

URGENT ACTION

RISK OF REPATRIATION FOR THREE U.S. DEPORTEES

On October 12, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed Abalo Agba, Alfred Kamara, Fatou Traore, and five other people to Sierra Leone. Prior to their removal, U.S. immigration judges granted them protection from repatriation to their countries of origin because they face serious harm there. Yet, they are currently at immediate risk of being unlawfully returned to their countries of origin by the government of Sierra Leone. The authorities of Sierra Leone must immediately stop their repatriation and allow them access to fair and effective asylum procedures and independent legal counsel.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 110.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Mr. Mohamed Rahman Swaray
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone
Tower Hill, Freetown
Sierra Leone
E-mail: info@mfaic.gov.sl
X: @SwarayRahman

Send a copy of your letter to the address below
CC: Sierra Leonean Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Amara Sheikh Mohammed Sowa
1701 19th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009-1605
Email: he@embassyofsierraleone.net

Dear Minister,

I am concerned about the situation of **Abalo Agba, Alfred Kamara, Fatou Traore**, and other people removed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to Sierra Leone on October 12, and the risk that they may be unlawfully returned to their countries of origin.

Abalo Agba (from Togo), **Alfred Kamara** (from Liberia), and **Fatou Traore** (from Cote d'Ivoire) had each been living in the U.S. for more than 20 years when they were removed, and they all have children under 18 years of age still living there. U.S. immigration judges had granted all of them protection from repatriation because of the very high risks of serious human rights violations they face in their countries of origin. Yet, the authorities of Sierra Leone are threatening them with immediate repatriation and are not allowing them to seek asylum or other forms of protection in the country.

Forcibly returning people to a place where they would be at real risk of serious human rights violations is a violation of the international law obligation of non-refoulement. The obligation of non-refoulement requires states to determine the risks each individual may face upon return and suspend any return until judicial proceedings reach a final decision about these risks.

I urge you to ensure that Abalo Agba, Alfred Kamara, Fatou Traore, and any other individual removed from the U.S. to Sierra Leone on the October 12 flight are protected from unlawful repatriation, have access to effective asylum procedures and independent legal counsel, and can enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Abalo Agba, Alfred Kamara, and Fatou Traore were removed by U.S. authorities to Sierra Leone on October 12, 2026, together with **five other individuals**, and separated from their families in the U.S. Before his removal, Abalo Agba, a 56-year-old man from Togo with two children under 18, had been living in the U.S. since 2001. Alfred Kamara, a 56-year-old man from Liberia, had been living in the U.S. since 1994 and has two children, one of them under 18 years of age. Fatou Traore, a 43-year-old woman from Cote d'Ivoire, has four children, the youngest of whom is 3 years-old, and had been living in the U.S. since 2005. U.S. immigration judges granted them all protection from return to their countries of origin because of the risks of serious human rights violations there.

Their removal from the U.S. followed an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the U.S., concluded in January 2026 and known in Sierra Leone as Third Country National Arrangement. Through an exchange of notes the government of Sierra Leone agreed to consider the transfer from the U.S. of up to 300 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) nationals per year, with a maximum of 25 per month. The agreement's implementation is supported through a USD \$1.5 million grant provided by the U.S. government. Opposition politicians pointed out that the agreement has not received Parliamentary approval.

The October 12 ICE flight is the fifth flight carrying third country nationals to Sierra Leone under the agreement, bringing the total number of arrivals to at least 45 people. A first group of nine West African nationals arrived in Sierra Leone on May 20, 2026. On June 4, 2026, the government of Sierra Leone announced that all nine people in the group had been repatriated. 13 people arrived in Sierra Leone on June 18, 2026. They were all repatriated to their respective countries of origin by August 1. A group of 10 people arrived in Sierra Leone on July 31, 2026. A fourth ICE flight carrying third country nationals landed in Sierra Leone on August 29, 2026, carrying at least five people.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about what appears to be a “revolving door” policy and practice of the Sierra Leonean government, consisting of swiftly repatriating those removed from the U.S. without any determination of the risks of serious human rights violations they may face upon return to their countries of origin. This is particularly worrying since the international protection needs of all individuals whose case is known to Amnesty International had already been recognized in the U.S., in the form of a withholding of removal. Under international law, all governments have the obligation not to transfer anyone – directly or indirectly - to a place where they would be at real risk of serious human rights violations (obligation of non-refoulement).

The U.S. has concluded agreements for the removal of third country nationals with at least 13 African countries. There is a lack of procedural safeguards in the U.S. before third-country removals. The human rights violations deportees are exposed to in countries where they are removed, as well as the asymmetrical partnerships that third country removal agreements between the U.S. government and African countries embody in the context of the abrupt, chaotic, and sweeping suspension of U.S. foreign aid, and the imposition of trade tariffs and visa restrictions.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Abalo Agba (he/his), Alfred Kamara (he/his), Fatou Traore (she/her)