

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King
Jr Ave SE Washington, DC 20528

David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella,

We write with urgency and deep concern to demand answers about Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) deportation and detention of "Amerasians," or individuals born in Asia to an Asian mother and a U.S. serviceman after December 31, 1950, and before October 22, 1982. A recent analysis revealed a dramatic increase in deportations of Southeast Asian immigrants, with 42 percent of all Southeast Asian deportations since 1998 occurring in Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026.¹ Among those seized and detained are an unknown number of Amerasians, who are living reminders of America's historical presence in the region following the Southeast Asia War.

Many Amerasians immigrated to the U.S. following the passage of the *Amerasian Act of 1982*, which granted Lawful Permanent Resident status to the children of U.S. servicemembers from Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea (Cambodia), or Thailand.² The subsequent *Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1987* specifically applied to Vietnamese-born Amerasians and immediate family members, allowing approximately 75,000 individuals to come to the U.S.³

It has been extremely difficult for Amerasians to verify their ancestry. Most of their fathers returned to the U.S. after their tours of duty. Many of their mothers, terrified of political persecution, destroyed documents to protect their children. Recognizing this painful reality, the U.S. and Vietnam agreed in 2008 not to repatriate refugees who arrived in the U.S. before July 12, 1995 ("pre-1995 immigrants"). However, in November 2020, the U.S. and Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding that overturned the 2008 agreement and established a deportation process for pre-1995 immigrants.

Indeed, in 2017 ICE had started detaining Vietnamese Americans with removal orders, including pre-1995 immigrants. After *Trinh v. Homan* (2018), a class action lawsuit that challenged ICE's indefinite detention of pre-1995 immigrants, ICE adopted an overarching policy declaring that pre-1995 immigrants would not be likely to be removed in the "reasonably foreseeable future" and releasing individuals within 90 days of a final order of removal. Unfortunately, this ICE policy was rescinded in June 2025, widening the door to deportation of Amerasians.

¹ <https://searac.org/resources/southeast-asian-deportations-trends-and-policy-implications/>

² <https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-7-part-p-chapter-9>

³ <https://aapihistorymuseum.org/vietnamese-amerians/>

We represent a large Asian diaspora, including Orange County's Little Saigon, the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside of Vietnam. The community members we represent are closely following the detainment and deportation of their neighbors who have lived, worked, and raised families in the U.S. for decades. But there is no official data. We therefore request the following information by November 14, 2026:

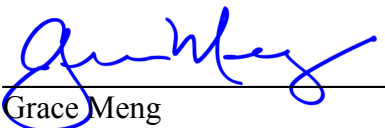
1. How many Amerasians are currently detained by ICE? Please break down by country of citizenship. Please also break down by U.S. state of residence.
2. How many Amerasians have been deported by ICE since January 20, 2025? Please break down by country of citizenship. Please also break down by U.S. state of residence.
3. Of all Vietnamese immigrants currently detained or deported, how many arrived in the United States prior to July 12, 1995?
4. How many of these detainees or deportees were given the opportunity to meet with an attorney?

Amerasians are the sons and daughters of American servicemembers, and they deserve transparency, dignity, and due process. We urge you to respond promptly and fully.

Sincerely,



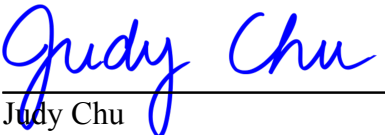
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Chair, Congressional Asian
Pacific American Caucus



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress