Ozturk from the state, but she is listed as being held in Louisiana

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani issued an order giving the government until Friday to answer why Ozturk was being detained. Talwani also ordered that Ozturk not be moved outside the District of Massachusetts without 48 hours advance notice.

But as of Wednesday evening, the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement's online detainee locator system listed her as being held at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center in Basile, Louisiana.

A senior DHS spokesperson confirmed Ozturk's detention and the termination of her visa.

"DHS and (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) investigations found Ozturk engaged in activities in support of Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization that relishes the killing of Americans. A visa is a privilege, not a right. Glorifying and supporting terrorists who kill Americans is grounds for visa issuance to be terminated. This is common sense security," the spokesperson told the AP.

Ozturk cowrote article criticizing university response to Palestinian issues

Ozturk was one of four students last March who wrote an op-ed in The Tufts Daily criticizing the university's response to its community union Senate passing resolutions that demanded Tufts "acknowledge the Palestinian genocide," disclose its investments and divest from companies with direct or indirect ties to Israel.

Friends said Ozturk was not otherwise closely involved in protests against Israel. But after the piece was published, her name, photo and work history were featured by Canary Mission, a website that says it documents people who "promote hatred of the U.S.A., Israel and Jews on North American college campuses." The op-ed was the only cited example of "anti-Israel activism" by Ozturk.

Students and faculty elsewhere also have recently had visas revoked or been blocked from entering the U.S. because they attended demonstrations or publicly expressed support for Palestinians. President Donald Trump 's administration has cited a seldom-invoked statute authorizing the secretary of state to revoke visas of noncitizens who could be considered a threat to foreign policy interests.

Hundreds of people gather in Somerville, Mass., on March 26, 2025, to demand the release of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish student at Tufts University, who was arrested by federal agents Tuesday night. (AP Photo/Michael Casey)

Hundreds of people gather in Somerville, Mass., on March 26, 2025, to demand the release of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish student at Tufts University, who was arrested by federal agents Tuesday night. (AP Photo/Michael Casey)

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Supporters rally in Somerville

Hundreds of people demonstrated in a park later Wednesday, with speaker after speaker demanding her release and accusing both major political parties of failing to protect immigrants and stand up for Palestinians.

“Free Rumeysa Ozturk now,” the crowd chanted, along with traditional protest slogans such as “Free, free Palestine.” Many held Palestinian flags and homemade signs supporting her and opposing ICE.

Zoi Andalcio, a Somerville business owner, said he came out with his wife and 3-year-old son to speak against the "maddening" arrest of Ozturk and others.

"I'm outraged like everybody else about these disappearances, kidnappings of legal noncitizens, who may or may not have spoken out against the atrocious foreign policy of the United States government," Andalcio said.

Roz Nazzaro, who held a sign that read "Hands Off," said she fears the country is heading into an era of "Nazism" in which just disappear.

"There is no distinction between undocumented immigrants, documented immigrants, green cards," said Nazzaro, a retired college administrator from Winchester, Massachusetts. "It's going to be the citizens next, if you're the wrong color, wear a hijab."

'She's never spoken badly to anyone'

Before attending Tufts, Ozturk obtained a master's from the Developmental Psychology program at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, according to an alumni spotlight article in 2021.

Reyyan Bilge, a psychology professor at Northeastern University and friend, described Ozturk as a "soft spoken, kind and gentle soul," deeply focused on research and not closely involved in the campus protests.

The two first met at Istanbul Sehir University, where Bilge supervised her thesis, before working on cognitive research and publishing papers together. They remained close after Ozturk arrived in the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2018.

"Over the 10 years I've known her, she's never spoken badly to anyone else, let alone being antisemitic or racist," Bilge said.

Turkish diplomats contact State Department and ICE

The Turkish Embassy in Washington said it was keeping in regular contact with Ozturk's family, monitoring the situation closely and engaged in "initiatives" with the State Department and ICE.

It added in a statement on the social platform X that it was making "every effort" to provide consular services and legal support to protect its citizens' rights.

Offenhartz reported from New York, and McCormack from Concord, New Hampshire. Robert Badendieck in Istanbul contributed.



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EXHIBIT Z

Visa of Cornell University student fighting deportation is revoked by the State Department

By Gloria Pazmino, CNN

4 minute read · Updated 12:12 AM EDT, Wed March 26, 2025



Momodou Taal speaks with CNN in November 2023. CNN

(CNN) — Attorneys for a Cornell graduate student whose student visa was recently revoked and has been targeted for deportation by the Trump administration said the case will be a test to determine whether the US government can target people for expressing views that are critical of the government.

Attorneys for Momodou Taal, a doctoral student at Cornell University – who filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration last week – spoke outside federal court in Syracuse, New York, following a hearing in the case Tuesday.

Taal is accusing the Trump administration of targeting him for his participation in pro-Palestinian protests amid the Israel-Hamas war. He was told to surrender to Immigration and Customs

Enforcement, according to a court filing made shortly after he asked a judge to preemptively order the government not to deport him.

The student had previously faced the possibility of losing his visa – after he was suspended twice by Cornell last year for alleged disruptive protest activities, and was told that his academic suspension could cause his visa to be revoked, forcing him to leave the United States.

Taal has also faced criticism for comments made online immediately after the Hamas October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, killing more than 1,200 people. Taal tweeted "colonised peoples have the right to resist by any means necessary" and "Glory to the resistance!"

He brushed off complaints about his statements in a November 2023 interview with CNN and said he was tired of constantly being asked to condemn Hamas.

"I think it's quite racist, Islamophobic that before I'm allowed to have a view on genocide, I have to condemn a terrorist organization," Taal said.

"I can say clearly categorically I abhor the killing of all civilians no matter where they are and who does it," he added.

On Tuesday Taal's attorney, Eric Lee, said of the federal case, "it doesn't end with Momodou Taal, it starts with him, next it will be you."

Taal did not attend the hearing, but two other plaintiffs from the lawsuit were present. Mukoma Wa Ngugi, an associate professor of literatures in English at Cornell, and Sriram Parasurama, a doctoral student, have both joined the suit.

"Momodou, my fellow plaintiff, could not be here to deliver his statement," Ngugi said. "Is this the country we want to live in, where a plaintiff cannot attend his own legal proceedings? It is clear that the Trump administration has no respect for rule of law or due process."

Taal's legal action seeks an injunction to block the enforcement of two Trump executive orders which have served as the basis for the administration's targeting of student protesters in recent weeks. The judge has not yet issued a decision on the motions, but Taal's attorneys said they are confident the law is on their side.

"I wasn't convinced by the government's arguments in there," Lee said. "But I wasn't convinced by their arguments before either."

CNN has reached out to the US Attorney's Office in the Northern District of New York.

How we got here

Unlike other students who have received deportation orders or been targeted by immigration enforcement agents, Taal, who is a dual citizen of the United Kingdom and The Gambia, sought to preempt enforcement action by filing the lawsuit against the Trump administration.

Court documents filed by Department of Justice attorneys show the State Department revoked Taal's student visa, citing his participation in the protests, which they say created a hostile environment for students on campus. The documents show the visa was revoked on March 14.

In papers filed with the court, attorneys for the Department of Justice said the visa was revoked a day before Taal filed his lawsuit, countering Taal's claims that the immigration action was done in retaliation for his lawsuit.

"State relied upon the underlying information and assessment provided by ICE that Taal had been involved with disruptive protests and had engaged in an escalating pattern of behavior, disregarding university policies and creating a hostile environment for Jewish students," the lawyers wrote.

Attorneys for the Department of Justice are contesting Taal's alleged timeline of the facts, after his lawyers said undercover immigration officers showed up at his residence last week in retaliation for filing the lawsuit.

Taal is one of the activists flagged for suggested deportation by Betar US, a self-described Zionist advocacy group and the only Jewish organization classified as an extremist group by the Anti-Defamation League.

CNN's Andy Rose and Michelle Watson contributed to this report.

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What we know about the college activists detained by federal agents