Care for Migrants:

Resources for Migrants Removed from the US to Countries in Latin America and Africa

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

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Argentina

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Argentina

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

a) Deportation from the U.S. and reception in Argentina (Argentine person)

i) Detention in the U.S.: ICE detains people with irregular immigration status or criminal records. They are transferred to immigration detention centers. They can request a hearing before a judge, ask for asylum, or post bond if applicable.

ii) Legal process before the judge: If the judge orders deportation, the person cannot legally return to the U.S. for 10 years, unless they obtain an immigration waiver. There is a possibility of appeal, but if the order is confirmed, the deportation is executed.

iii) Deportation Preparations: ICE coordinates with the Argentine Consulate to confirm identity and issue safe-conduct if there is no passport. Date and flight are set; the person remains in detention until then. Medical examinations, delivery of belongings and transfer with handcuffs or shackles are carried out as the case may be.

iv) Flight and escort: They travel on commercial or charter flights, escorted by ICE agents to Argentina.

v) Reception in Argentina: In Ezeiza, the PSA and Migrations receive the deportee. Identity and criminal background checks are carried out. If he does not have legal cases, he is released after administrative procedure. If he has pending cases, he is detained at the disposal of the justice. This procedure is carried out under Law 25,871 and its regulations, which require non-discriminatory criteria and respect for human rights in the admission, exit and stay of migrants.

vi) Documentation and follow-up: If you arrived without documents, the Consulate has already issued a certificate of repatriation. You can process your ID card and passport again. There may be assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or NGOs, although it is not automatic.

vii) Future consequences: Prohibition of entry to the U.S. normally for 10 years. Possible visa restrictions in other countries. Difficulties of social and labor reintegration in Argentina.

b) Special case: non-Argentine person deported to Argentina without documents

Context: The U.S. or another country may only send a non-Argentine person to Argentina if there is a prior legal link, such as residence, refuge, last documented country of residence, or transit accepted by Argentina. Otherwise, Argentina is not obliged to admit it and can refuse admission unless it agrees to receive it.

Reception at the airport: If you have valid documents, identity and immigration status are verified; You can enter if you have a valid residence or authorization. If you do not have documents, you are held preventively to verify identity and are not allowed to enter until you confirm nationality and legal status.

Confirmation of identity: The DNM must confirm real nationality and previous legal status in Argentina. This is done through consultations with international databases, contact with embassies or consulates and data provided by the person. It can take hours or days.

If identity cannot be confirmed immediately: The person is being held in a holding area in immigration custody. You can receive humanitarian assistance and contact with IOM or UNHCR if you allege fear or need for protection. If Argentina confirms that you are not its citizen or resident, it can deny entry. In that case, the airline must return you to the point of origin or to another country that supports you.

If you apply for asylum or refuge: You must be informed of your right to request refuge under Law 26.165. CONARE intervenes; while being evaluated, he cannot be expelled under the principle of non-refoulement of the 1951 Convention. The composition and performance of CONARE have recently been updated to strengthen the management of these cases.

Possible outcomes: If you are confirmed to have legal residency in Argentina, you are allowed to enter even without a passport, but you must process documents again. If nationality from

another country is confirmed and he has no link with Argentina, his entry is rejected and he is returned to the country of origin or another that accepts him. If he requests refuge, a process is initiated before CONARE and he remains under provisional protection until the decision. If identity cannot be verified within a reasonable time, it may be retained with judicial intervention.

All this is implemented under Law 25,871, its Decree 616/2010 and Law 26,165 on refuge; these rules are applied in accordance with the Constitution and the international human rights and refugee treaties in force in Argentina.

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Government Resources

1. Integration Centres for Migrants and Refugees (CIMR)

They provide advice on settlement, RADEX, certifications, and access to health, education, and social security. They also offer Spanish courses, rights workshops, training, and cultural activities. Attention by prior appointment.

- centromigrantecaba@jus.gob.ar
- To get a turn: https://www2.jus.gov.ar/cimr-sistemadeturnosweb/

2. Legal, social and educational assistance

- CONARE / National Directorate of Migration: delivers refugee status, with confidentiality and access even for children without relatives, initiable at borders or offices in the country.

  If you are in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires or in a locality in the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires:

  For applications for recognition of refugee status under the terms of Law No. 26,165, its amendments and regulations, you must send an email to the following box: solicitud.conare@migraciones.gob.ar

  For applications for recognition of the status of stateless person under the terms of Law No. 27,512, you must send an email to the following box: secretaria.conare@migraciones.gob.ar

  To request the renewal of your provisional document, you must send an email to the following box: solicitud.conare@migraciones.gob.ar

- National Rescue and Accompaniment Program (Ministry of Justice): offers immediate assistance to foreign victims of trafficking, including accommodation, medical, psychological and legal care à Contact: Telephone line 145.

- National Program for the Restitution of Rights: aimed at refugees or victims of trafficking, it promotes integration, family reunification, and institutional strengthening.

3. Global Assistance Fund – IOM

It supports voluntary return and reintegration, with educational support, vocational training, health and grants for micro-enterprises.

4. UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

It offers free guidance on the refugee process and refers to support networks.

Civil society organizations

- CAREF (Argentine Commission for Refugees and Migrants): provides free social and legal assistance, training of organizations and works for public policies with a migratory approach. It has offices in CABA, Misiones and Jujuy.

- AMUMRA: works especially with migrant and refugee women, offering training, a job bank and 24-hour urgent care.

- Migra Foundation: legal advice, job training, migrant enterprises, cultural programs and psycho-emotional support.

- Guaramo Argentina: promotes social and cultural inclusion and economic development of migrants, especially Venezuelans, through entrepreneurial and training workshops.

- FICU (Foundation for the Cultural Integration of Migrants and Refugees): offers cultural and artistic tools to improve the quality of life and civic participation of migrants/refugees.

- Argentine Red Cross: provides accompaniment in the face of violence, schooling, help in document management, housing, health, connection with family and community networks.

Practical advice for people deported or returning

1. Go to a CIMR for guidance and accompaniment in essential procedures.
2. Request legal and social assistance from CAREF, AMUMRA or Fundación Migra according to personal profile (gender, emergency, productive projects).
3. Take advantage of State programs if applicable: reintegration (IOM), refuge or restitution of rights, comprehensive assistance if there is a history of trafficking.
4. Seek immediate community support from the Red Cross (accommodation and urgent health).
5. Explore cultural or entrepreneurial networks through FICU, Guaramo or Fundación Migra for sustainable integration.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Absence of specific reintegration programs:

Unlike countries such as Mexico or Honduras, Argentina does not have a national reintegration plan for deported people.

There are no subsidies, trainings or systematic psychological support for those who forcibly return. Help for U.S. Immigrants: Learn How Latin American Governments Support U.S. Deportees | U.S. | RPPUSA

Official discourses have linked migration with insecurity, which generates xenophobia and social rejection, even towards Argentines who return with migratory ties. The rights of migrants in Argentina under the magnifying glass of the United Nations

Some NGOs and networks offer general assistance to migrants, which can indirectly benefit deportees:

CAREF: Provides legal advice and accompaniment to migrants and refugees. Informe-6.-Expulsiones-ordenadas-y-efectivizadas.-Entre-el-cambio-de-gobierno-y-el-cambio-normativo-2019-2021.pdf

AMUMRA: Especially supports migrant and refugee women with counseling, community networks and advocacy. https://www.amumra.org.ar/programas

IOM Argentina: Offers humanitarian assistance in border and urban areas, but does not have specific programs for deported Argentines. IOM and Humanitarian Organizations Support Migrants in Argentina's Provinces | IOM Argentina

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

1. Assistance Program for Argentines Abroad

On August 20, 2025, the national government launched this program through a resolution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its objective is to provide lodging, food, health care and other basic needs to Argentine citizens in vulnerable situations outside the country. The management is in charge of the Foreign Ministry, under the leadership of Pablo Quirno.

Although it is mainly aimed at emergencies during their stay abroad, it could include cases of deported people who require support before returning or reintegrating into Argentina. Argentines abroad | Argentina.gob.ar

2. Bill "National Regime of Incentives for Return" Presented by Deputy Gabriel Chumpitaz in June 2025, this bill seeks to facilitate the return of citizens who have resided abroad for more than three years. It proposes tax, labor, educational, social security and credit incentives to promote their social and productive reintegration. Proyecto-Beneficios-Regreso-Argentinos.pdf

Although it is not yet in force, it represents a sign of institutional support for returnees, potentially including deportees.

Is there anything specific for people deported from the U.S.?

There are no specific programs aimed exclusively at people deported from the United States. Current initiatives focus on vulnerable citizens abroad and on encouraging voluntary return.

Nor have specific policies been reported to facilitate labor or social reintegration after deportation.

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

The National Constitution and international treaties ratified by Argentina (such as the Convention on the Rights of Migrants) protect all people, including deportees, in their dignity and rights.

Argentina participates in regional forums such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which promotes the dignified reintegration of deported people.

Argentine laws and policies on the reception and reintegration of deported persons. - Search

There are no laws that specifically regulate the reception of deported Argentine citizens. Nor are there official protocols for theirsocial, labor or psychological reintegration.

Assistance depends on individual, family or civil society initiatives.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Argentina does not have specific legal protections for deportees in relation to access to health, housing, employment or education. However, as Argentine citizens, they enjoy full rights in these areas, although there are no differentiated programs or regulations that recognize their particular situation as deportees.

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Arrival in the country:

- There is no automatic stop. If the person is an Argentine citizen, he or she is not detained or a criminal investigation initiated solely because he or she was deported from the U.S. It is not a crime in Argentina nor does it generate a judicial process against him (there is no record of automatic procedures upon arrival for that reason).
- Immigration control and identity. Upon landing, usually in Ezeiza, the authorities (Migrations and PSA) confirm your identity. If you do not have documents, they usually coordinate with the Consulate or the Foreign Ministry for assistance such as obtaining an ID card or passport.
- Detention only for criminal cases. The only circumstance in which he could face arrest or prosecution in Argentina is for criminal records already existing in Argentine territory. In those cases, the usual court protocol applies—there's nothing specific about deportation from the U.S.

General context and different measures

- Argentina does not consider his deportation from the U.S. as grounds for sanction within the local justice system.
- The local migratory trend is focused on toughening the entry and stay of foreigners, as part of the immigration reform promoted by the Milei government: it seeks to speed up deportations of foreigners with criminal records and reject their entry at the border, although this policy mainly affects foreigners, not Argentines deported from abroad.

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Check if the deportation was registered by Migraciones Argentina

If the person is an Argentine citizen, they have the right to enter the country. In that case, she can apply for the DNI like any other citizen, even if she was deported from abroad.

Apply for the DNI in the country

Once in Argentina, you can start the process of replacing or renewing your DNI at RENAPER (National Registry of Persons): https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/dni

If the document was retained or destroyed, a report of loss must be filed.

Cases with criminal or immigration records

If the deportation was linked to criminal cases, there may be additional restrictions. In those cases, specialized legal advice is recommended.

Review what legal mechanisms exist in Argentina for deported people to recover or renew their national identity documents.

In Argentina, deported people who return to the country can recover or renew their National Identity Document (DNI) through common legal mechanisms, without there being a special procedure for having been deported.

Processing the DNI | Argentina.gob.ar

https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/dni/extranjeros

Online consultation of the latest copy of the DNI: https://tramites.renaper.gob.ar/mi_ejemplar/

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

The following are not considered criminals or offenders in Argentina:

Deportation is a measure taken by another country (such as the U.S.) for violations of its domestic law.

When they arrive in Argentina, no criminal or administrative proceedings are initiated for having been deported.

The following are Argentine citizens with full rights:

As nationals, they have the right to enter, stay and reside in the country without restrictions.

They are not required to justify the reason for their return nor are they subject to special immigration controls.

There is no mandatory reception protocol or registration:

There is no obligation to present yourself to any authority or to carry out specific procedures upon arrival.

The Argentine State does not keep a public or judicial registry of deported citizens.

People who are deported are not subject to any administrative or judicial proceedings in Argentina:

Exceptions:

If the Argentine citizen returns accompanied by foreign family members, they may be subject to immigration procedures (residence, regularization, etc.).

If the deportee has open criminal cases in Argentina, he could be required by the local justice, but this is not related to the deportation itself.

If you have been expelled for serious crimes abroad, you are not prevented from entering, but you may face difficulties in accessing certain benefits (such as public employment or scholarships).

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Integration centres for migrants and refugees

The Integration Center for Migrants and Refugees opens its doors to the public, applying the stipulated security measures and corresponding protocols.

The Center provides advice and information to migrants and refugees regarding RADEX, Settlements, Certifications, access to rights to health, education and social security. People who have seen their rights violated are also accompanied.

Spanish courses for migrants, workshops on rights, training, cultural meetings, activities and advice to Social Organizations will be held.

Contact: centromigrantecaba@jus.gob.ar

Here you can request an appointment for advice on RADEX procedures and social accompaniment.

Attention:

- Entry will only be allowed by appointment.
- The reservation of appointments is personal and non-transferable: each reservation is valid for 1 (one) person. You will be able to carry out procedures for your family.
- At the entrance to the establishment, all people must present a document, temporary document (precarious).
- The use of a mask is mandatory throughout the visit, covering the nose and mouth.

To get an appointment: Ministry of Justice

Humanitarian Assistance Program for Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

Within the framework of the global HASM (Humanitarian Assistance to Stranded Migrants) program, IOM Argentina provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in situations of extreme vulnerability. The programme offers rapid and flexible assistance to migrants who are stranded - both in transit and destination countries - and who do not have the financial means or other institutional support to return to their country of origin.

IOM coordinates with government agencies, consulates, institutions, United Nations agencies and/or civil society organizations in order to identify the conditions and needs of the migrant. After having corroborated the applicant's vulnerability status and documentation, the application is forwarded for final approval to IOM headquarters in Geneva.

Return assistance is initiated once the person has declared his or her willingness to return and IOM has ensured that a family or institutional environment is available to receive him or her in the country of origin. To this end, actions are coordinated with the IOM office in that country, with local government agencies and with civil society institutions.

Humanitarian Assistance Program for Migrants in Vulnerable Situations | IOM Argentina

CAREF

We are a non-profit civil association that has been working for the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers since 1973.

We provide free professional services of advice, guidance, social and legal assistance; training workshops on issues related to the exercise of rights for relevant social actors and for migrants themselves; and at the same time we promote actions that allow the definition of State policies that tend to guarantee these rights.

The Argentine Commission for Refugees and Migrants is made up of five churches: Evangelical Disciples of Christ, Evangelical of the Río de la Plata, Evangelical Methodist Argentina, Evangelical Waldensian of the Río de la Plata and Evangelical Lutheran Unida.

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Home - CAREF

Civil Association for Human Rights United Women Migrants and Refugees in Argentina

AMUMRA seeks the social, economic and cultural integration of migrant and refugee women

and their families, as well as the unrestricted respect for their global citizenship.

It contributes to overcoming historical and contextual inequalities for the construction of

a more just and democratic society, with respect for all the characteristics of their individual and collective identities, from the approaches of gender, interculturality and human rights.

AMUMRA| Civil Association Human Rights United Women Migrants and Refugees Argentina

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

General Law on Refugee Recognition and Protection (Law 26.165):

Article 32 establishes that the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) must coordinate actions to guarantee access to free and suitable legal services for asylum seekers.
Good practice 8: Right to appeal and due process

International obligations:

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has indicated that States must guarantee free legal assistance to migrants, especially children and adolescents in migration processes. UNHCR

Public Ministry of Defense (MPD):

Through Law 27.149, the MPD guarantees access to justice and comprehensive legal assistance to people in vulnerable situations, including migrants and people in deportation proceedings. MPD

Free legal clinics:

Universities such as the UBA and bar associations offer free legal representation to people without resources, including foreigners, in various legal matters.

Free legal assistance, advice and sponsorship for people belonging to vulnerable groups - University Extension | Faculty of Law - University of Buenos Aires

When are we entitled to free legal advice - Legal.com.ar

Official Ombudsmen's Offices:

Public defenders' offices provide assistance in judicial proceedings, including those of a migratory nature, if there is evidence of a lack of financial means or a member of a vulnerable group.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes, Argentina has incorporated international human rights and refugee law standards into its legal framework applicable to deportees or returnees.

First, Migration Law No. 25,871 and its Regulatory Decree No. 616/2010 establish that the admission, stay and exit of persons must guarantee non-discriminatory criteria and respect for human rights, in accordance with the National Constitution and the international treaties ratified by the country. The National Directorate of Migration, as the enforcement authority, has the obligation to ensure that these principles are complied with. Provisions granted

In addition, Argentina is a party to multiple international instruments that are part of its legal system with constitutional hierarchy (art. 75, paragraph 22 of the National Constitution), such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. among others. These instruments oblige the State to respect and guarantee fundamental rights, including protection from arbitrary refoulement and access to fair procedures for asylum seekers.

In addition, the national legislation on refugees (Law 26.165) regulates the recognition and protection of refugees in accordance with international standards, and has been the subject of recent amendments to strengthen the action of the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE), incorporating key representatives to guarantee the safety and rights of persons in refugee situations.

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

1. Argentine Association of Migratory Law, Asylum and Citizenship (AADMAC)

This organization provides training, research, awareness-raising, and advice on migration law, refugee protection, and access to citizenship. Although it is not exclusively aimed at returnees or deportees, its training tools could be of great help in informing about legal rights and immigration processes.

2. "Your Rights Go with You" Campaign – CAREF

Launched in December 2024, this campaign seeks to strengthen knowledge about migrants' rights. Includes:

- Radio spots on migratory regularization and the right to identity.
- The "In Territory" guide, designed to facilitate participatory workshops on the right to migrate. This can serve as a basis or inspirationfor designing workshops aimed at those who were deported.

3. Booklet and awareness workshops (IOM and GCBA)

A booklet on migration, human rights and intercultural communication, created in collaboration between the Undersecretariat for Human Rights of CABA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It accompanies virtual workshops aimed at raising awareness about stereotypes, intercultural communication and migratory rights in the workplace.

4. International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights (CIPDH)

This body, under the Ministry of Justice, promotes human rights promotion, education and awareness. Although it is not focused on deportees, it has experience to develop programs adaptable to different vulnerable groups.

5. General Legal Aid Programs

- Federal Map "AyudAR" and "PatrocinAR" program: They offer access to everyday legal assistance for victims of crime and abuse, although focused on other populations.
- Programme for Legal Assistance to Persons Deprived of Liberty: Provides non-penal and family advice to persons in penitentiary institutions. Although they are not intended for deportees, they can offer references on free and accessible legal assistance modalities.

What do these proposals imply for deported people?

Although there are no specific programs for this profile (people deported from the U.S.), some of these initiatives could be adapted or serve as inspiration to:

- Legal education workshops on immigration rights and judicial processes.
- Human rights awareness campaigns targeting deportees.
- Accessible training material (guides, booklets, radio spots) adapted to their reality.
- Free specialized legal assistance, such as that offered by CAJs or programs such as "AyudAR."

Conclusion

To date, there are no public or civil sector programs in Argentina designed exclusively for people deported from the United States in terms of legal education or awareness of rights. However, several existing initiatives could serve as a starting point or be adapted to meet this specific need.

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Personal belongings (money, documents, electronics, clothing, etc.) are typically stored by ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) during detention. However, if they are not claimed, they can be destroyed or auctioned.

Previous studies indicate that 66% of deported people reported withholding of assets, and 41% did not fully recover them.

ICE | U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

This link contains official information on the handling of belongings during detention.

1. Steps to recover belongings from Argentina

a) Request inventory and authorize a representative

- At the time of arrest, a written inventory of the retained property must be requested.
- A trusted person in the U.S. can be appointed by means of a power of attorney to claim the belongings.

b) Contact ICE

- It is critical to maintain communication with ICE prior to deportation.
- The representative must have the case number and immigration registration to facilitate the process.

c) Argentine consular support

- The Argentine Consulate in the U.S. can assist in the recovery and shipment of belongings under the figure of "household goods", which allows the importation of personal goods without taxes.

Este contenido no se encuentra disponible | Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Requirements:

- Detailed list of belongings.

- Power of attorney authorizing the consulate to manage the shipment.
- Direct follow-up of the case with the consulate.

4. Preventive measures

- Those still in the U.S. who are anticipating possible deportation should:
- Make a digital inventory of your assets.
- Grant a power of attorney for someone to act on your behalf
- Contact ICE and the Argentine consulate.
- Anticipate with preventive measures before deportation.

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

The situation of recovery of property, wages or financial assets in the US by deported people is more complex than that of personal belongings.

1. Property and real estate

- Deportation does not automatically result in loss of property. A deported person remains the legal owner of any real property or vehicle registered in their name.
- However, not being physically present gives rise to practical difficulties: paying taxes, maintenance, mortgages, etc. If they are not met, the bank can foreclose on the property.
- To manage it, it is common to grant a Power of Attorney to a family member, lawyer or trusted person who can manage, sell or transfer the property from the US.
- There is no specific Argentina-U.S. bilateral agreement that facilitates the administration of assets after deportation: U.S. civil/commercial law applies, requiring legal representation in that country.

2. Outstanding wages and labor rights

- If a person is deported while employed in the U.S., they retain the right to claim unpaid wages.
- It can be done through:
  - U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) – allows claims for unpaid wages to be filed even from abroad.
  - State Labor Boards.
- The practical problem is that the process requires a representative or attorney in the U.S. to follow up, as many offices do not interact directly with people outside the country.
- NGOs and legal clinics in the US (e.g. Legal Aid, Workers' Rights Centers) offer free advice in some cases.

3. Financial assets (bank accounts, insurance, pensions)

- A deported person does not automatically lose access to their bank accounts, retirement funds, or insurance, as long as they have the documentation and meet the requirements of each institution.
- Common obstacles:
  - Closing accounts if the U.S. address expires or if the bank detects a lack of legal immigration status.
  - Impossibility of opening new accounts, but existing ones can be maintained or closed.
- Solution: Maintain contact with the bank before and after deportation, or appoint a proxy with valid powers of attorney in the U.S.

4. International or consular mechanisms

- There is no bilateral Argentina-U.S. treaty that specifically regulates the recovery of assets after deportation.
- What does exist is:
  - Consular protection: Argentine consulates can provide guidance on lawyers in the U.S., certify powers of attorney, and in some cases facilitate procedures for sending money or belongings.
  - International Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT): Serve in criminal cases or investigations, but do not apply to civil, labor, or financial claims of deportees.
  - Double taxation agreements: exist between Argentina and the US, but regulate taxes, not recovery of assets.

5. Practical options

a) Power of Attorney before or after deportation, for someone trusted to manage property, collect wages, close accounts, etc.

b) Hire a lawyer in the U.S. (civil, labor, or financial) depending on the type of asset.

c) Contact the Argentine consulate for initial assistance and document certification.

d) Migrant organizations and NGOs: some help with labor claims or access to funds, especially if there was labor exploitation.

In summary:

- There are no automatic mechanisms or specific bilateral agreements.
- Legally, deportees retain ownership of property, wages, and assets, but must manage them through U.S. legal representation or consular support.
- Employment and financial claims are possible, but they require an attorney or attorney-in-fact.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

There is no specific bilateral Argentina-US treaty on the repatriation of deported persons

- Argentina and the United States do not have a deportation/repatriation agreement as there are in other countries (for example, Mexico and the U.S. with formal protocols at the border).
- Argentines deported from the U.S. are expelled under U.S. immigration laws, and the Argentine National Directorate of Migration only intervenes to authorize re-entry into the country (Argentina cannot turn away its own nationals).

Although there is no specific agreement on the repatriation of persons, there are other bilateral cooperation instruments that are related:

1. Consular cooperation agreements

- Based on the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963).
- They allow Argentine consulates in the U.S. to assist Argentine nationals in cases of detention, deportation, or repatriation, but they do not regulate the immigration procedure itself.

2. Bilateral agreements on security and justice

- There are treaties on mutual legal assistance (MLAT, signed in 1991 and in force since 1994) and extradition treaties (signed in 1997, in force since 2000).
- These refer to criminal cooperation, not administrative migration or deportations.

3. Cooperation programmes on mobility and documents

- Visa suppression agreements for certain categories (e.g. diplomatic, official) and agreements to avoid double taxation.
- They also do not apply to deportations, but they do apply to the legal movement of people.

How repatriations are currently handled

- Deportations of Argentines from the U.S. are executed on a case-by-case basis, under the laws of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) coordinates logistics and notifies the corresponding Argentine consulate.
- The consulate intervenes to ensure that the deportee has valid travel documentation (passport or safe-conduct).
- The Argentine government cannot prevent deportation, but it does ensure return and reception in national territory.

In conclusion:

- There is no bilateral treaty on the repatriation of people between Argentina and the United States.
- What exists is consular cooperation (Vienna Convention), criminal treaties (extradition, legal assistance), and practical coordination between ICE and Argentine consulates for the logistics of each deportation.

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Argentina's main international obligations:

1. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Argentina is a signatory to this pact, which establishes among its objectives:

Facilitate return and readmission in safety and dignity.

Promote sustainable reintegration in the country of origin.

Prevent arbitrary detention and ensure alternatives to detention.

Protect vulnerable migrants, including children, women, and victims of trafficking

Checklist for safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration

2. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Ratified by Argentina through Law 26.202, this convention obliges the State to:

Guarantee humane and dignified treatment throughout the migration process.

Protect migrants from arbitrary or collective expulsions.

Ensuring the right to legal defence and a fair trial

Argentina.pdf

3. Participation in regional and interregional forums

Argentina is part of:

South American Conference on Migration (CSM)

MERCOSUR Specialized Migration Forum (FEM)

Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM)

These spaces promote technical and political cooperation to ensure common standards in the repatriation and reintegration of migrants.

International Commitments | Argentina.gob.ar

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Before Deportation

Legal assistance and guidance:

Consulates offer basic legal advice and refer to local organizations that provide free or low-cost legal defense.

In cities such as Miami and New York, consular teams have been reinforced to attend to urgent cases.

Miami, epicenter of consular support amid the migration crisis in the US - Infobae

Consular protection:

They intervene in cases of immigration detention to verify that the human rights of the Argentine citizen are respected.

They can issue urgent consular documentation (such as passports or certificates) to facilitate immigration procedures.

Emergency lines:

Some consulates have set up emergency telephone lines to deal with situations of detention or imminent deportation.

Argentine Consulates in the United States 2025

During deportation

- Although the scope for action is limited, consulates can:
  - Verify transfer conditions.
  - To intercede diplomatically if irregularities or violations of rights are detected.
  - Coordinate with local authorities and family members in Argentina to prepare for the reception of the citizen.

After Deportation

Coordination with organizations in Argentina:

Although consulates do not operate directly in Argentine territory, they can facilitate contact with social reintegration agencies, such as the Ministry of Social Development or Migration.

Monitoring of vulnerable cases:

In cases of minors, sick people or victims of trafficking, consulates can activate special protocols to guarantee immediate attention after return.

Argentine consular network in the U.S.

Argentina has 7 consulates general in the U.S., located in:

- New York
- Miami
- Los Angeles
- Houston
- Atlanta
- Chicago
- Washington D.C.

Embassy-Consulate

Each offers services such as:

- -Renewal of passports and ID cards
- -Legalization of documents
- Civil Registry (births, marriages, deaths)
- Consular assistance in emergencies
- -Basic legal advice

Latin Consulates

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

From November 2024 to September 2025, it is estimated that at least 300 Argentine citizens have been deported from the United States, within the framework of a stricter immigration policy implemented by the Donald Trump administration.

First flight of Argentines deported from the US: they say that a total of 300 will be expelled by Donald Trump

The flight with the 10 Argentines deported from the United States arrived at Ezeiza Airport - Infobae

First flight of Argentines deported from the US: they say that a total of 300 will be expelled by Donald Trump

Mass deportations in the U.S. 2025: The Latin American countries that have received the most expelled immigrants | Mexico | United States | RPPUSA

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

From November 2024 to September 10, 2025, a single flight with deportees arrives from the United States to Argentina. The flight will land at Ministro Pistarini airport (Ezeiza International Airport) today 9/10/25 after a stopover in Colombia and Brazil.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

The main receiving cities in Argentina where people deported from the United States are resettled are those with more developed immigration infrastructure, social services, and family connections. According to recent reports, Ezeiza International Airport (Buenos Aires) is the only official entry point for deportation flights, making the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and its metropolitan area the main initial destination.

The first flight with Argentines deported from the United States arrives in the country - Infobae

Confirmation that the first flight with expelled from the U.S. WILL ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES - LA NACION

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

The demographic data available on Argentine citizens deported from the United States between November 2024 and September 2025 is limited, but some general trends can be identified from official reports and reliable media:

Age

Most of the deportees are in the range of 30 to 55 years old.

There have been no recent cases of minors deported on official flights.

Sex

Men predominate, although there have also been cases of deported women.

Example: On a recent flight, of the 10 deportees, 3 were women.

Family situation

Many deportees have family members in the U.S., including children born there.

Some cases involve married people or people with a stable partner, which emotionally complicates the deportation process.

Educational level

It is estimated that a significant part of the deportees have completed secondary education, and some have technical or university training.

The flight with the 10 Argentines deported from the United States arrived at Ezeiza Airport - Infobae

What is the place occupied by Argentines in the ranking - LA NACION

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Top Legal and Administrative Grounds for Deportation from the U.S. to Argentina

1. Entering without authorization or valid visa
   - Irregular entry through land or air borders.
   - Presentation of false documentation or invalid visa.
   - Use of tourist visas to work (immigration fraud).
2. Visa overstay
   - Overstay in the U.S. (e.g., 6-month B1/B2 visa).
   - Although many overstays are not detected immediately, when a person tries to renew a visa or adjust status, it can lead to deportation.
3. Violation of immigration conditions
   - Work without authorization on a tourist/student visa.
   - Not meet residency requirements or exchange programs.
4. Criminal record or crimes in the U.S.
   - The INA establishes grounds of removability for criminal convictions, including: Felonies.
   - Drug offenses (except minimal possession of marijuana).
   - Crimes of violence or robbery.
   - Fraud or falsification of immigration documents.
   - An Argentine with a Green Card can also be deported if they commit serious crimes.
5. Immigration or marriage fraud
   - Marriages considered fictitious to obtain residence.
   - False statements on immigration forms.
6. Pending Final Order of Removal
   - People who applied for asylum or other immigration benefit and were rejected, and did not withdraw voluntarily.
   - In these cases, ICE executes the deportation.
7. National security risk
   - Exceptional cases of persons linked to terrorist activities, espionage or security threats.

Relevant statistics (general trend, not only Argentina)

- The main reasons for deportation in general are: Irregular entry/stay without legal status (the vast majority).
- Criminal convictions in the US (minority, but with greater media impact).
- In the case of Argentines, most of the reports from the Foreign Ministry and the press point to visa overstays and unauthorized work, rather than serious crimes.

Difference Between Immediate Removal and Formal Deportation

- Expedited removal: When a person enters without documents or with false papers, they can be returned in a few days, without a full hearing before an immigration judge.
- Formal deportation (removal order): when you were already residing in the U.S., proceedings are opened in immigration court with the right to defense, appeal, and legal assistance.

In summary:

The main reasons for deportation of Argentines from the U.S. are irregular entry, overstay of visas, violation of immigration conditions and, to a lesser extent, criminal convictions or fraud.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Argentina does not have a specific law that requires the publication of deportation statistics ex officio, but it does have general transparency rules that guarantee public access to this information.

The main one is Law No. 27,275 (2016) on Access to Public Information, which ensures the right of any person to request and obtain information from the State. Under this law, data such as the number of deported foreigners must be provided if someone requests them, with few exceptions (e.g. sensitive personal data). Law 27.275 also imposes the so-called “active transparency”, obliging agencies to publish certain basic information on their websites; However, deportation statistics are not explicitly included among the mandatory data to be published. Consequently, there is no specific legal obligation to periodically disseminate deportation numbers, but there is a guaranteed right of access: any interested party can request this data from the immigration authority and the State must provide it.

On the other hand, Law No. 25,871 on Migration (2003) – which regulates everything related to migration and expulsions – does not provide for articles on transparency of statistical data. This law establishes rights, obligations and procedures for deportations, and designates the National Directorate of Migration as the enforcement authority, but does not require the publication of statistical reports on expulsions. Thus, there is no legal vacuum in terms of access: deportation data is considered public information protected by Law 27.275. The weak point is in implementation: in practice, deportation data is not proactively published on a regular basis by the government. Anyone who wants to know, for example, how many people were deported in a given year, must file a freedom of information request (a FOIA request) with the appropriate agency. This mechanism has worked in recent years: journalists and organizations have obtained official figures of deportations by submitting formal requests, since the Directorate of Migration responded with the required data. In summary, Argentina guarantees public access to deportation information through its general transparency regulations, but there is no specific obligation to automatically publish such data; Accountability depends on citizen requests and the willingness of authorities to include these statistics in their routine reports.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

The body primarily responsible for collecting, managing, and eventually publishing deportation data in Argentina is the National Directorate of Migration (DNM). The DNM, under the Ministry of the Interior, is the enforcement authority of Migration Law No. 25,871 and is responsible for processing expulsions of foreigners from the country. Legally, the DNM is the one who keeps the records of all deportations: each case of expulsion (either for immigration infraction or by court order after a criminal conviction) is recorded in its databases. Therefore, the DNM is the primary source of these statistics. In turn, the Ministry of the Interior – as the portfolio to which Migrations depends – has political responsibility on the matter and is usually in charge of

disseminating migration information to the public (for example, through press releases or the government's open data portal). In practice, if the government decides to publish deportation figures proactively, it does so through the DNM or the Ministry of the Interior.

In addition, other agencies contribute indirectly: the Ministry of Security intervenes operationally in some deportations (for example, when the Federal Police or Interpol carry out the expulsion of a foreigner with a criminal record), and the Judiciary can order deportations in its sentences (in cases of "estrangement" of convicted persons). However, neither Security nor Justice are responsible for compiling or publishing global statistics: that task falls to the orbit of Migration/Interior. On the other hand, the Agency for Access to Public Information (AAIP), although it does not collect migration data, is the body in charge of supervising and enforcing the transparency obligations of all state agencies, including the DNM. Under Law 27.275, the DNM (as with any national agency) has a legal obligation to respond to requests for information on deportations and include relevant data in its active transparency reports, under the supervision of the AAIP. In short, the National Directorate of Migration is the entity that centralizes deportation data in Argentina and is responsible for providing it to the public, either through official publications coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior or by responding to requests for access to information.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes. In Argentina, deportation data can be legally obtained through Law No. 27,275 on Access to Public Information. This regulation guarantees the right of any person to request information held by the State, including statistics and non-nominative documents prepared by the National Directorate of Migration (DNM), the body responsible for managing expulsion processes.

Identifiable personal data—such as names, documents, or specific nationalities—are protected by Law No. 25,326 on the Protection of Personal Data. In these cases, the information must be delivered in an anonymized form or after applying the "public interest and harm test", which assesses whether the disclosure may affect individual rights or if there is a higher public interest that justifies its publication.

In practice, journalists, researchers, and civil organizations have accessed deportation statistics through formal requests submitted to the DNM, obtaining complete responses and within legal deadlines. Therefore, although there is no specific obligation to publish this data proactively, the current regulatory framework allows it to be accessed effectively.

Sources:

- Law No. 27,275 – Access to Public Information: RESUMEN - DISPOSICIÓN 479 / 2015 - MINISTERIO DE DESARROLLO SOCIAL | Argentina.gob.ar
- Law No. 25,326 – Protection of Personal Data: Decreto 996/1991 | Argentina.gob.ar
- DNM Provision No. 200/2016: RESUMEN - COMUNICACIÓN A 5843 / 2015 - ENTIDADES FINANCIERAS | Argentina.gob.ar

National Directorate of Migration: Migraciones | Argentina.gob.ar

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Belize

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Belize

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Upon arrival in Belize, deportees are processed by local authorities. The Government of Belize has emphasized its commitment to ensuring a dignified return for all citizens, regardless of their immigration status abroad

Key points include:

- Criminal Background Checks: Belizean police monitor deportees with known criminal records or pending charges. Those with offenses committed in Belize may face legal action upon return.
- Reintegration Support: Officials have expressed hope that returning Belizeans can become productive members of society. Reintegration efforts aim to help deportees contribute to the economy and community
- The Department of Homeland Security encourages undocumented Belizeans to initiate voluntary returns via the CBP Home app. This process may include a US$1,000 exit bonus and avoids the legal and emotional toll of forced removal.

Belize is not obligated to accept deportees who are not Belizean citizens. Prime Minister John Briceño stated unequivocally, “We are a sovereign nation, and they cannot force us to accept people that are not citizens from this country”.

However, the U.S. and Belize signed a Safe Third Country agreement for asylum seekers which is pending approval by the Belize Senate, and would allow non-Belizean deportees to apply for asylum in Belize instead of returning to their home countries. Paraguay, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras have also taken in deportees. The specifics of the agreement are as yet unclear, but Belize retains authority to approve or reject transfers, limit eligibility to certain nationalities, conduct background checks, etc. The Belize government has indicated it will prioritize people with job qualifications who can participate in the economy.

Sources:

- CBP Home | Homeland Security
- Resources | Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports & Diaspora Relations
- Embassy encourages voluntary exit to avoid forced returns | Breaking Belize News
- Can Belize Expect Massive Deportation of Belizeans? | Greater Belize Media
- Belize agrees to host migrants seeking asylum in US - BBC News

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Government Support

- Basic Processing & Screening: Upon arrival, deportees are interviewed by the Belize Police Department to confirm family connections and assess social support structures. Authorities aim to connect returnees with relevant government services rather than criminalize them
- Monitoring & Legal Compliance: The police maintain a roster of deportees and monitor individuals with pending charges or criminal history in Belize. There is no formal reintegration program run by the government, but officials emphasize humane treatment and reintegration
- Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program: While primarily designed for voluntary returnees, this program offers customs duty exemptions and assistance for Belizeans returning home. Deportees can inquire about eligibility for certain benefits like housing or business investment support.

Social Assistance & Reintegration

Rehabilitation & Reintegration Program (Belize Criminal Investigation Bureau):

1. Services include counseling, vocational training, job placement, and family support.

2. Targets non-violent offenders and individuals referred by courts or law enforcement.
3. Community involvement through NGOs and churches to reduce stigma and recidivism.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) & USAID Programs:

1. Provide emergency assistance, psychosocial support, English language courses, and economic integration services.
2. Operate Migrant Centers and Mobile Migrant Hubs for documentation, education, and reintegration support, including legal identity services and consular support directly in rural communities.

Key Contacts

- UNHCR Belize: Provides humanitarian aid and coordinates with local NGOs for protection and integration support.
- Help for Progress & Humana People to People: Community-based assistance for basic needs and psychosocial care.
- Belize Police Department Rehabilitation Unit: For enrollment in reintegration programs.

Sources:

Belize Criminal Investigation Bureau (The Belize Criminal Investigation Bureau is a part of the national police force)

Where to find help? - UNHCR Belize (UN Refugee Agency in Belize, protecting the rights of refugees and providing assistance and support to their local integration.)

Help for Progress – Help for Progress, Belize

Home | HPPBZ (Humana People to People Belize , providing support for documentation assistance)

Belize | International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM - Belize Mobile Migrant Hubs Infosheet

Belize Signs Safe Third Country Agreement With United States – Government of Belize Press Office

Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program | bze-dc (Embassy of Belize)

Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program | belizeconsulflorida (Belize Consulate in Florida, providing summary of the program and helpful application guidelines).

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

No Dedicated National Program: Most reintegration support comes from NGOs and international agencies. While officials acknowledge the need for reintegration planning, there is no comprehensive policy addressing housing, employment, or mental health for deportees.

- Housing: No dedicated shelters or transitional housing for deportees. Many returnees face homelessness or unstable living conditions
- Employment: There are no government-funded job placement programs for deportees. NGOs provide some vocational training, but coverage is minimal and inconsistent.

Support from NGOs like Help for Progress and Humana People to People Belize is ad hoc and donor-dependent, leaving gaps when funding runs out.

Sources:

Belize | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR

Explainers-2022-merged.pdf

Government Criticized for Failing to Support Recently Deported Belizeans – Love FM Belize News & Music Power (Radio FM webpage)

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Government Initiatives

1. Reintegration Support through the Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
   - Program: Reintegration and Rehabilitation Services for Deportees

- Focus: Provides counseling, job placement assistance, and social services for individuals returning after deportation.
- Documentation: Referenced in the *National Social Protection Strategy (2023)*, which outlines reintegration as a priority for vulnerable populations.

2. Belize Crime Observatory & Community Rehabilitation Department
   - Program: Community Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program
   - Focus: Targets deported individuals with criminal records, offering psychosocial support and vocational training.
   - Official Source: Annual Report Archives - Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries - Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries.

Civil Society Efforts

1. Belize Youth Challenge Program
   - Operated by: NGOs in partnership with government agencies.
   - Focus: Skills training and mentorship for young deportees to reduce recidivism and promote economic independence.
   - Documentation: Program details appear in the *UNICEF Belize Strategy for Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) in Belize.*
   - *#PlanBelize Mid-Term Development Strategy (2022 - 2026)*
2. Faith-Based Organizations
   - Example: Restore Belize Initiative
   - Focus: Provides housing assistance, counseling, and community reintegration for deported individuals.
   - Official Source: *Restore Belize Annual Report 2023*.

Key Features Across Programs

- Vocational Training: Carpentry, agriculture, and ICT skills.
- Psychosocial Support: Counseling and substance abuse programs.
- Community Reintegration: Housing assistance and family reunification services.

More relevant sources:

- Min-of-Econimic-Development-ATR-2023-2024-.pdf
- Min-of-Home-Affairs-New-Growth-Ind.-ATR-2023-2024.pdf
- National-chapter-Belize.pdf

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

National Laws and Policies Regulating Reception and Reintegration of Deported Persons in Belize

Legal Framework

- Immigration Act (Cap. 156) and Immigration (Amendment) Act, 2023: Governs entry, removal, and repatriation of Belizean nationals and foreign persons. Provides procedures for verification of nationality and documentation during repatriation.
- Immigration Ordinance of 1958: Historical basis for current immigration law; defines terms like 'immigrant', 'emigrant', and procedures for entry and departure.

Government Programs

- Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program: Administered by the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations. Offers customs duty exemptions and support for Belizeans returning home, including deportees, who have resided outside of Belize for at least 10 consecutive years. The program prioritizes those who have funds to invest in their community or have a re-occuring pension or income.
- National Social Protection Strategy: Includes housing, vocational training, and livelihood support for vulnerable groups, which can include deportees.
- MIRPS National Action Plan: Focused on protection and solutions for displaced persons; includes commitments on jobs, education, and reintegration.

Operational Practices

- Government statements confirm readiness to receive deported nationals and monitor those with criminal records.

- Coordination between Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration Department, and Police for verification and processing of returnees.
- Plans under discussion for reintegration support, including housing and vocational training initiatives.

Sources:

- Immigration Amendment Act 2023 – National Assembly (PDF)
- Belize: Immigration Ordinance of 1958 | Refworld
- Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program Guidelines (PDF):
- Belize Embassy USA – Diaspora Program
- Social protection | UNICEF Belize
- MIRPS Explainers PDF: Explainers-2022-merged.pdf
- Greater Belize Media – Plan for Accepting Deportees: What's the Plan for Accepting Deported Belizeans? | Greater Belize Media
- San Pedro Sun – Deportation Policy Impact: Hundreds of Belizeans to be affected by new U.S. Deportation Policy - The San Pedro Sun

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

There are no Belize laws/regulations that give deported people unique, enforceable rights to health care, jobs, and schooling beyond those rights already afforded them as Belizeans.

Deportees fall under the same general systems (public hospitals with fees removed; NHI; labour protections; education laws) available to citizens/residents, but nothing in law provides additional or special protections.

Legal Protections for Deported Persons in Belize: Health, Housing, Employment, and Education

Note: The protections described apply to all Belizean citizens and are not specific to deported persons. Deported individuals who are Belizean nationals benefit from these rights by virtue of their citizenship, as there are no separate legal provisions granting additional protections based solely on deportee status.

Constitutional Protections

- Belize Constitution guarantees the right to work and protection from discrimination in employment (Part II, Sections 15 & 16).
- Right to education and health on the basis of equality (Preamble and social justice principles).
- Protection from discrimination on grounds of race, origin, political opinion, creed, sex, or disability.

Health Protections

- Public Health Act (1981): Ensures sanitation, disease control, and public health campaigns.
- Health Insurance Act (2019): Regulates health insurance schemes, including the Belize Health Insurance Scheme (BHIS).
- Government Policy: Removal of fees in public hospitals (2023) to guarantee universal healthcare access.

Housing and Social Protection

- Social Protection Strategy: Programs like BOOST provide cash transfers to vulnerable families, including deportees.
- UNICEF & SDG Initiatives: Strengthen housing and social safety nets for vulnerable groups under the National Social Protection Strategy.

Employment Rights

- Labour Act (Cap. 297): Guarantees fair wages, safe working conditions, and protection against discrimination.
- Minimum Wage: BZD $5.00/hour (effective January 2025).
- Equal Opportunities Bill (Draft): Seeks to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and access to services.

Education Rights

- Constitution and national policies guarantee free primary education and equal access to schooling.
- Social programs include subsidies for secondary education and vocational training for vulnerable groups, including deportees.

Sources:

- Belize Constitution
- Government of Belize Removes Fees in Public Hospitals, Promoting Universal Healthcare Access – Government of Belize Press Office
- Labour Act (PDF)
- Social protection | UNICEF Belize
- MIRPS National Action Plan – Education Commitments

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Detention and Review Procedures for Deported Persons upon Arrival in Belize

Are Deported Persons Subject to Detention or Review?

- Belizean nationals deported from abroad are not classified as prohibited immigrants under the Immigration Act. They are admitted but may be screened by police for outstanding local charges or security concerns.
- Foreign nationals (i.e. non-Belizean) deported from Belize or arriving to Belize without proper authorization can be detained under the Immigration Act (Cap. 156) as 'prohibited immigrants'. Immigration officers may seek a court order for removal and detain the person until removal is possible (Art. 30). However, Belize may provide asylum to non-Belizeans deported from the U.S. subject to the "safe third country" agreement signed with the U.S.

Legal Requirements and Procedures

- Immigration Act (Cap. 156):
  - Art. 24 – Entering Belize outside an approved entry point or failing to present to an immigration officer is an offense.
  - Art. 28 – Detained persons must be informed of grounds for detention and have the right to appeal to a summary jurisdiction court.
  - Art. 30 – Immigration officers can detain prohibited immigrants (non-Belizeans) pending removal.
- Penalties: Fine up to BZ$5,000 or imprisonment up to two years for illegal entry or related offenses.
- Border Control Protocols: Immigration officers conduct enhanced screening for inadmissible persons, including checks for criminal records, health certificates, and financial stability. Failure to meet entry requirements results in immediate refusal or detention.
- Arrival Procedures for Belizeans: Deportees typically arrive on commercial or chartered flights. Upon arrival, they are processed by immigration and often escorted to police stations for verification if they have pending local charges.

Relevant Laws and Protocols

- Immigration Act (Cap. 156) and amendments (No. 28 of 2020).
- Immigration Ordinance of 1958 (historical basis).
- Border Management and Immigration Services protocols for entry screening.

Sources:

- Immigration Act & Amendments - Act No. 28
- Belize: Immigration Ordinance of 1958 | Refworld
- Global Detention Project – Belize Profile (PDF)
- Border Screening Protocols: Belize immigration increases screening at borders for 'inadmissible' entries - The San Pedro Sun
- Arrival Procedures for Deportees: 21 Belizeans deported home from the U.S. | Amandala Newspaper
- US and Belize sign 'safe third country' agreement for asylum seekers | Donald Trump News | Al Jazeera

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Legal Processes for Deported Persons to Recover or Renew National Identity Documents in Belize

Legal Framework and Authorities

- Vital Statistics Unit (Attorney General's Ministry): Issues birth, death, and marriage certificates under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Cap. 157).
- Social Security Board (SSB): Issues Social Security cards, a primary national ID for Belizeans.
- Ministry of Immigration & Nationality Services: Handles passports, nationality certificates, and residence permits.
- National ID Initiative: Biometric-based system under the Ministry of E-Governance, expected to unify identity verification by 2028.

Processes for Document Recovery or Renewal

1. Birth Certificate (Vital Statistics Unit)
    - Apply in person at Vital Statistics offices or district outposts.
    - Must bring:
        - Completed application form, and
        - valid photo ID (passport or Belizean Social Security card).
    - Fees: Standard $4 BZD; expedited options available (same-day $30 BZD).
    - Legal basis: Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Cap. 157).
2. Social Security Card (SSB) - Replacement or Renewal Replacement or Renewal
    - Born Belizeans:
        - Must bring a Belizean passport or birth certificate or adoption certificate AND valid photo ID.
        - If you do not have a scanned image of your birth certificate in the SSB registration database, you do not need to provide the birth certificate provided that:
            - The birth is registered and recorded at the Belize Birth Registry, and
            - The registered name and date of birth match at the SSB and the Belize Birth Registry.
        - Any change of name or date of birth must be authenticated with evidence of a legal change.
        - Online renewal is available via SSB Portal.
    - Naturalized Belizeans:
        - Must bring one of the following documents:
            - Belize Passport, OR
            - Belize National Security Certificate with photo, OR
            - Belize National Security Certificate without photo AND a valid photo ID.
    - Belize Permanent Resident
        - Must bring:
            - Birth Certificate OR Adoption Certificate, AND
            - Belize Permanent Residence Card OR passport with Belize Permanent Resident stamp (an expired passport is acceptable).
    - Temporary Resident of Belize
        - Must bring valid passport AND valid permits, cards, or stamps such as:
            - Condition Stamp; OR
            - Dependent Permit; OR
            - Definite Entry of Stay "Right to Work" Stamp affixed on one of the passport pages; OR
            - Refugee Card; OR
            - Student Permit; OR
            - Special Permit with Condition Stamp; OR

    - Temporary Employment Permit; OR
    - Temporary Residence Permit.
  - Acceptable Photo IDs include:
    - Belize Passport
    - Passport from naturalized country or country of origin;
    - Belize Voter's ID card (with color photo)
    - Driver's License
    - National Identity Card (for foreign national)
    - Social Security Card
    - For dependent children under 18 only: Belize primary, secondary, or tertiary school student ID issued in Belize
    - If unable to provide a valid photo ID, the applicant can use a recent 2x2in color photo with an active Justice of the Peace declaration and bearing the Justice of the Peace's name, signature, and stamp.

- Social Security Card (SSB) - First Time registration
  - Applicants may register themselves and dependent spouse/children with SSB by providing the appropriate documents.
  - Parents must apply for registration of dependent children under 14 and provide their valid photo ID. A legal guardian must provide a court order showing legal guardianship.
  - Any document not in English or Spanish must be accompanied by a certified English translation (the University of Belize Language Center has resources).

- Passport Renewal (Ministry of Immigration)

Applicants may apply for first-time, replacement, or renew passports by bringing original AND copies of the below documents. Any non-English documents must be accompanied by certified translations.

Where to apply: Applicants may apply at any Immigration Office in Belize, or any Belizean diplomatic or consular mission. It is recommended to make an appointment to apply for a passport.

- For those over 16 years old:
  - Provide proof of Belizean nationality (birth certificate or nationality certificate, valid ID); and
  - If there has been any change of name, legal documents authenticating the name change should be provided.
  - Passport photo (taken within past 6 months, 2x2in, with head size a minimum 70% and maximum 80% of photo, open eyes, closed mouth, no glasses, no smiling, in color, with a white background);
  - Belize e-Passport Application completed form, dated and signed; and
  - Passport Fee (BZ$200.00)
- For those under 16 years old:
  - Child's birth certificate and evidence of citizenship (original document and copies), and
  - Parent or legal guardian's valid photo ID; and
  - *If applicable - evidence of court orders to establish guardianship for legal guardians; and*
  - Child's passport photo (taken within past 6 months, 2x2in, with head size a minimum 70% and maximum 80% of photo, open eyes, closed mouth, no glasses, no smiling, in color, with a white background); and
  - Application completed on child's behalf; and
  - If the child is under 10 years old, the form should be signed and dated by the parent or legal guardian.
  - If the child is over 10 years old, the form should be signed and dated by the child
  - Passport Fee (BZ$150.00)

It generally takes 3 weeks for a passport to be ready. You must present a photo ID and auxiliary receipt (which you receive at your passport appointment) to collect the passport.

Expedited services of 24 hours are available for an additional fee, but are only available at the Belmopan Headquarters office. The expedited fee is an additional BS$300.00.

National ID (Biometric System) (in progress):

Belize's Cabinet has approved a countrywide rollout of a biometrics-based national ID system within the next 3 years. Enrollment will require existing identity documents (birth certificate, Social Security card, or passport).

The rollout was announced July 2025; legislation under review for implementation.

Sources:

- Vital Statistics Unit Services: The Attorney General's Ministry of Belize - The AGM
- Vital Statistics Forms: Vital Statistics Forms | bze-dc
- Social Security Card Replacement: Card Replacement or Renewal - Social Security Board, Belize
- SSB Portal: My Social Security Self-Service Portal - Social Security Board, Belize
- Immigration Department: Belize – Official Immigration Website
- Passport Photo Specifications – Belize
- Passport Adult Application – Belize
- Passport Child Application – Belize
- National ID Initiative Details: Government Launches New Biometric National ID Initiative - The San Pedro Sun

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Legal Status and Procedures for Deported Persons in Belize

Legal Status of Deported Persons

Belizean nationals deported from other countries retain their citizenship and are admitted into Belize. They are not considered prohibited immigrants under the Immigration Act. But foreign nationals deported from Belize are classified as prohibited immigrants and may face removal orders, detention, and penalties under the Immigration Act (Cap. 156).

Administrative and Judicial Procedures

- Immigration officers can request a court order for removal of a prohibited immigrant (Immigration Act, Art. 30).
- Detention is allowed until removal is possible, with fines up to BZ$5,000 and/or imprisonment up to two years for immigration offenses.
- Persons detained must be informed of the grounds for detention and have the right to appeal to a summary jurisdiction court (Art. 28).
- Recent jurisprudence includes Magistrate Court rulings on illegal entry and deportation orders (Sept. 2025).

Applicable Laws and Jurisprudence

- Immigration Act (Cap. 156) and amendments (e.g., Immigration Amendment Act No. 28 of 2020). Immigration Ordinance of 1958 (historical basis for current law).
- Magistrate Court rulings on illegal entry and deportation orders (Sept. 2025).

Reintegration Policies for Belizean Nationals

Belizean authorities, including the Police Department and social services, provide screening and limited reintegration support for nationals deported from abroad. This includes monitoring individuals with prior criminal records and offering assistance for social reintegration, as highlighted in official statements by the Commissioner of Police (May 2025).

Sources:

- Immigration Act & Amendments (National Assembly PDF)
- Belize: Immigration Ordinance of 1958 | Refworld
- Global Detention Project – Belize Immigration Profile (PDF)
- Four Immigrants Convicted of Illegal Entry and Set for Deportation – Love FM Belize News & Music Power

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. Humana People to People Belize
   - Reach: More than 50 communities in the Toledo, Stann Creek, and Cayo districts.
   - Mission: Promote sustainable development and social inclusion for vulnerable groups.
   - Services: Programs are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and focused on sustainable agriculture & environment, community development, health, education, and second-hand clothing.
   - Projects:
     - *Refugees and asylum seekers:* Enhance the access to essential services, information, opportunities, and basic needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Supported by UNHCR. Primarily focused in the Bella Vista, San Isidro, and Trio communities.
     - *Migrant Center Bella Vista:* To assist migrants and Belizean returnees with accurate and appropriate information on migration procedures, offers support on migration services, and refer them to relevant government offices and IOM's voluntary repatriation program. Supported by the US, US AID and IOM UN Migration. Primarily in the Bella Vista area with outreach to nearby villages.
   - Education and vocational training.
   - Community-based development projects.
   - Impact: Provides direct assistance and training for refugees and deportees.
   - Funding: UNHCR grants, international donors.
   - Partnerships: UNHCR, local government agencies, community organizations.

2. Help for Progress (HfP)
   - Reach: National coverage; operates in Belmopan and rural areas.
   - Mission: Improve livelihoods and advocate for inclusion and poverty reduction, supporting the youth, refugees, and the needy.
   - Services:
     - Emergency shelter and humanitarian aid (groceries, housing, medical care, documentation, education).
     - Psychosocial counseling and reintegration support.
     - Skills training, small business development, and ESL programs.
   - Impact: Partnered with UNHCR since 2019; scholarships for vocational training; ongoing psychosocial support.
   - Funding: UNHCR grants, international donors, project-based funding.
   - Partnerships: UNHCR, CET (Center for Employment Training), local civil society networks.

3. CDF/IOM Migrant Hub
   - Reach: Migrant-focused services in Belize City and rural areas.
   - Mission: Support safe, orderly migration and reduce risks of human trafficking.
   - Services:
     - Migration information and legal guidance.
     - Assistance with immigration forms and documentation.
     - Referrals for voluntary return and reintegration programs.

- Impact: Free services for migrants and deportees; public education on migrant rights.
- Funding: IOM support, international donors.
- Partnerships: IOM, local NGOs, embassies.

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Belize does not guarantee free legal aid specifically for deported individuals under its current legal aid framework.

- Legal aid is means-tested and primarily covers serious criminal and certain civil matters.
- Immigration and deportation cases generally fall outside the scope of the Legal Aid Act unless linked to criminal charges or family law.
- Support for migrants and deportees often comes from NGOs and international partners (UNHCR, IOM) rather than direct government provision.
  - UNHCR has a website to provide support to refugees and asylum-seekers in Belize. These resources are primarily directed at non-Belizean refugees.
  - IOM through the Migrant Information Hub says it provides up to date information on migration procedures. This link includes all their contact information
    - Our Facebook at www.fb.com/childdevelopmentfoundation
    - Call us or send a text message via the contact number at +501-613-7211
    - WhatsApp us at +501-613-7211
    - Schedule an appointment

Source:

Act-No-15-of-2023-Legal-Aid-Act.pdf

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

International legal framework

- Since 1990 Belize has been both a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to its 1967 Protocol. These core instruments shape Belize's asylum and refugee protection system.
- Belize has also acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 2006 and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2015: Influenced nationality and documentation policies.
- Belize ratified the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), with reservations. Those pertinent to this issue are:
  - (b) The Government of Belize reserves the right not to apply in full the guarantee of free legal assistance in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of article 14, since, while it accepts the principle contained in that paragraph and at present applies it in certain defined cases, the problems of implementation are such that full application cannot be guaranteed at present;
  - (c) The Government of Belize recognizes and accepts the principle of compensation for wrongful imprisonment contained in paragraph 6 of article 14, but the problems of implementation are such that the right not to apply that principle is presently reserved." (UNTC)

Regional legal framework

- Regionally, Belize is part of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Global Forum on Migration Development (GFMD), and the Global Compact on Migration. It is a member state of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), which is a regional consultative process on migration in Central and North America.

National Legal Framework

- The national framework on protection of refugees in Belize is based upon the country's Constitution of 1981 and its national Refugees Act, Chapter 165 of the Laws of Belize, which was adopted in 1991.
  - These instruments regulate categories of immigrants, passports, entry permits, permanent residency, permanent employment, kinds of temporary permits, and duties of immigrants entering Belize.
- In addition, there is the Nationality Act (Chapter 161, revised in 2011) and the Aliens Act (Chapter 159, revised in 2011), which define the conditions of entry, movement, stay, and work of aliens who are third-country nationals.
- The Immigration Act: Governs entry/deportation; subject to Refugees Act protections.

Sources:

Belize Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

Belize | Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Government-Led Initiatives:

- Legal Advice and Services Centre
- Administered by: Ministry of the Attorney General.
- Purpose: Provides affordable legal aid to individuals who cannot afford private attorneys.
- Services:
  - Legal consultations on matters including divorce, probate/succession, adoptions, family matters, criminal matters, civil matters, traffic matters, land matters, power of attorney, etc.
  - Fees are charged on a set scale but are far below private practice rates. Fees are sometimes waived for the very poor or indigent, based on a means-test.
  - There is a consultation fee of BZ$50 to see an attorney, which will only be waived in cases of extreme need.
- Offices:
  - General office – Belize City
  - District office – Orange Walk Town
- Appointments: The offices provide walk-in services, or an appointment can be made through the following contact information:

Belize City Office (General Office)

+(501) 227-3442
+(501) 227-3444
+(501) 207-2991
+(501) 227-0581(fax)
lib@btl.net
28A Regent Street

Orange Walk Office (District Office)

+(501) 322-3685
Ronier96@gmail.com
Corner of Baker Street

Sources:

- The Attorney General's Ministry of Belize - The AGM
- The Legal Advice and Services Centre - Part One: Expanding Access to Affordable Legal Services in Belize | United Nations in Belize
- MIRPS National Action Plan:
  - What is it: MIRPS is the comprehensive framework that Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama agreed to implement by adopting the 2017 San Pedro Sula declaration. It is the concrete application of the Global Compact on Refugees
  - Mission: Strengthen legal protection mechanisms for forcibly displaced persons; ensure asylum seekers are provided essential information, promote understanding amongst the general population of the right to asylum and foster a more tolerant climate; promote access to education, jobs, etc.

Programs:

- Assist asylum seekers on applications and provide social care to vulnerable families to assess needs and connect people to state resources;
- Expanded Amnesty Program for Residency Regularization and assist applicants;
- Community engagement with schools

Sources:

- The MIRPS - MIRPS
- Belize - MIRPS
- Belize - MIRPS Action Plan (PDF)
- Joint Work Plan (IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR): Mobile Hubs provide information on migration, asylum, family reunification, and legal processes.

NGO and International Programs

- UNFPA Mobile Legal Clinics
- Implemented by: UNFPA Belize with Human Rights Commission of Belize under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.
- Services:
  - One-on-one legal advice on family law, property, and immigration.
  - Delivered through mobile centers in rural and hard-to-reach communities.
  - Impact: Assisted 145 individuals with legal counseling and case management.
  - Help for Progress: Legal accompaniment, ESL training, vocational scholarships, rights education, psychosocial counseling.
  - Human Rights Commission of Belize: Human rights education campaigns, training for vulnerable groups including deportees.
  - CDF/IOM Migrant Hub: Public education on migrants' rights, legal assistance, and reintegration support.
  - UNHCR & Partners: Collaborates with NGOs to deliver legal assistance, counseling, and rights awareness sessions for asylum-seekers and refugees.

Sources:

- Joint Work Plan: Joint Agreement to Support Migrants, Refugees and Children in Belize Signed by IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR | United Nations in Belize
- Help for Progress: Help for Progress – Help for Progress, Belize
- HRCB: Human Rights Commission of Belize – Without Distinction, Human Rights for All
- CDF/IOM Hub: The CDF/IOM Migrant Hub

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Belize does not currently operate a formal government program specifically dedicated to helping deported individuals recover personal belongings left in the United States.

Border Patrol and ICE are required to have written policies and procedures to inventory, receive, and return a deportees funds, valuables, and personal property, and to provide a way for someone to report missing or damaged property. However, due to mishandling and poor record-keeping, belongings may not be damaged, lost, or not returned to the deportee.

However, several mechanisms and initiatives—both U.S.-based and Belizean—offer indirect assistance or resources that can be leveraged.

Power of Attorney

It is recommended to appoint a trusted family member or friend who will remain in the U.S. to have Power of Attorney, which is a legal document that will allow them as Agent to handle important financial matters related to belongings and assets, such as pay bills and manage bank accounts, manage mortgages or sell property, and sign legal documents on your behalf.

Sources:

- Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council
- ICE Detention Standards

- How Can I Protect My Property If I Am Detained or Deported? - North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic

Project Homecoming (U.S. Voluntary Departure Program)

Description: Project Homecoming, administered by U.S. immigration authorities, provides logistical support for individuals who opt for voluntary departure rather than forced removal. While its primary aim is to facilitate exit, it allows participants to arrange retrieval of personal belongings before departure.

Process: Register through the CBP Home Mobile App and follow the instructions.

Sources:

- USCIS Supports "Project Homecoming" Self-Deportation | USCIS
- CBP Home App | DHS

Bilateral Agreements

- Safe Third Country Agreement (2025): Belize and the U.S. signed an agreement focused on asylum processing and migration management. While it does not address property recovery, it includes provisions for financial and technical assistance to Belize for migration-related infrastructure for non-Belizean deportees from the U.S., which could indirectly support reintegration services. The agreement was signed but has not yet been ratified by the Belize Senate and so is not yet in effect.

Source:

Belize Signs Safe Third Country Agreement With United States – Government of Belize Press Office

Belizean Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program:

- Purpose: Encourages Belizeans who have been living abroad for at least 10 consecutive years to repatriate to Belize and invest locally. While primarily economic, the program facilitates importation of personal effects duty-free (up to $20,000 USD in value), which can help deportees who manage to ship belongings from the U.S. Diaspora returnees may also import personal tools of trade and one approved personal vehicle, free of import duties and taxes
- Process:
- Submit the following to the Ministry of Tourism (either by mail or email):
  - Completed application form
  - birth certificate,
  - marriage certificate (if applicable)
  - Belize passport, and
  - proof of residency out of Belize for the prior 10 years. The following documents are examples of acceptable proof of residency:
    - Tax returns
    - Social security reports/summary
    - Official school records
    - Leasing agreements
    - Official employer records (i.e. check stub)
    - Submit a signed copy of the Terms & Conditions agreement
    - Applicants must submit the applications either before or within 1 year of arrival to Belize.

Sources:

- Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program | bze-dc
- Application Form | Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

1. Property Ownership Rights:

Deportation does NOT extinguish property rights in the U.S.

Federal law allows non-citizens—including undocumented individuals—to own real estate and financial assets. A deportation order is a civil matter and does not trigger automatic forfeiture of legally acquired property.

Source:

Deportation and Property Ownership: What Happens to Assets? - LegalClarity

2. Wages and Bank Accounts:

Deportees retain ownership of wages and funds in U.S. accounts, but access becomes difficult due to:

- Bank policies requiring U.S. address.
- Risk of account closure when address changes to foreign.

Source:

https://www.nbcsandiego.com/nbc-7-responds-2/what-happens-to-peoples-belongings-when-theyre-deported/3737261/

NOTE:

Practical Recovery Is Rare:

There is little evidence or official data showing that deported individuals successfully recover property or wages after removal. Most success stories depend on pre-deportation planning (e.g., Power of Attorney, joint accounts, voluntary departure programs).

Bilateral Agreements:

Existing agreements between Belize and the U.S. (e.g., Safe Third Country Agreement, Repatriation Agreement) focus on migration and security—not asset recovery.

No treaty guarantees deportees' rights to reclaim property or wages.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

1. Safe Third Country Agreement (Signed October 2025, pending ratification)

Purpose:

- Establishes cooperation on asylum processing and migration management.
- Allows the U.S. to transfer certain asylum seekers to Belize for protection request examination.

Key Provisions:

- Absolute Veto: Belize retains full discretion to reject transfers.
- Restrictions: Limits on nationalities and a cap on the number of transferees.
- Security Screening: Comprehensive checks; no person deemed a threat to public safety or national security will be admitted.
- Financial & Technical Assistance: U.S. may provide support to strengthen Belize's migration and asylum systems.
- Duration: Initially valid for two years, subject to Senate ratification and operating procedures; either party may terminate early.

Sources:

Belize Signs Safe Third Country Agreement With United States – Government of Belize Press Office

Belize signs 'safe third country' agreement as part of Trump's immigration crackdown | PBS News

2. Government Statements on Repatriation Flights

Belize routinely coordinates with U.S. authorities for chartered flights returning Belizean nationals.

Procedures include verification of nationality, travel documentation, and processing upon arrival.

Emphasis on dignity and rights under international law; no mention of property or financial recovery.

Source:

Statement on the Return of Belizeans to Belize by the United States Government – Government of Belize Press Office

How Have These Agreements Evolved?

The Repatriation Agreement (informal operational arrangement) has existed for years, allowing the U.S. to deport Belizean nationals convicted of crimes after serving sentences. It was primarily security-focused and lacked humanitarian or reintegration provisions. Critics argue it contributed to gang violence and social instability in Belize.

Source:

The Repatriation Agreement: How U.S. Deportations Contribute to Belize's Crime Crisis - Skyview, Inc.

Recent Development – Safe Third Country Agreement (2025):

Signed in October 2025, this agreement represents a major shift from simple repatriation to regional migration management. It allows the U.S. to transfer certain asylum seekers to Belize for processing under international refugee law.

Evolutionary Features:

- Grounded in the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.
- Introduced humanitarian language, safeguards, and technical assistance commitments.
- Limited duration (two years) and subject to Senate ratification and operating procedures.

Source:

Belize Signs Safe Third Country Agreement With United States - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

3.4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review Belize's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Core International Standards

- Belize is a UN member so it is bound by international human rights law and refugee law.
  - Prohibition of Refoulement
  - Individual Assessment & Due Process
  - Voluntariness & Informed Consent

Belize's Treaty Commitments

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) – protects life, liberty, and security.
- Convention Against Torture (CAT) – prohibits return to torture.
- American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man (via OAS membership) – affirms rights to life, liberty, and due process.
- 1951 Refugee Convention & 1967 Protocol – enshrines non-refoulement and refugee protections

Belize is obligated to:

- Prevent refoulement.
- Ensure individualized assessments and due process.
- Conduct returns in a safe, dignified, and rights-based manner.
- Facilitate reintegration support.

However, implementation gaps remain, with documented violations such as arbitrary detention and inadequate return safeguards.

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

1. Role Prior to Removal

Belizean consulates in the U.S. provide essential services to nationals facing deportation:

Identity Verification and Documentation: Consulates confirm nationality and issue travel documents or renew passports to facilitate deportation logistics.

Legal Guidance and Rights Protection: They inform detainees of their rights, assist with consular notification under international law, and help connect individuals with legal representation.

Family Communication and Support: Consulates notify families about detention status and expected removal dates, reducing uncertainty and enabling preparation for reintegration.

Voluntary Departure Programs: Belizean authorities encourage undocumented nationals to use voluntary return programs (e.g., CBP Home app) to avoid forced removal. Participants may receive incentives such as a US$1,000 exit bonus and avoid detention-related stress.

Sources:

- USCIS Supports "Project Homecoming" Self-Deportation | USCIS

- 21 Belizeans deported from the U.S. — Embassy urges self-departure to avoid forced returns

2. Role After Removal

Once deportees arrive in Belize, consular coordination ensures a structured reception:

Reception and Screening: Consulates coordinate with Belize's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Police to verify identities and check for pending criminal cases. Deportees with Belizean charges are referred to judicial authorities.

Reintegration Support: Belize promotes programs like housing assistance, vocational training, and counseling for deportees. Officials emphasize reintegration rather than stigmatization, encouraging returnees to contribute to Belize's economy.

Humanitarian Assistance: Authorities assess deportees' family ties and provide referrals to social services. The Commissioner of Police stated that deportees should be "welcomed back home" and not treated as criminals.

Sources:

Hundreds of Belizeans to be affected by new U.S. Deportation Policy - The San Pedro Sun

Programa de Amnistía de Belize - MIRPS

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE

- The U.S. does not publicize the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to Belize. According to ICE's Administrative Arrest Statistics, between November to December 2024, 15 arrests were made of Belizean nationals. From October 2020 to December 2024, ICE reported 1,231 detentions of Belizean nationals and 495 removals, with 204 of those removals being in fiscal year 2024 and 2025. ICE's statistics are based on data only through December 2024, so this may not be an updated depiction of the number of individuals deported to Belize.
- 21-25 Belizeans were deported and returned to Belize in May 2025. Source: 21 Belizeans Deported on U.S. Government Charter Flight – Love FM Belize News & Music Power; Trump-Era Deportation Flight To Touch Down with 25 Belizeans Today | Greater Belize Media

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

It appears deportees are flown through commercial flights to Philip Goldson International Airport in Belize City.

Source:

Trump-Era Deportation Flight To Touch Down with 25 Belizeans Today | Greater Belize Media

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Major Cities Receiving Individuals:

- Belmopan
- Benque Viejo
- Bella Vista
- Belize City

Sources:

https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/110471

Belize - Migrants & Refugees Section

MIRPS National commitments.pdf

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Demographic profile of Belizeans deportees:

- Age: Majority are 25–45 years old, with some cases in late teens and into early 50s. This

aligns with Belize's working-age population (72.4% aged 14+; median age 25).

- Gender: Predominantly male. Belize's overall population is gender-balanced (49.2% male, 50.8% female), but deportation cases skew male.
- Family situation: Many deportees are parents of U.S.-born children or have spouses in the U.S., reflecting long-term settlement before removal.
- Education level: Most deportees have high school education or less. Belize's education statistics show secondary enrollment is common, but tertiary enrollment is low (only ~10,000 in college/university vs. 98,000 total students).
- Years in the U.S.A: significant portion lived in the U.S. for 10+ years, some since childhood, making reintegration harder.
- Other Characteristics: Some deported for criminal records, others for immigration violations; reintegration issues include employment barriers and stigma.

Sources:

UNHCR Belize Fact Sheet, April - June 2025 - Belize | ReliefWeb

PressRelease_2024-04-08_CensusLaunch.pdf

Population

MigrationandBelize.pdf

Belize | International Organization for Migration

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

According to reports, most of the deportees were removed for overstaying their visas or entering the U.S. illegally.

ComPol Says Belizean Deportees Should Be Welcomed Back Home - The San Pedro Sun

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Overview:

- Belize does not have a law explicitly requiring public reporting of deportation data.
- However, transparency and access provisions exist under the Freedom of Information Act.

Relevant Laws:

- Immigration Act & Amendments (2020): Regulates deportation procedures; reporting obligations are internal, not public. The Immigration Act and its amendments (e.g., Immigration Amendment Act No. 28 of 2020) outline procedures for deportation and removal but do not mandate public reporting of deportation figures.
- Refugees Act (Cap.165): Requires record-keeping and reports to Minister; no public disclosure mandate.
- Freedom of Information Act (Cap.13): Grants public right to request official documents, including immigration/deportation records, subject to exemptions. Section 6 of the Act requires the publication of certain categories of information, but deportation statistics are not explicitly listed. Instead, individuals or organizations must file formal requests to obtain such data.
- Fiscal Transparency Regulations (SI No.95 of 2010): Mandates publication of fiscal data; does not cover deportation statistics.

Sources:

- Immigration Amendment Act 2020 (PDF)
- Refugees Act (Cap. 165)
- Freedom of Information Act
- Fiscal Transparency Regulations

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Government Agencies Responsible for Deportation Data

- Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries: Oversees public security, monitors deportees with criminal records, coordinates reintegration.
- Department of Border Management & Immigration Services: Collects and manages immigration and deportation data; publishes official migration info.
- Refugees Department: Maintains records on refugees and protected persons under Refugees Act.

Legal Framework:

- Immigration Act & Amendments (2020): Defines deportation procedures and departmental responsibilities.
- Refugees Act (Cap.165): Requires reporting and record-keeping on refugee cases.

Sources:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries | Belize
- Belize – Official Immigration Website
- Refugee Department – Belize
- Refugees Act (PDF)
- Immigration Amendment Act 2020

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Belize has a *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)* enacted in 1994, which gives the public the right to access official records held by public authorities, including immigration and deportation data, subject to certain exemptions. These are outlined in Part IV of the Act and include:

1. National Security

a) Information that could prejudice the defense or security of Belize.

2. International Relations

a) Records that could harm Belize's relations with other countries or international organizations.

3. Law Enforcement

a) Data that could:

i) Interfere with investigations or prosecutions.

ii) Reveal confidential sources.

iii) Facilitate the commission of an offense.

4. Personal Privacy

a) Information that would disclose personal details about individuals without their consent.

5. Commercial Confidentiality

a) Trade secrets or commercially sensitive information provided to the government.

6. Cabinet Documents

a) Records of Cabinet deliberations or decisions.

7. Legal Professional Privilege

a) Communications protected by attorney-client privilege.

8. Health and Safety

a) Information that could endanger life or physical safety.

9. Implication for Deportation Data

a) Aggregate statistics (e.g., number of deportations per year) are usually accessible.

10. Individual-level data (names, addresses, reasons for deportation) is typically exempt under personal privacy and sometimes law enforcement provisions.

The Request Process according to the FOIA consists of the following steps:

Step 1: Submit a written request to the relevant public authority (e.g., Ministry of Home Affairs or Immigration Department).

- Include:
  - Your name and contact details

- Description of the information requested (e.g., deportation statistics for a specific period)

Step 2: Timeframe for response:

- The authority must respond within 14 days (can be extended to 28 days).

Step 3: Fees:

- A small administrative fee may apply for copying or processing.

Source:

The Laws of Belize for more information.

It is important to mention that requests can be denied under FOIA exemptions, such as:

- National security
- Law enforcement
- Personal privacy

For deportation data, denial often occurs if:

- the request involves personal identifiers of deported individuals.
- It is considered sensitive for public safety.

Appeals are possible under Section 18 of the FOIA.

If your request is denied, you can appeal to the Ombudsman or seek judicial review in the Supreme Court.

The Ombudsman has authority to investigate complaints about refusal to disclose information.

For more information, access *The Ombudsman Office*.

Additional Official Sources

- Belize Immigration Department:

  Belize – Official Immigration Website

  (Check for deportation statistics or FOI request forms)

- Ministry of Home Affairs:

  The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries | Belize

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Brazil

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Brazil

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

For Brazilian nationals deported from the United States, the federal government of Brazil has established a program called “Aqui é Brasil”. This initiative provides a coordinated and humane response to forced deportation and repatriation. It reflects the State’s commitment to dignity and the protection of human rights.

Upon arrival in Brazil, deportees are welcomed through a structured operation that includes:

- Psychosocial support
- Basic hygiene kits
- Food assistance
- Transportation to their place of origin
- Specialized care for vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and people with disabilities

The program is managed by multiple government agencies, including the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and others.

You can find more information at “Aqui é Brasil”: Governo Federal lança programa de acolhimento humanitário aos repatriados e deportados — Secretaria de Comunicação Social

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Several organizations and platforms offer direct support to deported individuals:

- UNHCR Brazil: Provides free services to asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons. Their platform includes legal guidance, housing support, and access to healthcare and education: UNHCR Brazil - Information for asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons
- Brazil Visa Solutions: Offers detailed guidance on seeking asylum in Brazil, including legal steps, rights, and available support: https://brazilvisasolutions.com/asylum-in-brazil/
- Generis Online: Explains the deportation process under Law No. 13.445/2017, including legal grounds, appeal options, and the role of legal representation: Understanding Deportation and Removal Procedures in Brazil
- Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance Program (AVRR): Guidance and logistical support for return; Issuance of documents and purchase of tickets e Reintegration allowance (entrepreneurship, education, health). Official website of IOM Brazil: https://brazil.iom.int/pt-br/programa-de-apoio-ao-retorno-voluntario-e-reintegracao-avrr

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

- Deportation flights often involve inhumane conditions, including handcuffing, lack of water, and malfunctioning air conditioning. Some passengers have fainted due to heat and stress.

1. Limited Reception Infrastructure

The reception center in Confins is a single location, insufficient to support the thousands of deportees arriving across Brazil.

No nationwide reintegration program exists to help deportees find housing, employment, or mental health support.

2. Lack of Legal and Psychological Support

Many deportees return traumatized, especially after long detentions and harsh flight conditions.

There is no formal system to provide legal aid or psychological counseling upon arrival.

Brazil says treatment of deportees violates agreement with the US | Foreign Affairs | valorinternational

Brazilians Thrust Into US Deportation Spotlight

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Brazil has significantly advanced its migration and refugee policies in 2024 and 2025, with a strong humanitarian focus:

- National Policy on Migration, Refuge, and Statelessness: Brazil is actively discussing the establishment of a comprehensive national policy to support migrants, refugees, and stateless persons. This policy aims to ensure dignity, rights, and economic inclusion for these populations. Brazilian policy for migrants, refugees, stateless people advanced in 2024 — Secretaria de Comunicação Social
- Reception and Humanitarian Assistance Centers: In response to reports of mistreatment of deported Brazilians on repatriation flights, the government ordered the creation of a Deportation Reception Center to provide immediate humanitarian support Brazil Orders Deportation Reception Center Amid Flight Handcuff Controversy - Newsweek
- Diplomatic Coordination with the US: Brazil has proposed forming a bilateral working group with the United States to address deportation-related issues and avoid diplomatic friction. This includes improving the treatment of deportees and coordinating repatriation logistics. Strategy for deported individuals aims to avoid confrontation with US | Politics | valorinternational
- Professional Integration Measures:
  - In May 2024, the University of Brasília (UnB) announced fee exemptions for diploma revalidation for refugees and stateless persons.
  - Migrants who completed higher education in Brazil can now apply for residence permits for work, aligning immigration policy with labor market needs. Brazilian policy for migrants, refugees, stateless people advanced in 2024 — Secretaria de Comunicação Social
- Technical and Language Training: A cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Federation of Muslim Associations of Brazil (FAMBRAS) was signed to offer language support, professional training, and healthcare programs for migrants and refugees. Brazilian policy for migrants, refugees, stateless people advanced in 2024 — Secretaria de Comunicação Social

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Brazil has taken significant steps to establish legal and policy frameworks for the reception and reintegration of deported individuals, especially in response to recent international deportation incidents and broader migration trends.

Key Laws and Policies

1. Migration Law – Lei nº 13.445/2017
   - This law governs the entry, stay, and rights of migrants in Brazil.
   - It emphasizes human rights, non-discrimination, and due process, and applies to both immigrants and returning nationals.
   - It includes provisions for assisted voluntary return, residence permits, and social integration support [1].
2. National Policy on Migration, Refuge, and Statelessness (Política Nacional de Migrações, Refúgio e Apatridia)
   - Currently under development, this policy aims to consolidate Brazil's approach to migration and returnee support.
   - It includes plans for economic inclusion, diploma revalidation, and professional integration for returnees and refugees [1].
3. "This is Brazil" Program (2025)
   - A nationwide initiative launched by the Brazilian Federal Government in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

- It provides comprehensive support for nationals returning in vulnerable situations, including:
- Mental health and psychosocial care
- Healthcare, shelter, food, and transportation
- Civil documentation and family reunification
- Long-term social and economic reintegration [2]
- The program also strengthens migration governance and data collection to inform public policy.

4. Deportee Reception Center Initiative (2025)

- In response to the mistreatment of deported Brazilians on a US flight, Brazil announced the creation of a reception center for deportees.
- The center will offer humane treatment, reintegration support, and essential services to uphold the dignity of returnees [3].

Institutional Support

- Ministry of Justice and Public Security and Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU) play key roles in legal protection and reintegration.
- Partnerships with civil society and international organizations (e.g., UNHCR, IOM) enhance service delivery and rights awareness.
- Would you like a breakdown of how these policies are implemented in São Paulo or how they intersect with labor and employment law?

5. A new complementary legislative proposal has emerged:

6. (Bill) PL 96/2025 – Reintegra Brasil: currently under consideration in the Chamber of Deputies, it proposes the creation of specialized centers for reception, social, legal, psychological, and medical assistance, as well as policies for professional training and microcredit to support economic reintegration

References

[1] Brazilian policy for migrants, refugees, stateless people advanced in ...

[2] Brazilian Federal Government Partners with IOM to Strengthen Returnee ...

[3] Brazil Plans Deportation Reception Center After Flight Handcuff Incident

[4] Projeto cria programa para acolher brasileiros retornados ao país - Notícias - Portal da Câmara dos Deputados

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

1. Constitutional and Human Rights Protections

Brazil's Federal Constitution guarantees social rights to all individuals within its territory, including:

- Health
- Education
- Work
- Housing
- Social assistance

These rights apply equally to refugees, asylum seekers, and deported individuals, as confirmed by the UNHCR Brazil office.

2. Access to Public Services

Deported individuals, especially those who return under forced repatriation, can access:

- The Unified Health System (SUS) for free public healthcare
- Public education, including adult literacy and vocational training
- Employment services, though formal employment may require updated documentation
- Social assistance programs, particularly for vulnerable populations

These services are not contingent on immigration status but may require valid Brazilian identification documents, which returnees are encouraged to obtain with support from government programs like "Aqui é Brasil".

Deported individuals facing legal challenges (e.g., loss of documents, custody issues, or property claims) are entitled to free legal assistance through the Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU).

3. Limitations and Gaps

- There is no specific federal law that mandates comprehensive reintegration services for deported individuals.
- Housing and employment support are not guaranteed by law but may be offered through municipal programs or NGO partnerships.
- Property left behind in the US is typically not recoverable, and neither the US nor Brazilian governments assume responsibility for it.

Aqui é Brasil — Ministério dos Direitos Humanos e da Cidadania

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers - UNHCR Brazil

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Upon arrival in Brazil, deported individuals may face certain procedures, but the specifics can vary depending on several factors, including the individual's nationality, the reason for deportation, and the current policies in place.

Brazil's immigration laws and regulations can be complex, and the country has been known to have a relatively lenient approach to immigration.

However, in recent years, there has been a shift towards stricter immigration policies. When deported individuals arrive in Brazil, they may be subject to:

1. **Screening and questioning**: They may be questioned by immigration officials about the reasons for their deportation, their travel history, and their intentions in Brazil.
2. **Documentation checks**: They may be required to provide documentation, such as a valid passport, visa, or proof of residence.
3. **Health checks**: They may undergo a medical examination to ensure they do not pose a health risk to the Brazilian population. Regarding detention, Brazil has a system of immigrant detention centers, but they are not always used for deported individuals. Detention is typically used for individuals who:

a) **Pose a security risk**: Those who are considered a threat to national security, public order, or have a history of violent crimes.

b) **Have outstanding warrants**: Individuals with outstanding warrants or who are suspected of committing crimes in Brazil.

c) **Are unable to provide documentation**: Those who are unable to provide valid documentation or proof of residence. However, it's worth noting that detention is not always the default procedure for deported individuals. Many may be released into the community while their cases are processed or while they await further instructions. In some cases, deported individuals may be met by local authorities, social services, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide support and assistance with reintegration into Brazilian society.

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

In Brazil, deported individuals, like any Brazilian citizen, have the right to recover or renew their national identification documents. The process primarily involves the **Instituto Nacional de Identificação (INI)**, linked to the Federal Police, and the **Detran (Departamento Estadual de Trânsito)** for driver's licenses. Here's a breakdown of the legal mechanisms and practical steps:

1. General Principles and Legal Basis: * **Right to Identification:** Brazilian law guarantees every citizen the right to civil identification. Being deported does not revoke this fundamental right. * **No Specific "Deportee" Mechanism:** There isn't a unique legal mechanism exclusively for deported individuals to recover documents. They follow the standard procedures for obtaining duplicates or renewals, though they might face practical challenges related to proof of residence or specific documentation upon return. * **Federal Police (DPF) and State Civil Police:** The issuance of

the primary national identity document, the **Registro Geral (RG)**, falls under the purview of the state-level Civil Police, but the national system is coordinated by the Federal Police's INI.

2. Key Documents and How to Obtain Them: * **Registro Geral (RG - National Identity Card):** * **Issuing Authority:** State Civil Police (Instituto de Identificação). * **Procedure for Recovery/Renewal:** * **Loss/Theft:** The individual must first register a **Boletim de Ocorrência (B.O.)** – a police report – detailing the loss or theft of the document. This can often be done online or at any police station. * **Required Documents:** * Birth Certificate (Certidão de Nascimento) or Marriage Certificate (Certidão de Casamento) – original or certified copy. * CPF (Cadastro de Pessoas Físicas - Individual Taxpayer Registry) number. * Proof of Residence (Comprovante de Residência) – this can be a challenge for recent returnees. Options include utility bills in their name, a declaration from a relative or friend with a copy of their ID and proof of residence, or a hotel receipt. * 2x2 or 3x4 photos (check specific requirements of the state's Instituto de Identificação, as some now take photos digitally). * Payment of a fee (GRU - Guia de Recolhimento da União or state equivalent). Exemptions may exist for poverty. * **Special Considerations for Deported Individuals:** * **Lack of Proof of Residence:** This is often the biggest hurdle. As mentioned, a declaration from a host family or a relative, along with their ID and proof of residence, is commonly accepted. Some states might have specific provisions for individuals without fixed abode, but it's not a standard, widespread policy. * **Expedited Services:** There are no specific expedited services solely for deported individuals. The process follows the general queues and timelines. * **Legal Aid:** If facing difficulties, seeking assistance from a public defender's office (Defensoria Pública) or an NGO specializing in migrant rights can be beneficial. They can help with documentation and navigating bureaucracy. * **Cadastro de Pessoas Físicas (CPF - Individual Taxpayer Registry):** * **Issuing Authority:** Receita Federal do Brasil (Federal Revenue Service). * **Procedure for Recovery/Regularization:** * The CPF number is usually linked to the individual's birth certificate. If they have their birth certificate, they can usually recover their CPF number online, at Banco do Brasil, Caixa Econômica Federal, or Correios branches. * If the CPF is irregular (e.g., pending regularization due to absence), they might need to go to a Receita Federal office to regularize it. This typically requires an identity document (even a foreign one in some cases, or their birth certificate) and proof of address. * **Título de Eleitor (Voter ID):** * **Issuing Authority:** Tribunal Superior Eleitoral (TSE - Superior Electoral Court) / Regional Electoral Courts (TREs). * **Procedure:** If a Brazilian citizen has been outside the country for an extended period, their voter registration might be canceled. They would need to regularize their situation at an electoral zone office (cartório eleitoral). * **Required Documents:** RG, CPF, proof of residence. * **Carteira Nacional de Habilitação (CNH - National Driver's License):** * **Issuing Authority:** Detran (Departamento Estadual de Trânsito) of the respective state. * **Procedure for Recovery/Renewal:** * **Loss/Theft:** Requires a B.O. * **Renewal:** If expired, medical exams and psychological evaluations are typically required. * **Required Documents:** RG, CPF, proof of residence, previous CNH number (if renewing), and payment of fees. * **Special Considerations:** If a driver's license was issued abroad and the individual wants to convert it to a Brazilian CNH, there are specific procedures for that, but it's separate from recovering a lost Brazilian CNH.

3. Challenges and Potential Solutions: * **Lack of Documents from Abroad:** Deported individuals may return with very few personal documents. The most crucial document to have, or to obtain a certified copy of from family in Brazil, is their **birth certificate (Certidão de Nascimento)**. This is the foundational document for all other identification. * **Proof of Residence:** As noted, this is a significant hurdle. Strategies include: * Declaration from a family member/friend (with their ID and proof of address). * Temporary address at a shelter or NGO (some may provide letters). * Bank statement or official letter from a government program if they are receiving any aid. * **Financial Constraints:** Fees for documents can be a burden. Public defender offices (Defensoria Pública) can assist with obtaining fee waivers (isenção de taxas) for those who demonstrate financial hardship. * **Bureaucracy and Information:** Navigating the different agencies can be complex. Seeking help from public services, NGOs, or community centers can be very helpful.

4. Legal Aid and Support Organizations: * **Defensoria Pública da União (DPU) / Defensorias Públicas Estaduais:** Public defender offices provide free legal assistance to low-income individuals. They can help with administrative issues, documentation, and even judicial challenges if necessary. * **NGOs and Civil Society Organizations:** Many organizations work with migrants and returnees in Brazil, offering guidance, practical support, and

sometimes even temporary housing or access to legal services. Examples include Caritas and other human rights groups. * **Consulates/Embassies (if applicable, for foreign nationals):** While the question focuses on Brazilian nationals, for foreign nationals, their country's consulate would be the primary point of contact for identification documents. In summary, while there isn't a distinct "deportee" legal mechanism, Brazilian law ensures the right to identification for all its citizens. Deported individuals will follow the standard procedures for obtaining duplicates or renewals of their national documents, with particular attention to overcoming practical challenges like the lack of proof of residence or original foundational documents. Access to legal aid and support organizations is crucial for a smoother process.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Legal Status Upon Deportation to Brazil

Deported individuals arriving in Brazil are subject to a combination of administrative and judicial procedures, depending on the circumstances of their removal and their legal standing in Brazil.

1. Governing Law: Law No. 13.445/2017 – Brazilian National Immigration Law

   This law outlines the legal grounds and procedures for deportation, including:

   - Grounds for Deportation: Criminal convictions (e.g., trafficking, violent crimes), violations of immigration regulations, or threats to national security.
   - Administrative Process: Deportation is typically initiated by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security through administrative channels. Individuals may be detained and issued a deportation order.
   - Judicial Oversight: In certain cases, especially those involving asylum seekers or stateless persons, deportation may be challenged in court. Legal representation is available through the Public Defender's Office (DPU), which is notified of all deportation cases and provides legal advice and representation.

Procedural Rights and Legal Recourse

Deported individuals have access to several procedural safeguards:

- Right to Appeal: Individuals may appeal deportation orders through administrative or judicial channels.
- Legal Representation: The DPU ensures that migrants and refugees are informed of their rights and can access legal counsel.
- Humanitarian Considerations: Courts may consider humanitarian grounds, especially in cases involving family reunification, health issues, or statelessness.

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. Defensoria Pública da União (DPU)

Mission: Provide free legal assistance to individuals in vulnerable situations, including deportees.

Services: Legal representation in deportation and asylum cases

Strategic litigation and rights advocacy

Reach: Nationwide coverage with offices in all Brazilian states

Partners: Works with federal agencies, universities, and international bodies like UNHCR

Brazil Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

L13445

2. Instituto Adus

Mission: Promote the social, economic, and cultural reintegration of refugees and migrants in Brazil.

Services: Portuguese language classes

Job placement and professional training

Legal orientation and psychosocial support

Impact: Thousands of individuals supported annually

Offers services to migrants from over 40 nationalities

Partners: Collaborates with private companies, cultural ambassadors, and civil society networks

Adus - Instituto de Reintegração do Refugiado

3. Missão Paz

Mission: Provide shelter, legal aid, and integration support to migrants and refugees.

Services: Shelter (Casa do Migrante) for up to 110 people

Legal assistance in migration, labor, family, and social security law

Portuguese classes, psychological support, and social services

Impact: Assists individuals from over 70 nationalities annually

Partners: Works with Scalabrinian religious networks, universities, and IOM

Brazil Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

4. Centro de Direitos Humanos e Cidadania do Imigrante (CDHIC)

Mission: Promote human rights and citizenship for immigrants and refugees.

Services: Legal assistance and migration regularization

Social service orientation

Advocacy for decent working conditions

Partners: Engages with local governments, legal institutions, and community organizations

Brazil Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

5. ProMigra (USP Law School Project)

Mission: Promote and defend the rights of migrants through legal education and advocacy.

Services: Free legal assistance

Public awareness campaigns

Research and policy engagement

Partners: University of São Paulo, legal clinics, and civil society groups

Brazil Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

6. International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Brazil

Mission: Support safe and dignified migration and reintegration.

Services: Assisted voluntary return

Reintegration support

Mapping of services for deportees and trafficking survivors

Impact: Published a comprehensive Directory of Services for returnees in Brazil.

Partners: UK Government, Brazilian ministries, UN agencies.

directory-of-services-for-survivors-of-human-trafficking-and-forced-labour-returning-to-brazil.pdf

UNHCR Brazil

Mission: Protect refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.

Services: Emergency shelter, legal aid, and cash support

Advocacy and policy development

Partners: Civil society organizations, Brazilian government, private sector.

Brazil Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Article 4, IX of the Migration Law explicitly guarantees free legal assistance to migrants in

need, including in deportation, expulsion, and extradition proceedings:

Article 4º The migrant is guaranteed, within national territory and on equal terms with nationals, the inviolability of the rights to life, liberty, equality, security, and property. The following are also ensured:

IX – Full access to justice and free comprehensive legal assistance for those who demonstrate insufficient financial resources.

Article 51. Procedures leading to deportation must respect the principles of contradictory (the right to respond) and ample defense, as well as the guarantee of an appeal with suspensive effect (i.e., the deportation is paused until the appeal is resolved).

§1 The Federal Public Defender's Office (Defensoria Pública da União) must be notified, preferably by electronic means, to provide assistance to the individual being deported in all administrative deportation procedures.

§2 The absence of a response from the Federal Public Defender's Office, provided it was previously and properly notified, shall not prevent the execution of the deportation measure.

Within the Public Defender's Office (DPU), there is the Coordination for International Legal Assistance (CAJI), which is responsible for managing the provision of free international legal assistance to individuals in situations of legal and economic vulnerability, whether Brazilian nationals or migrants, in accordance with national legislation and the treaties and agreements signed by Brazil.

L13445

Coordenação de assistência Jurídica Internacional – CAJI – DPU – Direitos Humanos

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes, Brazil has incorporated international human rights and refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals, particularly through a combination of domestic legislation and adherence to international treaties and regional agreements.

Key Legal Instruments and Commitments

1. International Treaties and Conventions:

- Brazil is a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which establish the principle of non-refoulement—prohibiting the return of individuals to countries where they may face persecution[1].
- It has also ratified other core human rights treaties, including the Convention Against Torture, CEDAW, CRC, and the American Convention on Human Rights, reinforcing protections against inhumane treatment and ensuring due process[2].

2. Domestic Legislation:

- Law No. 9.474/1997 (Refugee Law) and Law No. 13.445/2017 (Migration Law) align Brazil's asylum and migration policies with international standards. These laws guarantee rights such as legal assistance, access to public services, and protection against arbitrary expulsion [1] [2].
- The principle of non-refoulement is explicitly upheld in Brazilian law, ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers cannot be returned to countries where their life or freedom would be at risk [3].
- The 1988 Federal Constitution enshrines the dignity of the human person as a foundation of the Republic and establishes the prevalence of human rights in international relations (Art. 4, II).

3. Regional Frameworks:

- Brazil has adopted the Cartagena Declaration (1984), which expands the definition of refugee to include those fleeing generalized violence or massive human rights violations. This broader definition is partially reflected in Brazil's Refugee Law [2].
- Brazil also endorsed the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action (2014), which emphasizes the integration of international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law into national frameworks, and calls for dignified treatment and due process in refugee status determinations [4].

4. Practical Protections:

- Refugees and asylum seekers in Brazil have the same rights as Brazilian citizens under Article 6 of the Constitution, including access to health, education, and work [3].

- Brazil provides legal safeguards against deportation or extradition for recognized refugees, except in cases involving national security or public order [3].
- Notable Practices
- Brazil has implemented accelerated asylum procedures for Venezuelans, recognizing them as prima facie refugees due to generalized human rights violations in their country [2].
- The country also allows family reunification and offers humanitarian visas for individuals who may not meet the strict refugee criteria but still require protection [3].

Would you like a summary of how these protections are applied in practice, such as during deportation proceedings or border controls?

References

[1] Understanding Refugee and Asylum Laws in Brazil

[2] Country Note BRAZIL - asileproject.eu

[3] Rights of refugees and asylum seekers - UNHCR Brazil

[4] Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, Brazil offers several legal education and rights-awareness programs for deported individuals and vulnerable migrants. These initiatives are primarily led by government institutions, universities, and civil society organizations.

Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU)

The DPU plays a central role in defending the rights of deported individuals, refugees, and migrants:

- Legal Representation: DPU is legally required to be notified of all deportation and expulsion cases, ensuring migrants receive legal advice and representation.
- Rights Awareness: Through its Migrants, Refugees, and Stateless Persons Working Group, DPU conducts outreach and education campaigns to inform migrants of their rights.
- Strategic Litigation: DPU engages in public interest litigation to challenge unjust policies and improve access to services.
- Training Programs: DPU trains public officials and civil society actors involved in migrant integration and protection.
- Partnerships: Works closely with UNHCR and other stakeholders to improve refugee protection systems.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) offers reintegration support for returning migrants:

- Includes legal advice, psychosocial support, housing, and access to public services.
- Works with the National Referral Mechanism and Human Trafficking Response Centers.
- Maintains a directory of services for returnees, including deported individuals.

Brazil: Legal advice and representation - ACSG

Brazil Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

Brazilian Migration Law: L13445

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Deported individuals from the US, including Brazilians, face significant challenges in recovering personal belongings left behind. However, there are programs, legal tools, and humanitarian resources that can help mitigate these issues.

1. Legal Ownership vs. Practical Access

- US law does not revoke property rights upon deportation, meaning deported individuals still legally own their homes, vehicles, bank accounts, and personal items [1].
- The main challenge is managing or retrieving these assets remotely, especially without prior legal arrangements.

2. Project Homecoming (US Program)

- Offers voluntary exit assistance, including:
  - Free flights

- Travel document support
- Airport staff assistance
- A financial “exit bonus”

- However, it also includes strict enforcement measures, such as property confiscation for non-compliance [1].

3. Power of Attorney

- A critical legal tool allowing a trusted person in the US to manage property, access bank accounts, and retrieve belongings.
- It should ideally be set up before deportation, as doing so afterward is much more difficult [1].

4. Humanitarian Support: No More Deaths (No Más Muertes)

- Provides best practices for helping deported individuals recover detained money and belongings [2].
- Strategies include:
  - Reissuing checks to third parties (family or organizations)
  - Coordinating with detention facilities
  - Using notarized letters or credible witnesses for identity verification
  - Sending recovered funds via bank deposit or money transfer
- Emphasizes transparency, respect for individual agency, and safe recovery methods.

5. Brazilian Government Initiatives

- Brazil has proposed a working group with the US to address deportation-related issues, including the recovery of belongings [3].
- A humanitarian assistance post is being established to support deported Brazilians, potentially including help with property recovery.

Practical Recommendations for Deported Individuals

- Before Deportation:
  - Set up a power of attorney
  - Document and organize all assets
  - Transfer funds to accessible accounts
  - Consider selling or transferring ownership of major assets
- After Deportation:
  - Contact humanitarian organizations like No More Deaths
  - Work with family or legal representatives in the US.
  - Use consular services for notarization and legal support

Would you like help drafting a checklist or legal guide for Brazilian nationals facing deportation risks?

References

[1] Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation?

[2] Best Practices.docx

[3] Strategy for deported individuals aims to avoid confrontation with US...

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

Post-Deportation Claims in the US

While it is legally possible to pursue wage claims after deportation, it is logistically difficult:

Most deported workers lose access to legal representation and evidence.

US labor agencies rarely follow up on claims once the worker has left the country.

Some US states and agencies are exploring remote claim mechanisms, but these are not yet widespread.

Emerging Protections

Recent US policies allow temporary visas or deferred removal for undocumented workers pursuing labor claims. However, these must be initiated before deportation.

Legal Mechanisms in Brazil for Asset Recovery

Civil Asset Recovery

Brazilian courts allow individuals to file civil lawsuits to recover assets or enforce foreign judgments:

- Claims can be filed in state or federal courts, depending on the nature of the case.
- If the defendant (e.g., US employer) has no domicile in Brazil, the case can be filed in the plaintiff's jurisdiction.
- Time limits vary: 3 to 10 years, depending on the type of claim.

Recognition of Foreign Judgments

Brazil recognizes and enforces foreign court decisions through a process called homologação at the Superior Court of Justice (STJ). This is useful if:

A deported individual wins a wage claim in the US.

They want to enforce that judgment in Brazil (e.g., against US-based assets or companies operating in Brazil).

Evidence and Cooperation

Brazilian courts can compel third parties to provide documents or testimony. However, international cooperation (e.g., subpoenas to US entities) requires mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs) or diplomatic channels.

Practical Steps for Deported Individuals

- Document Everything: Keep pay stubs, contracts, messages, and witness contacts.
- Seek Legal Aid: Contact organizations like ProMigra, DPU, or Missão Paz for legal support in Brazil.
- File a Claim in the US: If possible, file a wage claim before deportation or through a US-based attorney.
- Explore Enforcement in Brazil: If a US judgment is obtained, seek homologation in Brazil for enforcement.

Can an Illegal Immigrant Sue an Employer for Unpaid Wages?

Migrant Workers' Access to Justice for Wage Theft — Migrant Justice Institute

Asset Recovery in Brazil - Lexology

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

Yes, Brazil and the United States have entered into bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) that govern the repatriation of deported individuals, particularly undocumented Brazilian nationals.

Key Bilateral Agreement: 2018 Repatriation Pact

- Signed by: Presidents Michel Temer (Brazil) and Donald Trump (US) in 2018.
- Purpose: To authorize and facilitate repatriation flights for undocumented Brazilian immigrants who have received final removal orders in the US.
- Implementation:
  - The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducts chartered deportation flights to Brazil.
  - From 2020 to 2024, Brazil received 94 repatriation flights, carrying 7,637 Brazilians [1].
- Controversies:
  - Some flights involved inhumane treatment, such as transporting deportees in handcuffs and under poor conditions, prompting criticism from Brazilian authorities [1].
  - Brazil emphasized that deportations must respect fundamental human rights, especially for non-criminal individuals.

Additional Bilateral Mechanisms

- The US Department of State and Brazil maintain ongoing dialogues on human rights, migration, and law enforcement cooperation [2].
- These include:
  - Human Rights Dialogues addressing deportation practices and migrant protections.
  - Working groups on migration governance and deportee treatment.

- Information-sharing agreements to track and support deported individuals.

Summary of Key Provisions

Repatriation Authorization Allows ICE to conduct removal flights to Brazil for undocumented nationals. Human Rights Safeguards Brazil insists on humane treatment and respect for deportees' dignity. Information Exchange Brazil and the US share data on deported individuals to facilitate reintegration. Reception Coordination Brazil has begun establishing reception centers and support programs for returnees.

Would you like a policy brief or presentation summarizing these agreements for internal use or stakeholder engagement?

References

[1] Deportations of Brazilians from US increased after 2018 agreement

[2] US Relations With Brazil - United States Department of State

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Brazil's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation are grounded in a combination of human rights treaties, refugee law, and bilateral agreements, and are reinforced by global standards promoted by organizations like the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Brazil's Core International Obligations

1. Human Rights Treaties

Brazil is party to several key international instruments that shape its repatriation responsibilities:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Convention Against Torture (CAT)
- American Convention on Human Rights

These treaties obligate Brazil to:

- Prohibit inhumane or degrading treatment during repatriation.
- Ensure due process and individual assessment before any return [1].
- Uphold the principle of non-refoulement, which forbids returning individuals to countries where they may face persecution, torture, or other serious harm [1].

2. Refugee Law

Brazil adheres to:

The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

The Cartagena Declaration, which expands refugee definitions to include those fleeing generalized violence or human rights violations

These frameworks require Brazil to:

- Avoid forced returns of refugees or asylum seekers.
- Ensure that repatriation decisions consider the best interests of children, family unity, and individual vulnerabilities [1].

Bilateral Agreements and Enforcement

Brazil's 2018 repatriation agreement with the US mandates that deported individuals be treated with dignity, respect, and humanity during repatriation [2]. However, recent incidents—such as the use of shackles and poor flight conditions—have prompted Brazil to demand clarifications and reaffirm its commitment to humane treatment.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry (Itamaraty) emphasized that:

- Repatriation must not involve degrading treatment.
- The government will monitor US immigration policies to ensure compliance with agreed standards [2].

IOM Guidelines and Brazil's Alignment

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) promotes a rights-based and development-oriented approach to return and reintegration.

Brazil aligns with these principles through its national programs and partnerships:

- Individual-centered approach: Prioritizing the well-being and rights of returnees
- Sustainable reintegration: Supporting economic, social, and psychological stability
- Protection pathways: Especially for vulnerable groups like children, victims of trafficking, and those with health needs [3]

Summary of Brazil's Safe Repatriation Obligations

Non-refoulement No return to countries where individuals face serious harm Due Process Individual assessment and legal safeguards before repatriation Dignified Treatment Humane conditions during transport and reception Child Protection Best interests of the child must guide repatriation decisions Sustainable Reintegration Economic and social support for returnees to rebuild lives Monitoring and Accountability Oversight of repatriation practices and bilateral compliance

Would you like a policy memo or slide deck summarizing these obligations for internal legal or advocacy use?

References

[1] Human rights in the context of return

[2] Brazil says treatment of deportees violates agreement with the US...

[3] Safe, dignified and rights-based return and reintegration

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Brazil's consulates in the United States play a critical role in supporting nationals facing deportation, both before removal and after repatriation, in line with Brazil's diplomatic and human rights commitments.

Consular Support Prior to Deportation

Brazilian consulates are responsible for:

1. Issuing Travel Documents

- When a Brazilian national is ordered deported and lacks valid documentation, consulates issue certificates of nationality to enable repatriation [1].

2. Monitoring Treatment and Conditions

- Consulates coordinate with US authorities to ensure humane treatment of deportees, especially during detention and transport.
- Following reports of shackling and mistreatment on deportation flights, Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Itamaraty) demanded clarifications from the US and reaffirmed that repatriation must be dignified, respectful, and humane[2].

3. Diplomatic Advocacy

- Consular officials engage in diplomatic dialogue with US agencies to protect the rights of Brazilian nationals, regardless of immigration status.
- Brazil has created a bilateral working group with the US Embassy to exchange real-time information on deportation flights and ensure proper treatment.

Consular Role After Deportation

Once individuals return to Brazil, consulates help facilitate:

1. Reception Coordination

- Brazil has established a humanitarian reception post at Confins International Airport (Minas Gerais), the main destination for US deportation flights [3].
- This center provides basic services, including food, shelter, medical care, and documentation support.

2. Reintegration Support

- While consulates themselves do not manage reintegration programs, they coordinate with Brazilian agencies and NGOs to connect returnees with:
  - Legal aid
  - Psychosocial support
  - Employment and housing resources

3. Human Rights Monitoring

- Consulates report on deportation practices and advocate for systemic improvements, especially when deportees face abuse or procedural violations.

Summary of Consular Functions

Pre-deportation Issue travel documents, monitor detention conditions, advocate for humane treatment During deportation Coordinate with US and Brazilian authorities to ensure safe transport Post-deportation Support reception logistics, refer returnees to reintegration services, monitor rights violations

References

[1] Exclusive: Brazil facilitates deportation of its nationals after US...

[2] Brazil says treatment of deportees violates agreement with the US...

[3] Brazil announces deal with US to exchange information on deportees

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

The number of people deported from the US to Brazil from November 2024 to the present date is not exact.

However, there is information that 1,859 Brazilians were deported in 2024.

US number of Brazilian deportees 2024| Statista

Besides, on January 24, 2025, a repatriation flight carried 88 Brazilians, marking one of the first deportations under President Trump's new term.

Deportations of Brazilians from US increased after 2018 agreement | Agência Brasil

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

During recent deportation operations from the United States to Brazil, deportation flights have arrived at the following Brazilian airports:

1. Eduardo Gomes International Airport (Manaus, Amazonas)

- Role: Served as an emergency landing site due to technical issues on a deportation flight originally bound for another city.
- Incident: On January 25, 2025, a US deportation flight carrying 88 Brazilians landed in Manaus unexpectedly. Passengers were reportedly handcuffed and subjected to poor conditions, prompting Brazilian authorities to intervene and remove restraints immediately upon arrival [1].

2. Confins International Airport (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais)

- Primary Destination: This airport has become the main arrival point for deportation flights from the US.
- Reception Measures:
  - The Brazilian Air Force (FAB) transported deportees from Manaus to Confins to ensure a dignified and safe arrival.
  - The Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship, Macaé Evaristo, personally welcomed the returnees.
  - A reception center is being established at Confins to provide humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, medical care, and documentation support [2].

Summary Table

Eduardo Gomes International Airport Manaus, Amazonas Emergency landing site for deportation flights Confins International Airport Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais Primary reception hub for deported Brazilians

References

[1] Brazil outraged after US deportees arrive handcuffed, Colombia to ...

[2] FAB flight bringing 88 Brazilian nationals deported from US arrives in ...

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Deported individuals arriving in Brazil from the United States are typically resettled in major urban centers that have established infrastructure for migrant integration and access to public services. Based on migration patterns, government programs, and civil society support, the following cities are key destinations:

1. São Paulo

- Largest migrant population in Brazil: Over 360,000 migrants, accounting for 40% of the national total [1].
- Integration infrastructure: São Paulo has a robust municipal policy for migrants, including:
  - Legal aid and documentation support
  - Access to healthcare and education
  - Employment and entrepreneurship programs
  - Language and vocational training
- Civil society support: NGOs like Missão Paz and the Franciscan Solidarity Service provide reintegration services.

2. Rio de Janeiro

- Hosts a significant number of migrants and refugees.
- Offers public services and legal support through municipal programs and partnerships with organizations like Cáritas RJ.
- Active in migrant rights advocacy and social inclusion efforts.

3. Brasília

- As the federal capital, Brasília is a hub for policy implementation and refugee processing.
- Home to CONARE (National Committee for Refugees) and other federal agencies.
- Hosts integration programs through universities and government partnerships.

4. Recife

- Known for its inclusive municipal policies and migrant support networks.
- Offers legal orientation, housing assistance, and job placement services.

5. Belo Horizonte (Confins Region)

- Primary arrival point for deportation flights from the US.
- The government is establishing a reception center in Confins to provide humanitarian aid and reintegration support [2].

6. Manaus

- Occasionally receives deportation flights due to logistical issues.
- Has experience managing migration flows, especially from Venezuela, and offers emergency support services.

References

[1] Migrants in Brazil's biggest city: How São Paulo reduced crime ...

[2] Brazil to Set Up Reception Center for Deportees After Accusing US of ...

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Recent Demographic Information on Brazilians Deported from the US

Recent data indicates that most deported Brazilians from the US are men between 18 and 49 years old, with a minority of women and children. A significant portion had lived in the US for only a few months, working long hours under precarious conditions. Upon returning to Brazil, most went to live with relatives or friends. Minas Gerais and Rondônia are among the most common destination states.

Demographic Profile of Deportees (2020–2025)

Age:

The predominant age group is between 18 and 49 years, representing the vast majority of deportees.

Gender:

Over 80% of repatriated individuals are men.

Family Composition:

Only 13.36% of deportees arrive in family groups, indicating that most are traveling alone.

Destination in Brazil:

The state of Minas Gerais is the primary destination, followed by Rondônia, São Paulo, Goiás, and Pará.

Conditions in the US and Upon Return

Length of Stay:

Many (26.05%) lived in the US for short periods, ranging from less than three months to six months.

Working Conditions:

Around 80% of repatriated individuals worked exhausting shifts of eight hours or more per day, often in precarious environments.

Reception in Brazil:

The majority (nearly 75%) went to live with family or friends upon return.

Imigração para os Estados Unidos: 7 gráficos que mostram quais imigrantes Trump quer deportar - BBC News Brasil

Brazilians Thrust Into US Deportation Spotlight

Article: Brazilian Immigrants in the United States | migrationpolicy.org

Mais de 11 mil brasileiros foram deportados dos EUA nos últimos seis anos

Número de brasileiros ilegais deportados pelos EUA em 8 meses já é maior do que nos últimos 3 anos

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

- Unauthorized Entry (Border Detention)

  A growing number of Brazilians attempt to cross the US-Mexico border without authorization.

  These individuals are often detained by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and placed in expedited removal or asylum processing.

Brazilians Thrust Into US Deportation Spotlight

- Asylum Denials

  Brazilians seeking asylum due to violence, persecution, or discrimination may be deported if their claims are denied.

  The US has tightened asylum eligibility, especially under recent policy shifts.

Deportation of Brazilians: a silent tragedy - Latinoamérica 21

- Administrative Agreements Between Brazil and the US.

  A 2018 bilateral agreement streamlined deportations by allowing chartered repatriation flights directly to Brazil. This has led to a sharp increase in deportations, especially under stricter enforcement policies.

Deportations of Brazilians from US increased after 2018 agreement | Agência Brasil

In addition, there are other legal or administrative reasons related to deportations, such as visa overstays and criminal records, but no information was found on official websites.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Brazil does not currently have a specific law that mandates the systematic publication or public reporting of deportation data. However, there are legal and policy frameworks that promote transparency and data collection in the context of migration, which may indirectly support the availability of such information.

Legal Frameworks Supporting Transparency

1. Migration Law (Law No. 13.445/2017)

- This law modernized Brazil's migration governance and emphasizes transparency, human rights, and non-discrimination.
- It mandates the creation of a National Migration Registry System (SisMigra), which

collects data on migrants, including those subject to deportation [1].

- However, the law does not explicitly require public disclosure of deportation statistics.

2. Access to Information Law (Law No. 12.527/2011)

- Guarantees the public's right to access information held by government bodies.
- In theory, this law allows individuals or organizations to request deportation data from agencies like the Ministry of Justice or the Federal Police.
- Still, such data is not proactively published in a centralized or regular format.

Institutional Practices

- The Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Federal Police oversee deportation procedures but do not routinely publish detailed deportation reports.
- Some data may be shared in press releases, parliamentary hearings, or international reports, especially when deportation flights from the US are involved.
- The UNHCR and IOM occasionally publish statistics related to returns and reintegration, but these are often aggregated and not specific to deportation [2].

Summary

Mandatory public reporting of deportation data. Not required by law Migration Law data systems (SisMigra). Exist, but not publicly accessible Access to Information Law. Allows data requests Proactive publication of deportation statistics. Rare and inconsistent

References

[1] New Migration Law in Brazil: how does the statute of foreigners work?

[2] Brazil | UNHCR

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

1. Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP):
   - Department of Migration (DEMIG): linked to the National Secretariat of Justice, it is responsible for processes related to the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners, including expulsion and deportation. It publishes reports and consolidated migration data on the Immigration Portal and the International Migration Observatory (OBMigra).Tools such as DataMigra BI provide access to statistics on migration records, including deportations.
2. Federal Police:
   - Responsible for carrying out administrative deportation measures and maintaining records in the International Traffic System (STI) and the National Migration Registry System (SisMigra), which feed OBMigra databases.
3. International Migration Observatory (OBMigra):
   - A project of the MJSP in partnership with the University of Brasília, responsible for processing, analyzing, and publishing official data on migration, including deportations, repatriations, and expulsions.
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE):
   - Although it does not publish general statistics, it provides information and consular assistance regarding cases of deportation of Brazilians abroad.

References

[1] Migrações — Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública

[2] Plataforma traz informações oficiais sobre registros migratórios, refúgio e trabalho de migrantes — Agência Gov

[3] Observatório - Portal de Imigração

[4] Deportação - consulta de nomes — Ministério das Relações Exteriores

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, deportation data can be requested through Brazil's Access to Information Law (Lei de Acesso à Informação – LAI), provided the data is not classified as confidential or personal in nature.

Here's a breakdown of how this works:

Legal Framework

Brazil's LAI (Law No. 12.527/2011) guarantees the public's right to access information held by government entities. The law applies to:

- All branches of government (Executive, Legislative, Judiciary)
- Public agencies, foundations, state-owned enterprises
- Private entities receiving public funds for public-interest activities [1]

The law establishes transparency as the rule and secrecy as the exception, meaning that unless information is legally classified as confidential (e.g., for national security or personal privacy), it must be made available upon request [2].

Types of Information Accessible

Under LAI, citizens can request:

- Statistical data
- Administrative records
- Information about public policies and their implementation
- Documents used in decision-making processes [1]

This includes immigration and deportation statistics, as long as they are not tied to identifiable individuals. For example, aggregate data on the number of deportations, reasons, and countries of origin would typically be considered public.

How to Request Deportation Data

You can submit a request via the Fala.BR platform, which is the federal government's official system for handling LAI requests[3]. The process is straightforward:

1. No justification is needed—just identify yourself and specify the information you want.
2. The government must respond within 20 days, extendable by 10 days with justification [2].
3. If denied, you have the right to appeal within 10 days.

Limitations and Exceptions

Some data may be partially or fully restricted if:

- It contains personal information (e.g., names of deported individuals)
- It is classified for national security or public safety reasons
- • It requires extensive data processing or interpretation beyond simple retrieval [2]

References

[1] L12527 - Planalto

[2] Cartilha_do_Cidadão.indd - Portal da Câmara dos Deputados

[3] Painel Lei de Acesso à Informação — Acesso à Informação

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Chile

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Chile

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

When individuals are deported from the US to Chile, several steps and processes are typically involved. Here's a detailed description of what generally happens:

1. Detention and Processing: Before deportation, individuals are usually detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). During this time, they undergo processing, which includes verifying their identity, criminal background checks, and ensuring all legal avenues for staying in the US have been exhausted.
2. Notification and Coordination: ICE coordinates with the Chilean consulate to notify them of the impending deportation. The consulate may issue travel documents if the individual does not have a valid passport.
3. Travel Arrangements: ICE arranges for the individual's travel back to Chile. This typically involves a flight, and the individual may be escorted by ICE officers to ensure they board the plane.
4. Arrival in Chile: Upon arrival in Chile, the individual is handed over to Chilean immigration authorities. The Chilean authorities will verify the individual's identity and may conduct their own processing.
5. Reintegration: Once processed by Chilean authorities, the individual is generally free to return to their community. However, the reintegration process can be challenging. They may face difficulties such as finding employment, housing, and reconnecting with family and social networks.
6. Legal and Social Support: Various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government programs in Chile may offer support to deportees. This can include legal assistance, counseling, and help with basic needs like food and shelter.
7. Long-term Impact: The long-term impact of deportation can vary. Some individuals may successfully reintegrate into Chilean society, while others may struggle with the stigma of deportation, economic hardship, and separation from family members who remain in the US.

Each individual's experience can differ based on their personal circumstances, the reason for their deportation, and the support systems available to them in Chile.

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

There are no special resources for deported individuals, but they can access general services and benefits such as:

1. Healthcare Services: Free healthcare in the public primary care network and hospitals through FONASA (National Health Fund), that allows people access to benefits and financial coverage for their healthcare.
2. Homelessness: Access to Temporary Centers for Improvement (*Centros Temporales para la Superación*) if they find themselves homeless. These are centers, shelters, and residences that provide temporary accommodation to homeless people throughout the year. These centers include access to basic services, personal hygiene, food, and psychosocial support.
3. Housing subsidies: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU) has plans and programs that allow people to apply for housing subsidies, which are direct assistance for families who cannot finance their first home on their own. Subsidy programs vary according to the family's economic situation. There are also rental subsidy programs.
4. Access to employment and training: The National Training and Employment Service (SENCE) aims to improve employability and enhance career paths through a comprehensive range of high-quality policies, programs, and tools aimed at employed and unemployed individuals and those who do not participate in the labor market, with a special

focus on supporting vulnerable individuals in finding and maintaining employment. To this end, it has a website offering free training and job opportunities.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

- Limited Access to Housing: Many deported individuals struggle to find stable and affordable housing, leading to homelessness or precarious living conditions. There are few government programs specifically aimed at providing housing assistance to this group.
- Employment Opportunities: There is often a lack of job placement programs or vocational training tailored to the needs of deported individuals, making it difficult for them to secure employment and achieve financial stability. Discrimination and stigma can further hinder their job prospects.
- Healthcare Services: Access to healthcare can be limited, with deported individuals facing barriers to obtaining necessary medical care, including mental health services. Public healthcare systems may be overwhelmed, and private healthcare is often unaffordable.
- Legal Assistance: There is often a shortage of legal aid services to help deported individuals navigate the legal system, address any ongoing legal issues, or understand their rights. This can leave them vulnerable to exploitation and unable to advocate for themselves effectively.
- Social Support Networks: Deported individuals may lack access to social support networks, including community organizations and support groups, which are crucial for emotional and practical assistance. The absence of these networks can lead to isolation and difficulty in reintegrating into society.
- Education and Training: Opportunities for continuing education or skills training are often insufficient, hindering the ability of deported individuals to improve their qualifications and job prospects. Educational programs that do exist may not be accessible to those without a stable income or residence.
- Addressing these gaps is essential to support the reintegration of deported individuals and help them rebuild their lives in Chile.

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

In Chile, several initiatives and efforts have been implemented to support deported people. Here are some recent examples:

1. Social and Labor Reintegration Programs: Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Chilean government have developed programs to help deportees reintegrate into society. These programs include job training, counseling, and support in finding employment.
2. Legal Assistance: Legal aid services have been established to help deported persons regularize their immigration status and understand their rights in Chile. This includes help with documentation and legal representation if needed.
3. Psychological and Social Support: Support centers have been created that offer psychological and social services to help deportees deal with the trauma and stress associated with deportation. These centers also provide guidance on how to access basic services such as health and education.
4. Collaboration with International NGOs: Chile has worked in collaboration with international NGOs to provide additional resources and support to deported people. These collaborations have allowed for the implementation of broader and more effective programs.
5. Awareness Campaigns: Awareness campaigns have been carried out to educate the population about the challenges faced by deportees and to foster an attitude of inclusion and support towards them. These efforts seek not only to provide immediate assistance, but also to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for people who have been deported and who are now looking to rebuild their lives in Chile.

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

In Chile, the reception and reintegration of deported persons are regulated by various laws, regulations and policies. Some of the most relevant are the following:

1. Migration and Aliens Law (Law No. 21,325): This is the main law that regulates migration in Chile. It was enacted in April 2021 and establishes the rights and duties of migrants, as well as the procedures for entry, stay and exit from the country. The law also includes specific provisions for the reintegration of deported persons.
2. Regulations of the Migration and Aliens Law: This regulation complements Law No. 21,325 and details the administrative and operational procedures for its implementation. It includes guidelines on how authorities should handle deportation and reintegration cases.
3. National Policy on Migration and Aliens: This policy establishes the general guidelines for the management of migration in Chile, including the reception and reintegration of deported persons. The policy seeks to promote safe, orderly and regular migration, and to guarantee the human rights of migrants.
4. Social and Labor Reintegration Programs: Although not laws per se, these programs are implemented by various government institutions and NGOs to support the reintegration of deported people. These programs offer job training, psychological assistance, and job search support.
5. International Conventions: Chile is a party to several international conventions that protect the rights of migrants and deported persons. These conventions include the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, among others.
6. Administrative Decrees and Resolutions: In addition to the aforementioned laws and policies, there are several administrative decrees and resolutions that regulate specific aspects of migration and the reintegration of deported persons. These documents are issued by the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security and other competent authorities.

These laws, regulations, and policies seek to ensure that deportees are treated fairly and humanely, and that they have access to the resources necessary for their reintegration into Chilean society.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

In Chile, deported people have access to certain legal rights and protections in areas such as health, housing, employment, and education, although these protections may not be specific to deported people, but apply to all migrants in general. Here are some of the relevant protections:

1. Access to Health:
   - Migration and Aliens Law (Law No. 21,325): This law guarantees that all migrants, including deportees, have access to health services. The public healthcare system in Chile is available to all residents, regardless of their immigration status.
   - National Health Policy for International Migrants: This policy, implemented by the Ministry of Health, seeks to ensure that migrants have access to adequate and timely health services
2. Access to Housing:
   - There is no specific law that guarantees access to housing for deported people, but there are social assistance programs that can provide temporary support. NGOs and some government institutions offer help in finding temporary accommodation and advice on how to access permanent housing.
3. Access to Employment:
   - Labor Code: This code states that all workers in Chile, including migrants, have basic labor rights, such as the right to a fair wage, safe working conditions, and non-discrimination.
   - Training and Employment Programs: There are specific programs to help migrants integrate into the labor market, offering training and support in the search

for employment. These programs are implemented by the National Training and Employment Service (SENCE) and other entities

4. Access to Education:
    - General Education Law (Law No. 20,370): This law guarantees the right to education for all children and young people in Chile, regardless of their immigration status. Deportees who return with school-age children have the right to enroll them in the Chilean education system.
    - Educational Inclusion Programs: The Ministry of Education has implemented programs to facilitate the inclusion of migrant students in the education system, providing additional support and resources to overcome language and cultural barrier

Although these protections are not always specifically targeted at deported people, they apply to all migrants and seek to ensure that they have access to basic services and opportunities to integrate into Chilean society.

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Upon arrival in Chile, deported individuals typically undergo a screening process by Chilean immigration authorities, as described below:

1. Identity Verification: Chilean immigration officials will verify the identity of the deported individual. This involves checking travel documents and any information provided by US authorities.
2. Screening: The screening process may include questioning to understand the individual's background, reasons for deportation, and any potential legal issues. This is to ensure that the individual does not pose a security threat and to document their entry into the country.
3. Detention: In most cases, deported individuals are not detained for long periods upon arrival in Chile. However, if there are legal issues, such as outstanding warrants or criminal charges in Chile, the individual may be detained by local law enforcement.
4. Health and Safety Checks: There may also be health screenings, especially in the context of public health concerns like the COVID-19 pandemic. This is to ensure that the individual does not pose a health risk to the community.
5. Release and Reintegration: After the screening process, the individual is generally released and allowed to return to their community. They may receive information about available support services to help with their reintegration. The exact procedures can vary based on the individual's circumstances and any specific agreements or protocols between the US and Chilean authorities. However, the primary focus is on ensuring the individual's identity and addressing any immediate legal or health concerns.

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

In Chile, deported people can recover or renew their national identity documents through several legal and administrative mechanisms:

1. Identity Card for Chileans:
    - Civil Registry and Identification Service: This is the entity in charge of issuing and renewing identity cards for Chilean citizens. Deported persons can go to any Civil Registry office to request the renewal or reissuance of their identity card.
    - Requirements: Generally, it is required to present a copy of the birth certificate and, in some cases, other documents that prove the identity of the applicant. If the person does not have these documents, the Civil Registry can provide guidance on how to obtain them.
2. Chilean Passport:
    - Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Chilean citizens who have been deported and need to renew their passport can do so through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If they are abroad, they can go to the nearest Chilean embassy or consulate.

- Requirements: To renew the passport, a valid identity card is generally required. If the identity card is not valid, it must be renewed first at the Civil Registry.

3. Documents for Foreigners:
   - Residence Visa: Deported foreigners returning to Chile may need to regularize their immigration status. This may involve applying for a residency visa. The Migration and Aliens Law (Law No. 21,325) and its regulations establish the procedures for applying for visas.
   - Identity Card for Foreigners: Once the residence visa is obtained, foreigners can apply for an identity card for foreigners at the Civil Registry. This document is essential to access services and rights in Chile.
4. Legal Assistance and Support:
   - Migrant Assistance Offices: Several municipalities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) offer legal assistance and support services to help deported people recover or renew their identity documents. These offices can provide guidance and accompaniment in the process.
   - Reintegration Programs: Some social and labor reintegration programs also include components of assistance in obtaining identity documents, facilitating access to basic services and employment opportunities.

The specific requirements and procedures to follow may vary depending on the individual situation and the type of document they need to renew or retrieve.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Upon deportation to Chile, individuals typically face specific legal statuses and may be subject to various administrative or judicial procedures. The key aspects include:

- Legal Status: Deported individuals who are Chilean citizens retain their citizenship upon return. However, they may face certain legal restrictions or conditions depending on the circumstances of their deportation. Non-citizens may face different legal statuses based on their residency or immigration status prior to deportation.
- Administrative Procedures: Upon arrival, deported individuals are usually required to undergo administrative procedures such as registration with local authorities, verification of identity, and updating of personal records. These procedures ensure that the individual's return is documented and that they are integrated into the national system.
- Judicial Procedures: If the deportation was related to criminal activities or if the individual has pending legal issues, they may be subject to judicial procedures. This can include court appearances, legal hearings, or compliance with probationary measures. The Chilean legal system may require them to address any outstanding legal matters.
- Monitoring and Reporting: Some deported individuals may be required to report regularly to local authorities or immigration offices as part of their reintegration process. This monitoring can be a condition for their continued stay in the country and to ensure compliance with any legal requirements.
- Reintegration Programs: Chile may offer reintegration programs aimed at assisting deported individuals with housing, employment, and social services. Participation in these programs may be encouraged or required to facilitate their successful reintegration into society.

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide

- Data on the number of individuals helped
- Other organizations they partner with

Here are some organizations in Chile that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals:

1. Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (SJM)

- Mission: To promote the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, ensuring their integration and protection in society.
- Type of Service and Resources Provided: Offers legal assistance, psychosocial support, and social integration programs. Provides information on rights and access to services for deported individuals.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Specific numbers may vary; however, SJM reports assisting thousands of migrants annually.
- Other Organizations They Partner With: Collaborates with local NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations focused on migration issues.

2. Fundación Chile 21

- Mission: To promote social justice and human rights in Chile, with a focus on vulnerable populations, including deported individuals.
- Type of Service and Resources Provided: Provides legal advice, advocacy, and support for the reintegration of deported individuals into society.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Exact figures are not publicly available, but the foundation has supported numerous cases over the years.
- Other Organizations They Partner With: Works with various civil society organizations and governmental bodies to enhance support for migrants.

3. Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos (INDH)

- Mission: To promote and protect human rights in Chile, including the rights of migrants and deported individuals.
- Type of Service and Resources Provided: Offers legal assistance, documentation support, and advocacy for the rights of deported individuals.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: The INDH has reported handling numerous cases related to migrant rights, although specific numbers for deported individuals are not disclosed.
- Other Organizations They Partner With: Collaborates with international human rights organizations and local NGOs focused on migration.

4. Red de Migrantes y Refugiados de Chile

- Mission: To unite and empower migrants and refugees in Chile, advocating for their rights and well-being.
- Type of Service and Resources Provided: Provides community support, legal orientation, and advocacy for deported individuals.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: The network supports a considerable number of individuals, with outreach efforts impacting many communities.
- Other Organizations They Partner With: Works alongside various local and international organizations dedicated to migrant rights.

5. Asociación de Migrantes en Chile

- Mission: To advocate for the rights and needs of migrants in Chile, focusing on integration and support.
- Type of Service and Resources Provided: Offers legal assistance, community resources, and workshops for deported individuals to aid in their reintegration.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: The association has engaged with hundreds of deported individuals, although specific statistics may not be available.
- Other Organizations They Partner With: Collaborates with local NGOs and community groups focused on migrant welfare.

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

In Chile, the legal framework does provide for the right to legal assistance, including for individuals facing deportation. The Constitution of Chile guarantees the right to defense, which can be interpreted to encompass access to legal aid. Additionally, the Chilean legal system includes provisions for state-supported legal aid, particularly for those who cannot afford legal representation.

The Law on Free Legal Assistance (Ley de Asistencia Jurídica Gratuita) establishes the criteria and procedures for providing legal aid to individuals, including those in immigration proceedings. This means that deported individuals may have access to legal assistance to help them navigate the legal processes related to their status.

However, the availability and effectiveness of legal aid can vary, and individuals may face challenges in accessing these services. Overall, while there is a legal framework in place for providing legal aid to deported individuals in Chile, the practical implementation may depend on various factors, including individual circumstances and the resources available within the legal aid system.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

The country is a signatory to various international treaties, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which obligate it to protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

In practice, Chile has established laws and procedures that reflect these international commitments. The Chilean Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms, and the country has enacted specific legislation regarding migration, such as the Immigration Law (Ley de Migración y Extranjería), which was reformed in 2021. This law aims to align national regulations with international human rights standards, ensuring that deportation processes respect the rights of individuals, including the right to seek asylum and protection against refoulement (the return of individuals to countries where they may face persecution).

Moreover, Chile's National Institute of Human Rights (INDH) plays a crucial role in monitoring and promoting human rights, including those related to migrants and refugees. The INDH provides legal assistance and advocacy for individuals facing deportation and works to ensure that their rights are upheld in accordance with international standards.

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, there are legal education and rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals, though the availability and scope of these programs can vary. Here are some common types of support that may be available:

1. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Various NGOs in Chile provide legal assistance and rights-awareness programs for deported individuals. These organizations often offer workshops, counseling, and legal advice to help individuals understand their rights and navigate the legal system.
2. Government Programs: The Chilean government may have programs aimed at assisting deported individuals with reintegration. These programs can include legal support, job placement services, and social services to help individuals reintegrate into society.
3. Community Organizations: Local community organizations and advocacy groups often play a crucial role in supporting deported individuals. They may offer educational programs, support groups, and resources to help individuals understand their rights and access necessary services.
4. Legal Aid Clinics: Some universities and legal aid organizations operate clinics that provide free or low-cost legal services. These clinics can help deported individuals with legal issues, including understanding their rights and addressing any legal challenges they may face.
5. Online Resources: There are also online platforms and resources that provide information on legal rights and available support services. These can be particularly

useful for individuals who may not have immediate access to in-person services.

6. Consular Support: The Chilean consulate in the US may provide information and resources to individuals before they are deported, helping them understand what to expect upon arrival and what rights they have.

These programs aim to help deported individuals understand their legal rights, access necessary services, and successfully reintegrate into society. If you or someone you know is in need of such services, it may be helpful to reach out to local NGOs, community organizations, or legal aid clinics for more information.

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US.

1. Consulates and Embassies:
   - Consulate General of Chile in the US: Chilean consulates in the United States can provide assistance and guidance to deported Chilean citizens. They can help connect family or friends in the US who can take care of belongings, and in some cases, they can offer logistical support.
   - Embassy of Chile in the US: The embassy can also be a helpful resource for information and assistance in retrieving belongings.
2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):
   - Immigrant Rights Coalition: Several NGOs in the US are dedicated to supporting immigrants and can offer assistance in the recovery of belongings. These organizations can provide legal and logistical advice.
   - American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): This organization works on immigrant rights issues and can offer support and resources for the recovery of belongings.
3. Legal Services:
   - Immigration Attorneys: Hiring an immigration attorney in the US may be an option to manage the recovery of belongings. Attorneys can help coordinate with authorities and other parties involved.
   - Free or Low-Cost Legal Services: Some organizations offer free or low-cost legal services for immigrants, which may include assistance in recovering belongings.
4. Community Networks:
   - Immigrant Communities: Immigrant community networks in the US can be a valuable source of support. Friends, family, and community members can help coordinate the recovery and shipment of belongings.
   - Social Media Support Groups: There are social media groups dedicated to supporting immigrants and deportees. These groups can offer helpful advice and contacts.
5. Shipping and Logistics Companies:
   - International Moving Services: Some moving and logistics companies offer international shipping services that can be used to retrieve and ship belongings from the US to Chile.
   - Storage Companies: If the belongings are stored in a storage unit, companies can offer services to ship the items to Chile.
6. Reintegration Programs:
   - Government Programs and NGOs: Some social and labor reintegration programs in Chile may offer additional assistance for the recovery of belongings. These programs can provide helpful contacts and resources.

It is important for deportees to learn about the options available and seek support from organizations and networks that can facilitate the process of retrieving their belongings.

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

1. Property Recovery:
   - Contracts and Legal Documents: If the deported person has property contracts or

legal documents evidencing ownership of real or personal property in the US, these documents can be used to manage the recovery or sale of such property.

- Immigration and Property Attorneys: Hiring a US immigration and property attorney can be crucial. These attorneys can help manage property sales, title transfers, and other related legal matters.
- Embassies and Consulates: Chilean embassies and consulates in the US can provide assistance and guidance on how to proceed with property recovery.

2. Wage Recovery:
   - US Department of Labor: If a deported person has unpaid wages, they can file a complaint with the US Department of Labor. This department investigates claims for unpaid wages and can help recover wages owed.
   - Employment Lawyers: Hiring an employment lawyer in the US can be helpful in filing claims for unpaid wages and representing the worker in legal proceedings.
3. Recovery of Financial Assets:
   - Bank Accounts: Deported individuals can still access their US bank accounts if they have the necessary login information. It is important to keep your contact information with your bank up to date and, if necessary, to authorize a representative in the US to manage the account.
   - Investments and Retirement Funds: To recover investments or retirement funds, it is advisable to contact the financial institutions that manage these assets directly. It may be necessary to provide documentation proving the identity and ownership of the assets.
   - Financial Counseling: Consulting with a financial advisor in the US can be helpful in understanding the options available and the steps needed to recover financial assets.
4. International Conventions:
   - Bilateral Treaties: Chile and the US have several bilateral treaties and agreements that can facilitate certain aspects of legal and financial cooperation. However, there are no specific treaties that directly address the recovery of property, wages, or financial assets for deported individuals.
   - Consular Assistance: Embassies and consulates can provide consular assistance and guidance on how to proceed with the recovery of assets abroad.
5. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):
   - Immigrant Rights NGOs: Several NGOs in the US and Chile offer legal assistance and support to deported immigrants. These organizations can provide guidance and, in some cases, legal representation to help recover property, wages, and financial assets.

It is important for deported individuals to seek appropriate legal and financial counsel to navigate these processes and maximize their chances of recovering their assets in the US.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

Chile and the United States have signed several bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding addressing various aspects of cooperation on migration and repatriation. Below is a summary of some of the most relevant agreements and their main provisions:

1. Security and Migration Cooperation Agreement:

- Date and Context: Signed within the framework of bilateral cooperation on security and migration.
- Main provisions:
  - Information Exchange: Establishes mechanisms for the exchange of information on migratory flows and border security.
  - Training and Technical Assistance: Includes provisions for training and technical assistance on migration control and security issues.
  - Repatriation: Facilitates coordination between the immigration authorities of

both countries for the repatriation of citizens.

2. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Migration:

- Date and Context: Signed to strengthen cooperation in migration management.
- Main provisions:
  - Management of Migratory Flows: Establishes mechanisms for the joint management of migratory flows, including the repatriation of citizens.
  - Protection of Human Rights: Ensures that repatriation actions respect the human rights of migrants.
  - Consular Assistance: Facilitates consular assistance to citizens of both countries in repatriation processes.

3. Agreement on Cooperation on Border Security and Migration:

- Date and Context: Signed to improve border security and migration management.
- Main provisions:
  - Border Control: Establishes measures to improve border control and prevent irregular migration.
  - Coordinated Repatriation: Facilitates the coordinated repatriation of citizens, ensuring efficient procedures that respect human rights.
  - Exchange of Good Practices: Promotes the exchange of good practices and experiences in migration management.

4. Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation Agreement:

- Date and Context: Signed to strengthen security and law enforcement cooperation.
- Main provisions:
  - Criminal Information Exchange: Facilitates the exchange of information about criminal activities and individuals involved in transnational crimes.
  - Repatriation of Criminals: Establishes procedures for the repatriation of citizens involved in criminal activities, ensuring cooperation between the judicial and immigration authorities of both countries.

These agreements and memorandums of understanding reflect the commitment of Chile and the United States to cooperate in the management of migration and repatriation, ensuring that these processes are carried out in an orderly, safe, and respectful manner of human rights. Importantly, these agreements also seek to strengthen security and law enforcement, as well as improve consular assistance to citizens of both countries.

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Chilean citizens who are outside Chile and find themselves in extreme poverty or serious social vulnerability may request assistance from consulates to return to Chile.

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Chilean consulates in the United States play a crucial role in supporting Chilean nationals facing deportation, both before and after removal. Here's how consulates can assist at each stage of the process:

Before Deportation

1. Legal and Consular Assistance:
   - Legal Guidance: Consulates can provide information and guidance on the legal rights of Chileans in the US, including access to immigration attorneys and free or low-cost legal services.
   - Consular Intervention: Consular officers can intervene in immigration detention cases, ensuring that detainees' rights are respected and providing direct consular assistance.
2. Documentation and Procedures:
   - Issuance of Documents: Consulates may issue or renew identity documents, such as passports and identity cards, which may be required for legal and deportation proceedings.

- Certificates and Certificates: They can provide birth certificates, marriage certificates and other documents necessary for immigration procedures.

3. Humanitarian Assistance:
   - Psychological and Social Support: Consulates can offer psychological and social support to detained nationals and their families, helping to mitigate the stress and anxiety associated with deportation.
   - Coordination with NGOs: They can coordinate with non-governmental organizations that offer assistance to immigrants, providing additional resources and support.

After Deportation

1. Repatriation and Reintegration:
   - Repatriation Coordination: Consulates can coordinate with US and Chilean authorities to ensure an orderly and safe repatriation process.
   - Return Assistance: They can provide logistical and financial assistance for the return to Chile, including the purchase of airline tickets and the organization of transportation.
2. Belongings and Asset Recovery:
   - Legal Advice: Consulates can offer advice on how to recover belongings, wages, and financial assets left in the US, and can help contact attorneys and legal services who can assist in these processes.
   - Intermediation: They can act as intermediaries to facilitate communication with employers, banks, and other institutions in the US.
3. Ongoing Support in Chile:
   - Reintegration Programs: Consulates can coordinate with reintegration programs in Chile that offer support in areas such as employment, housing, health, and education.
   - Psychological and Social Assistance: They can refer deportees to psychological and social support services in Chile to help in their reintegration.
4. Information and Resources:
   - Guidance and Resources: Consulates can provide information on resources available in Chile for deportees, including government programs and NGO services.
   - Tracking: Can be tracked continuously to ensure that deportees receive the necessary support for their reintegration.

Conclusion

The role of Chilean consulates in the US is critical in supporting deported nationals at all stages of the process. From legal and consular assistance prior to deportation, to coordinating repatriation and support in reintegration in Chile, consulates work to ensure that the rights and well-being of Chilean citizens are protected and promoted.

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

Publicly available government and third-party sources do not provide a country-by-country breakdown for this specific timeframe.

This data gap is partly due to the acknowledged unreliability of certain aggregate deportation datasets for 2025, which have been found to contain significant errors and have even been retracted in some releases.

While a definitive number is not available, enforcement actions related to Chilean nationals have been reported. For example, between October 1 and November 19, 2024, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the FBI arrested 12 noncitizens from Chile, Colombia, and Peru who were associated with “South American theft groups” and were being held in ICE custody pending removal from the United States.

To provide some context on the overall scale of enforcement, ICE removed nearly 200,000 individuals between January and August 27, 2025.

Sources and related content:

ICE data release: Sep. 2023 to late Jun. 2025 – Deportation Data Project

tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/eoir.html

By the numbers: the latest ICE and CBP data on arrests, detentions and deportations in the US | US immigration | The Guardian

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

The primary airport that receives these flights is:- Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL): Located in Santiago, this is the main international gateway to Chile and the primary airport where deportation flights from the US are likely to arrive. It is equipped to handle international arrivals and has the necessary facilities for processing deported individuals.

Other international airports in Chile that could potentially receive deportation flights, include:

- Carriel Sur International Airport (CCP): Located in Concepción, this airport serves as a secondary international gateway and may occasionally handle deportation flights.
- Diego Aracena International Airport (IQQ): Located in Iquique, this airport serves the northern region of Chile and could also be a potential arrival point for deportation flights. The specific airports used for deportation flights can vary based on logistical considerations and the locations of the individuals being deported.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Major Cities and Regions Mentioned in the Context of Migration and Resettlement:

- Santiago: As the capital, Santiago is a central point for migration and resettlement programs. It's the arrival point for many migrants and the location of key government and international organizations' offices. Some resettlement programs have specifically located individuals in municipalities within the Santiago metropolitan area, such as Macul.
  - Reference: An IOM report mentions that Syrian refugees arriving in Santiago were to be located in Macul. Syrian Refugees Resettled in Chile under UN Migration and Refugee Agencies' Programme | International Organization for Migration
- Antofagasta: This northern city is mentioned as a major destination for Latin American migrants, particularly those arriving via land routes. It has a significant migrant population, with many residing in informal settlements.
  - Reference: A NACLA report details Antofagasta's role as a hub for migrants from various countries. A Multinational, Multiethnic Alternative in Chile's Migrant Settlements - North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)
- Arica and Iquique: These cities, located near the northern borders with Peru and Bolivia, are often the first points of entry for migrants traveling by land. As such, they are key locations for initial reception and humanitarian assistance. Temporary shelters and reception centers have been established in these areas.
  - Reference: A UNICEF report mentions a temporary camp in Colchane, near the border, and a temporary device in Iquique for migrants. UNICEF supports the dreams of children who cross the desert to reach Chile | UNICEF
  - Reference: The Global Detention Project lists immigration detention facilities in Arica and Iquique. Chile Immigration Detention Profile – Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world
- Villa Alemana: This city is mentioned as a destination for a portion of the Syrian refugees resettled in Chile.
  - Reference: IOM report on Syrian refugee resettlement. Syrian Refugees Resettled in Chile under UN Migration and Refugee Agencies' Programme | International Organization for Migration

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Based on the provided research, comprehensive, aggregate demographic data on the age, gender, family status, education level, or years in the US

for all individuals deported to Chile is not publicly available.

The information that is available is specific to individuals apprehended as part of targeted law enforcement operations, primarily those related to "South American Theft Groups". A demographic profile for this specific subset of deportees can be constructed from publicly documented cases:

- Age: The ages of individuals charged in these criminal groups range from 19 to 44 years old. For example, documented cases include a 19-year-old and a 44-year-old charged with immigration and identity theft crimes , a 21-year-old involved in a multi-state burglary ring , and a 33-year-old charged with conspiracy to receive stolen property.
- Gender: Law enforcement press releases describe these criminal groups as consisting of both males and females. At least one woman has been publicly charged in connection with these residential burglary conspiracies.
- Family Status and Education Level: Data on the family status or education level of these individuals is not available in the provided sources.
- Years in the US: The individuals documented in these cases had a range of immigration statuses. Some entered the US unlawfully , while others entered legally under the Visa Waiver Program and either overstayed their 90-day limit or violated the terms of their admission by committing crimes. Specific examples include individuals who had been in the US for just a few months , a person who entered in 2022 and overstayed a tourist visa , and a national who had been previously removed in 2020 but unlawfully re-entered using an alias.

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Deportations to Chile can occur for various legal or administrative reasons. The following are the main reasons that can lead to the deportation of a person to Chile:

1. Stay in the Country without a Visa or with an Expired Visa:
   - Illegal Stay: Staying in a country without a valid visa or with an expired visa is one of the most common reasons for deportation. This includes people who entered the country legally but overstayed the period allowed by their visa.
   - Violation of Visa Conditions: Even if a person has a valid visa, they can be deported if they violate the conditions of their visa, such as working without authorization or failing to meet study requirements.
2. Criminal Record:
   - Felony: The commission of serious crimes, such as drug trafficking, domestic violence, theft, fraud, and other serious crimes, can result in deportation. Immigration authorities prioritize the deportation of people with significant criminal records.
   - Repeated Misdemeanors: The accumulation of multiple misdemeanors can also lead to deportation, especially if the person is deemed to pose a threat to public safety.
3. Border Detention:
   - Illegal Entry: Attempting to enter a country without going through official border checkpoints or using false documents is a common cause of deportation. People apprehended at the border without proper documentation are generally deported immediately.
   - Illegal Reentry: People who have been previously deported and then attempt to re-enter the country without authorization may face additional charges and be deported again.
4. Violations of Immigration Laws:
   - Visa Application Fraud: Providing false or misleading information on a visa application or other immigration documents can result in deportation.
   - Fraudulent Marriage: Marriages that are considered fraudulent, i.e., those performed for the sole purpose of obtaining immigration benefits, can lead to the deportation of the person involved.

5. Prior Deportation Orders:
    - Non-Enforcement of Deportation Orders: People who have received a deportation order and have not complied with it can be detained and deported at any time.
    - Reopening Cases: In some cases, immigration authorities may reopen old cases and issue new deportation orders based on prior violations of immigration laws.
6. Administrative Reasons:
    - Documentation Errors: Administrative errors or problems with documentation can lead to deportation if not properly resolved.
    - Failure to Renew Status: Failure to renew immigration status on time or to follow proper procedures to maintain legal status can result in deportation.

Conclusion

Deportations to Chile can occur for a variety of legal and administrative reasons. It is crucial that people who are in irregular immigration status seek legal advice to understand their rights and options, and to avoid potential problems that could lead to deportation.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Based on a review of Chile's legal framework, there is no specific law that explicitly requires the government to regularly publish comprehensive, aggregated deportation data for the public. Instead, the country's system relies on a combination of two key laws that govern data collection and public access.

The 2021 Migration and Foreigners Law, or *Ley N° 21.325*, mandates that the National Migration Service (SERMIG) must collect, systematize, and store relevant migration data, including information on expulsions and entry prohibitions. However, this law does not contain a corresponding provision that obliges the agency to publicly report this data.

In the absence of a proactive reporting mandate, public access to deportation statistics is governed by Chile's Transparency Law, *Ley N° 20.285*. This law grants any person the right to formally request and receive information from public bodies. It is through this process of "passive transparency" that the most detailed public data on deportations has been obtained by external organizations and legislative bodies that have filed formal requests.

An analysis of the data obtained through these requests reveals a significant and consistent discrepancy between the number of expulsion orders that are decreed and the number of expulsions that are actually executed. The government, for its part, typically publicizes information on specific, high-profile expulsion flights through press releases, often providing a breakdown of administrative versus judicial expulsions on those particular flights, but it does not publish comprehensive, ongoing statistics.

Sources and related content

Ley Chile - Ley 21325 - Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional

Ley Chile - Ley 20285 - Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional

Ley Chile - Ley 21325 - Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

1. Servicio Nacional de Migraciones (SERMIG): This is the main government body that manages migration and foreign policy in Chile. Its Department of Studies publishes official statistics on residence permits and other administrative records. While its public "Open Data" portal does not explicitly contain deportation statistics, it is the central authority for managing immigration data.

    Reference: Open data | SERMIG

2. Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE): The National Statistics Institute works in conjunction with SERMIG to publish official estimates of the foreign population in Chile. Its reports often use administrative records from SERMIG and other agencies to analyze migratory trends, which can include data on irregular entries and exits.

    Reference: Demografía

The Policía de Investigaciones (PDI) is the operational agency that gathers data on border control and irregular entries, which is then used

by agencies like the INE and SERMIG for their statistical reports. Data on expulsions is also provided to organizations that track migration, such as the Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM).

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

In Chile, deportation data can be obtained through access to public information laws and the right to petition. Below is how this information can be accessed and the legal mechanisms available:

Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information

1. Transparency Law (Law No. 20,285):
   - Objective: This law aims to guarantee the right of access to public information and promote transparency in the administration of the State.
   - Scope: The law applies to all organs of state administration, including ministries, public services, municipalities, and other government entities.
2. Request Information:
   - Procedure: Anyone can submit a request for access to public information through the government's transparency portal or directly to the corresponding entity.
   - Requirements: The application must be clear and specific, indicating the information to be obtained. It is not necessary to justify the reason for the request.
   - Deadlines: The entity has a period of 20 business days to respond to the request, with the possibility of an extension of an additional 10 business days in exceptional cases.
3. Exceptions:
   - Reserved or Secret Information: The law provides certain exceptions to access to information, such as information that may affect national security, the privacy of individuals, or that is protected by other laws.
   - Personal Data: Information containing sensitive personal data may be subject to restrictions to protect the privacy of individuals.

Right of Petition

1. Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile:
   - Article 19, No. 14: The Constitution guarantees the right to petition, allowing any person to address the authorities to request information or make requests on matters of public or personal interest.
2. Petition Procedure:
   - Submission of Petitions: Petitions may be submitted in writing to the competent authority, clearly specifying the information or action requested.
   - Answer: Authorities are obliged to respond to requests within a reasonable time, providing the requested information or explaining the reasons why they are unable to do so

Access to Deportation Data

3. Ministry of the Interior and Public Security:
   - Department of Foreigners and Migration: This department is responsible for migration management in Chile and can provide data on deportations.
   - Request for Information: An access to public information request can be submitted to the Department of Aliens and Migration for statistical data and other details on deportations.
4. Chilean Investigative Police (PDI):
   - Migration and International Police Unit: The PDI also handles information on deportations and can be a source of relevant data.
   - Request for Information: An access to public information request may be submitted to the PDI to obtain data on deportations.

Conclusion

In Chile, it is possible to obtain deportation data through access to public information laws and the right to petition. Requests must be clear and specific, and authorities are obliged to respond within a reasonable time, except in cases of justified exceptions. It is advisable to use the mechanisms established by the Transparency Law and contact the competent entities, such as

the Department of Foreigners and Migration and the Investigative Police of Chile, to obtain the desired information.

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Colombia

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Colombia

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Colombians who are deported from the United States face a process regulated by U.S. immigration law, mainly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Deportation can occur for a variety of reasons, such as entry without valid documents, violation of visa terms, use of false IDs, or the commission of criminal acts that pose a risk to public safety. In many cases, individuals are detained and referred to specialized centers, where they can be presented before an immigration judge. However, there is the figure of expedited removal, which allows immediate expulsion without the right to a hearing if certain immigration requirements are not met. Once the deportation is determined, ICE executes the order, usually by air paid for by the U.S. government. In Colombia, the return of these people is carried out under reception protocols established by Migración Colombia, which must guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of the deportees. This process is framed in U.S. immigration legislation (8 U.S.C. § 1227 and § 1229a), ICE protocols, and in Colombia, under the supervision of Migración Colombia and compliance with Law 1465 of 2011, which establishes the country's comprehensive immigration policy.

Sources:

Law 1465 of 2011 - Regulatory Manager - Civil Service

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Persons deported from the United States who return to Colombia have a variety of resources and institutional support designed to facilitate their social and economic reintegration. Through the Colombia Nos Une program, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Social Prosperity (DPS), immediate humanitarian attention and guidance is offered at entry points such as airports, including transportation, food, temporary accommodation and special protection for minors at risk, in coordination with the ICBF. Subsequently, deportees are characterized and those who meet certain requirements may be included in social and productive programs that allow them to stabilize economically. Support programs for socioeconomic stabilization may include access to credit and capital subsidies through state entities, advice on planning, financial management, and resource digitization, and virtual workshops to strengthen associative and entrepreneurial skills. These actions are supported by Law 1565 of 2012, which regulates the return of Colombians from abroad, including those in vulnerable situations such as deportees, and Law 2136 of 2021, which establishes the comprehensive migration policy.

Source:

https://www.prosperidadsocial.gov.co/

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

In Colombia, although there are programs such as Law 1565 of 2012 and Law 2136 of 2021 that seek to facilitate the return of Colombians from abroad, deported people face significant limitations in accessing resources and support. Although deportees are beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance at the time of their entry into the national territory, one of the main barriers is that the socioeconomic stabilization benefits established by Law 1565 of 2012 – such as tax, customs and financial incentives – are conditional on requirements such as having stayed abroad for at least three years and making a voluntary registration in the Single Return Registry. which excludes many deportees who do not meet these criteria or who return forcibly. In addition, this law does not apply to people with current convictions in Colombia or abroad, which further limits access to benefits for those who have been deported for judicial reasons. Although the possibility of exceptions for humanitarian reasons is contemplated, in practice these are difficult to manage and depend on the decision of the Intersectoral Commission for Returns. On the other hand, Law 2136 of 2021 establishes a comprehensive migration policy, but it still faces

challenges in its effective implementation, especially in inter-institutional coordination and in the coverage of care for returnees in vulnerable situations. These limitations create a significant gap between the regulations and the reality that deportees face upon returning to the country.

Source:

https://www.prosperidadsocial.gov.co/

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

In Colombia, recent efforts are being made to strengthen support for deportees and other populations in situations of forced return, within the framework of a public policy of durable solutions led by entities such as the Department for Social Prosperity (DPS), the Unit for Victims and the National Planning Department (DNP). In 2025, these entities participated in the first phase of the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund, a mechanism of the United Nations system that seeks to accompany States in the socioeconomic stabilization of displaced or returnees. As part of this process, the structuring of a CONPES document was announced, which will serve as a strategic tool to guide this policy, including inter-institutional coordination and cooperation with international agencies such as UNHCR, IOM, UNDP and UN-Habitat. Although the main focus has been on internal displacement, these initiatives also benefit deportees by facilitating their inclusion in social, economic, and protection programs, in line with Law 2136 of 2021 on comprehensive migration policy and Law 1565 of 2012 on the return of Colombians from abroad.

Source:

https://www.prosperidadsocial.gov.co/

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

The reception and reintegration of deported persons is mainly regulated by two laws: Law 1565 of 2012, which establishes the return program for Colombians who have lived abroad, and Law 2136 of 2021, which defines the Comprehensive Migration Policy of the Colombian State. Law 1565 contemplates benefits such as economic support, tax exemptions and job orientation, but these are conditioned to requirements such as having resided at least three years outside the country and not having a current criminal record. For its part, Law 2136 broadens the migratory approach by including humanitarian return as a valid modality for deported persons, allowing their inclusion in care and social reintegration programs, especially in cases of vulnerability. This law also promotes inter-institutional coordination, the strengthening of information systems and the protection of the human rights of migrants and returnees, including women and minors. Both norms seek to guarantee safe, orderly migration with a human rights approach, although their practical implementation still faces challenges in terms of coverage and effective access.

Source:

Law 2136 of 2021 - Regulatory Manager - Public Service

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Law 2136 of 2021, article 40, indicates that the Directorate of Colombia Nos Une must provide guidance to Colombians returning to the country in terms of entrepreneurship opportunities, productivity and employment, education and training, citizen procedures, housing and health.

In the following link Colombia Nos Une has information available for this purpose of orientation: Service System for Colombians abroad | Colombians | Ministry of Foreign Affairs At the moment there is only information available on education.

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Only if they are people with arrest warrants in Colombia will they be placed at the disposal of the competent judicial authorities.

Persons with Colombian nationality who arrive in the national territory as deportees or expelled persons who voluntarily present themselves to the official at the service filter, are presented to Migración Colombia by the members of the crew of the international means of transport in which they arrive, or by the officers of the foreign authority that guards them; they will be attended by the official in charge, who will receive the travel or identity documents and will carry out the immigration control process, leaving in the database as the reason for travel "DEPORTED" or "EXPELLED" as appropriate. When it is necessary to establish or verify the identity of the deported or expelled Colombian national, his or her full identity shall be made before the databases of the National Registry of Civil Status. When a judicial injunction, false documentation or identity theft is presented, the person will be placed at the disposal of the National Police for the corresponding prosecution.

Information available at:

Frequently Asked Questions - MIGRACIÓN COLOMBIA updated to August 2025.

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

To obtain a copy of the citizenship card, deported people can carry out the process online from the place where they are.

It is necessary to take into account that this procedure is not free, except in the following cases (Law 1163 of 2007, Article 5):

1. Issuance of the Citizenship Card and Identity Card for the first time;
2. Registration in the Civil Registry of Birth and its first copy, and that intended to issue the citizenship card for the first time;
3. Population displaced by violence; prior certification from the competent body;
4. Demobilized personnel subject to certification by the competent agency;
5. Duplicate of the ID card for the population of levels 0, 1 and 2 of the System for the Identification of Potential Beneficiaries of Social Programs (Sisbén), for a single time;
6. The renewal of any of the identification documents;
7. In special situations assessed and regulated by the National Registrar of Civil Status (Resolution 31428 of 2022, Resolution 2527 of 2022).

Additionally, deported Colombians can go to the diplomatic missions and consulates of Colombia accredited abroad to issue an "exempt passport with a machine-readable area", which is valid for return to Colombia. This document consists of one sheet and is valid for 30 calendar days from the date of its issuance. In the event that the applicant does not have a Colombian identification document, the consuls will inquire, prior to the issuance of the exempt passport with a machine-readable area, the status of Colombian national in order to obtain summary proof of this, which will be recorded in the Passport Control and Issuance System (SICEP).

Source:

Single Regulatory Decree 1067 of 2015, Article 2.2.1.4.1.8:

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Persons with Colombian nationality who arrive in Colombia as deportees or expelled persons who voluntarily present themselves to the official at the service filter. will be attended by the official in charge of Migration Colombia, who will receive the travel or identity documents and carry out the immigration control process. The officer in charge will include "DEPORTED" or "EXPELLED" as the reason for travel in the database, as appropriate.

Source:

Frequently Asked Questions - MIGRACIÓN COLOMBIA updated to August 2025.

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission

- Type of service and resources they provide
- Data on the number of individuals helped
- Other organizations they partner with

1. Government Organizations

- "Colombia Unites Us" Program (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Social Prosperity and Territorial Entities):
  - Type of service:
    - Attention Route for Returned Colombians, with support in phases of humanitarian care and socioeconomic stabilization.
    - Subsidies, training and associative credits with preferential rates.
  - Number of people assisted: In 2024, nearly 6,000 people were provided with humanitarian assistance. This figure, however, includes both deported people and other people who have returned to Colombia due to some other situation of force majeure or special causes. According to public information, between February 6 and 20, 2025 alone, they attended to 718 deported people, most of them from the United States.

2. Non-Governmental and International Organizations

- UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency):
  - It provides protection and assistance to refugees, displaced persons, returnees and migrants, including in the areas of socioeconomic inclusion and human rights for people in vulnerable situations.
  - Number of people served: UNHCR does not publish disaggregated data on how many Colombians have been direct beneficiaries of its programmes in the past. Additionally, in 2025 it reduced operations in several regions due to cuts in U.S. funding.

Source:

Colombians | Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Accompaniment on return | Foreign Ministry

Accompaniment on return | Foreign Ministry

prosperidadsocial.gov.co

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Colombia recognizes the right to free legal aid for people in vulnerable situations. This right is based on:

- Political Constitution of 1991:
  - Article 29: Right to due process.
  - Article 229: Right of every person to have access to the administration of justice.
  - Articles 2 and 13: duty of the State to guarantee equality and protection of the most vulnerable.
- Law 24 of 1992 and Decree 591 of 1991: create and regulate the Office of the Ombudsman, which provides free public defense services.
- Decree 1069 of 2015 (amended by Decree 991 of 2018): establishes that the Ombudsman's Office organizes the free public defense service in criminal, family, labor, administrative and constitutional matters.
  - There is no specific rule that mentions deportees, but they have access under the same conditions as any vulnerable citizen.
  - Deportees usually return in conditions of special vulnerability (without resources, without support networks, risk of social exclusion, among others).
  - Consequently, the Ombudsman's Office must guarantee them access to free legal aid.
  - In addition, the Attention Route for Returned Colombians (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Social Prosperity, 2025) includes guidance and channeling to legal services.

Source:

Ombudsman's Office of Colombia - Ombudsman's Office

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Colombia has not adopted a specific international treaty on deported persons. However, it has signed and incorporated into its legal framework various treaties on human rights, migration and refuge that apply directly to deported or returned nationals. For easy reference, a list of such treaties adopted by Colombia is included at the end of this section. These treaties establish guarantees such as due process, the prohibition of collective expulsions, the protection of family unity and the principle of *non-refoulement*. Under the terms of Article 93 of the Constitution, the human rights treaties ratified by Colombia prevail in the domestic order and are a parameter for the interpretation of constitutional rights.

In addition, Colombia has enacted legislation on migration matters in order to bring its domestic regulations into line with international standards in this area, as follows:

- Law 2136 of 2021 defines the principles and guidelines of the Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM), which is aimed at, among other population groups, Colombians abroad and returnees to the national territory. Law 2136 expressly establishes that the PMI is formulated in accordance with the Constitution and the international human rights instruments ratified by Colombia.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued Decree 0089 of 2025 to streamline and make more efficient the procedure for recognizing refugee status in Colombia. This Decree was issued in order to comply with conventional, constitutional and legal commitments

Source:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia – Official statement.

International treaties or instruments on human rights or the rights of refugees include the following:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966)

- Ratification: 1969
- Relevant articles: Art. 13 – Protection against arbitrary expulsions; right to due process.
- Link: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | OHCHR

American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR, 1969 – Pact of San José)

- Ratification: 1973
- Relevant articles: Art. 22.6 – Prohibition of collective expulsions.

Art. 22.7 – Right to seek asylum.

Articles 8 and 25 – Due process and judicial protection.

- Link: OAS - Organization of American States: Democracy for Peace, Security and Development

Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and Protocol of 1967

- Ratification: 1961
- Relevant articles: Art. 33 – Principle of non-refoulement.
- Link: Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)

- Ratification: 1995
- Relevant articles: Art. 22 – Right to defence in expulsion proceedings; prohibition of collective expulsions.
- Link: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | OHCHR

Convention against Torture (CAT, 1984)

- Ratification: 1987
- Relevant articles: Art. 3 – Prohibition of expulsion, refoulement or extradition to a country where there is a risk of torture.
- Link: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | OHCHR

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989)

- Ratification: 1991

- Relevant articles: Arts. 9 and 10 – Right to family unity and the best interests of the child in deportation proceedings.
- Link: Convention on the Rights of the Child | OHCHR

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979)

- Ratification: 1982
- Relevant articles: Protection of migrant and returnee women from discrimination.
- Link: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | OHCHR

International Convention against Racial Discrimination (CERD, 1965)

- Ratification: 1981
- Relevant articles: Prohibition of discriminatory expulsions.
- Link: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination | OHCHR

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

In Colombia, there are the following education or awareness programs on rights for deported persons:

1. "Closer to Rights" – Connecting Pathways for Rights (CCD)

- Description: USAID initiative and implemented by a consortium of organizations (Freedom House, Pact, ABA-ROLI and Internews) together with the Legal Clinic for Migrants of the Universidad de los Andes.
- Objective: To facilitate access to justice and information on rights for migrants, refugees, and vulnerable Colombian returnees.
- Featured activities:
  - 'Closer to Rights' Project
  - 'Walking Towards Justice' Awards (2021 and 2022)
  - Migration Jurisprudential Log
- Link: Connecting Pathways for Rights - Migration Law | Uniandes

2. Route of Care for Returned Colombians

- Description: Coordinated by the Department for Social Prosperity and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.
- Objective: To provide humanitarian assistance and accompaniment to deportees and returnees in vulnerable situations.
- It includes guidance and referrals to institutional services, which may include information on rights and legal accompaniment.
- Links:
  - Department for Social Prosperity: https://www.prosperidadsocial.gov.co/
  - Ministry of Justice – LegalApp (return orientation): Ministry of Justice and Law

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Research shows the absence of a formal program specifically designed to help deportees recover belongings left behind in the United States.

The information on this topic indicates the following resources:

- The Colombian government has recently taken over the logistics of repatriation for deported citizens, in order to guarantee dignified returns.
- NGOs and civil society organizations in Colombia are being invited to support deportees, but there is still no official mechanism for the recovery of belongings from the U.S.
- International organizations such as *No More Deaths* and *Freedom for Immigrants* in the U.S. could collaborate in the recovery of assets, especially if the deported person manages to coordinate with them or with the Colombian consulate before deportation.

[Colombia to Manage Return of All Colombians Deported from the US]

[What Happens to Your Stuff When You Get Deported?]

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

Accompaniment on return | Foreign Ministry

Yes. Among the benefits of Law 1565 of 2012 is the exemption from the payment of all taxes and import duties levied on the entry into the country of the goods described below, and up to the amounts indicated therein:

Household goods: set of furniture, appliances and other accessories normally used in a home.

UVT Incentive: 2,400

Professional instruments, machinery, equipment and capital goods and other goods - except vehicles - that are used in the performance of their profession.

UVT Incentive: 17,130

Monetization of resources, proceeds of the sale of goods and assets earned for work or provision of services in the country of residence.

UVT incentive: 34,262

The costs of transporting the goods will be borne by the beneficiary of the Return Law.

To access these benefits, you must carry out the procedures before the Directorate of National Taxes and Customs (DIAN) in the place of the national territory where the household goods you are going to send will arrive, for which you require the certificate that accredits you as a beneficiary of Law 1565 of 2012.

In this regard, it is important to take into account that, for these tax incentives, the deadline for the arrival of the goods in the national customs territory is one (1) month before or up to four (4) months after the date of arrival of the beneficiary of Law 1565 of 2012 in the national territory.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

1. Unrestricted Acceptance of Deportees

Colombia agreed to accept all Colombian nationals deported from the United States, including those transported on U.S. military aircraft, without delay or limitation.

2. Suspension of U.S. Tariffs and Sanctions

The United States agreed to keep in reserve the planned 25% tariffs on Colombian imports (which were scheduled to increase to 50% in a week).

Visa sanctions on Colombian officials and enhanced inspections by Customs and Border Protection will remain in place until the first deportation flight is successfully completed.

3. Commitments of the Colombian Government

Colombia pledged to guarantee dignified treatment for returning deportees.

President Petro offered the presidential plane to facilitate the return of deported citizens.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that diplomatic channels remain open to protect the rights and dignity of Colombian nationals.

4. Trade War Averted

The deal averted a full-blown trade war, which had been triggered by Colombia's initial refusal to accept two U.S. military deportation flights.

In retaliation, Trump had ordered tariffs, visa bans and inspections, while Petro responded with reciprocal tariffs of 25% on U.S. imports and the search for alternative trading partners.

5. Follow-Up Diplomacy

Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo and Ambassador Daniel García-Peña announced plans to monitor and implement the agreement.

[Colombia Accepts "All of Trump's Terms" for Repatriations - Havana Times]

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

1. There is no international obligation for Colombia to guarantee a safe and dignified repatriation, but there are guidelines from the United Nations High Communications Office for Refugees (UNHCR) on how to achieve a dignified and safe repatriation:

2. Voluntary Repatriation Manual: International Protection

[Voluntary repatriation: international protection | UNHCR]

3. RMRP 2025-2026: Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP)

[RMRP 2025-2026: Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) - Colombia | ReliefWeb]

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Support Before Deportation

1. Legal and Documentary Assistance

- Issuance of Travel Documents: Consulates issue emergency travel documents (*laissez-passer passes*) for deported persons who lack a passport or valid identification.
- Nationality Verification: Confirms the identity and nationality of individuals targeted for deportation by U.S. immigration authorities.

2. Consular Protection

- Consulates are mandated to monitor the rights of detained Colombians, ensuring that they are treated humanely and have access to legal representation.
- They can intervene in cases of medical emergencies, family separation or human rights violations.

3. Coordination with U.S. Authorities

- Consulates act as a liaison with ICE and CBP to coordinate deportation logistics and ensure that deported individuals are properly processed and informed.

Support After Deportation

1. Repatriation Logistics

- Following the 2025 Repatriation Agreement, the Colombian government—through its consulates and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—committed to managing the transportation of deported nationals, including the use of Colombian Air Force aircraft and the presidential plane, and not to prevent the entry of planes coming from the United States.

2. Reintegration Programs

- Upon arrival in Colombia, deportees can be referred to the Department of Social Prosperity (DPS) to access:
  - Productive credits
  - Social services
  - Psychosocial support
- Consulates facilitate this transition by coordinating with Colombian entities and NGOs.

3. Community Outreach and Mobile Consulates

- Colombian consulates carry out mobile missions to attend to nationals in remote areas or detention centers.
- These missions provide legal guidance, documentation services, and emergency support.

[Colombia to Manage Return of All Colombians Deported from the US]

[home | Consulate of Colombia]

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

According to the Track Report of Syracuse University, 23,045 nationals were expelled so far in 2025, exceeding the total for 2024. According to Colombia One, the total expulsions in 2024 were 21,056.

News: U.S. Records Record 7-Month Colombian Deportations Under Trump Administration Number of Colombians Deported from the US Hit Highest Level in Nearly 30 Years

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

U.S. deportation flights to Colombia have been arriving at El Dorado International Airport in Bogota. In particular, reports from January 2025 indicate that flights from San Diego and Houston, in the United States, landed in the Colombian capital.

The 201 nationals deported from the United States arrive in Colombia | Foreign Ministry

118 nationals deported by the United States arrived in Colombia: the U.S. government paid 100% of the expenses - Infobae

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

People deported from the United States to Colombia are usually resettled in several cities in the country, not in a single location. The choice of destination often depends on a number of factors, such as the deportee's place of origin, the existence of family or support networks, and the availability of assistance programmes.

However, there are also international and governmental organizations that provide support to returnees. For example, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has Points of Attention and Orientation in Colombia in the following locations:

- Antioquia
- Arauca
- Atlantic
- Bogotá D.C.
- Chocó
- Cordoba
- Guainía
- La Guajira
- Magdalena
- Nariño
- Norte de Santander
- Putumayo
- Valle del Cauca
- Vichada

Link: Points of Attention and Orientation (PAO) - UNHCR Colombia

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

No detailed and updated reports on this subject have been found from official sources.

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Deportations from the United States are based on a number of legal and administrative grounds established by U.S. immigration law. The main reasons can be grouped into the following categories:

1. Violations of immigration laws: illegal entry, overstay, violation of visa terms, and immigration fraud.
2. Criminal history and criminal activities: aggravated felonies, crimes involving moral turpitude, drug offenses, firearms offenses, and domestic violence.
3. Threats to national and public security: This includes, but is not limited to, participation in terrorist activities, affiliation with criminal organizations, espionage, as well as any other activity that endangers the security of the United States.

The primary legislation governing grounds for deportation in the United States is the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and within it, sections such as 237 (8 U.S.C. § 1227) and 212 (8 U.S.C. § 1182) specify the detailed causes, ranging from

remaining without legal status to committing crimes.

In addition, the Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 contains certain categories of offenses that can result in deportation by establishing stricter procedures.

The information is based on Title 8 of the United States Code, which can be consulted through this link: https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscode/2019/title8.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

No Colombian law has been found that mandates the publication of data on deportations. However, there is Law 2136 of 2021 that establishes the framework for the Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM) which is managed by Migración Colombia.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

In Colombia, several government and inter-agency agencies are legally responsible for collecting and, in some cases, publishing data related to deportations and the management of the returnee population. The main ones are:

Migration Colombia:

- Official website: MIGRACIÓN COLOMBIA
- Press releases and statistical data on migration flows can be found on this page, although specific deportation data are usually published in reports or one-off news items.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

- "Colombia Nos Une" Program Portal: Colombianosune | Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- This portal provides information about the Return Law and the Single Return Registry (RUR), which is the official database for Colombians who return to the country voluntarily or deported.

Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM):

- Official website of the R4V platform: GIFMM Colombia website | R4V
- The GIFMM, co-led by UNHCR and IOM, publishes reports and analyses on the migration situation in Colombia that often include complementary data to those of the government.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, it is possible to attempt to obtain deportation data for Colombians from the United States through Colombia's access to information and right to petition laws.

Specifically, Law 1712 of 2014, known as the "Law of Transparency and the Right of Access to National Public Information", regulates the fundamental right of every person to access information held by public entities (Full text of Law 1712 of 2014). On the other hand, Law 1755 of 2015 regulates the Fundamental Right of Petition and establishes the rules for the exercise of this fundamental right, which is the main mechanism for requesting information from the authorities (Full text of Law 1755 of 2015).

However, it can vary depending on the type of data and the entity. Migration Colombia could have official records on the entry into the country of deported people and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could have information on consular assistance provided to deportees, the number of people who have been assisted, and perhaps general statistics on deportation flights coordinated with the United States. In any case, the information provided to interested individuals must comply with the rules on the protection of personal data (Full text of Law 1581 of 2012), that is, through the right of petition it will not be possible to obtain private and/or sensitive data without the authorization of its owner.

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Costa Rica

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Costa Rica

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

1. Arrival and Initial Detention

- Costa Rica agreed in February 2025 to receive up to 200 non-CR nationals deported from the U.S.—mostly from Central Asia and India—as part of a bilateral repatriation arrangement.
- These individuals were taken to the Temporary Migrant Care Center (CATEM), located in Corredores, Puntarenas, where they were detained without the ability to leave while awaiting further arrangements.

  Costa Rica Confirms US Migrant Agreement Was Verbal, Not Written

  Costa Rica: Allow Deported Migrants to Seek Asylum | Human Rights Watch

2. Conditions in Detention

- Reports indicate that detainees, including children and pregnant women, arrived in visible distress, lacked documentation, and had limited or no information on their situation.
- The Costa Rican Ombudsman criticized their treatment, and human rights organizations (CEJIL, AFSC, SJMCR) accused the government of committing human rights violations, including arbitrary detention over 60 days, denial of nonrefoulement protections, and restricted access to health and legal assistance.

  Costa Rica Receives 135 Deported Migrants Amid Flawed Reception

  Costa Rica: New report exposes human rights violations against migrants expelled from the U.S. and warns: “This cannot happen again.” | CEJIL

3. Options Offered to Deportees

Initially, individuals were given limited options, return to their home countries or wait for third-country resettlement. Later, they were informed about additional possibilities:

- Asylum in Costa Rica
- “Special humanitarian” status (initially vague in definition)
- Others chose to seek onward resettlement elsewhere.

  Costa Rica: Allow Deported Migrants to Seek Asylum - Costa Rica | ReliefWeb

  Costa Rica Grants Special Status to 85 Migrants Deported From the US

4. Legal and Humanitarian Developments

- In April 2025, Costa Rica introduced a special humanitarian permit, allowing successful applicants to move freely within the country for 90 days (extendable). They regained access to passports and identity documents, but were not authorized to work.
- The measures were described by officials as “humanitarian,” aimed at avoiding forced returns and respecting individual choice.
- In July 2025, Costa Rica issued a new resolution that allowed a group of 25 migrants to legally work in the country for a period of six months. This marked a significant shift from the earlier policy, which had prohibited employment for deported migrants. The change was presented as a humanitarian measure, and notably, the government waived the standard $55 immigration fee typically required for work authorization.

  Costa Rica Grants Humanitarian Status to U.S. Deported Migrants

  Government Allows Migrants Deported by the US to Work Legally in Costa Rica ⋆ The Costa Rica News

5. Criticism & Suggested Remedies

Human Rights Watch and other NGOs urged Costa Rica to go further by:

- Providing work authorization
- Ensuring housing support
- Offering language training and job placement assistance

- Fulfilling their duty to allow asylum-seeking processes and avoid refoulement.

  "The Strategy Is to Break Us": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Costa Rica | HRW

6. Costa Rican Citizens Deported from U.S.

- Over the last five years, 849 Costa Rican nationals were deported from the U.S., with annual figures increasing (113 in 2022, 183 in 2023, 332 in 2024).
- The Foreign Ministry commits to facilitating their return and economic integration, but detailed publicly available programs remain limited.

  Más de 800 ticos fueron deportados desde EE. UU. en los últimos cinco años | Teletica

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Costa Rica grants three-month humanitarian permits to deported migrants, allowing legal stay and freedom of movement.

Migrants can apply for asylum or other forms of protected status during this period.

Costa Rica provides assistance at the 'Centro de Atención Tempioral para Migrantes (CATEM)': CATEM was originally a shelter but now functions as a detention and reception center, and includes services such as food and shelter, basic hygiene, limited medical care, and legal orientation. After deportation and detention the migrants can choose to stay voluntarily after.

Costa Rica Grants Humanitarian Status to U.S. Deported Migrants

Costa Rica offers three-month permits to US-deported migrants

Government assures that migrants will receive necessary attention at CATEM | CR Today

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

There are several organizations that support migrants in situations of **vulnerability or food insecurity**, including:

1. Cenderos, an organization founded by Nicaraguan migrant women. It offers support in human rights, citizen participation, and social integration, with a special focus on migrant women, youth, and children. Located in San José (source: Cuatro organizaciones que brindan acompañamiento a mujeres migrantes en Costa Rica - La Prensa).
2. Fundación Mujer, which promotes the economic and emotional empowerment of migrant women. It offers courses, training, and legal advice, working to help them enter the job market (source: Cuatro organizaciones que brindan acompañamiento a mujeres migrantes en Costa Rica - La Prensa).
3. UNHCR Costa Rica (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), which offers humanitarian assistance, legal protection, medical insurance, and local integration. It works in partnership with the government and other UN agencies and has offices in San José and Upala (Costa Rica | ACNUR).
4. Fundación Rights Across Borders (RAB), an NGO that offers free services to migrants and refugees. It provides legal protection, humanitarian assistance, socioeconomic integration, and education, with a focus on dignity, inclusion, and resilience (Fundación Rights Across Borders (RAB) – Promoviendo la dignidad, resiliencia e integración de migrantes y refugiados a través de protección y apoyo humanitario en Costa Rica).

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

- Freedom of movement within the country
- Protection from forced repatriation if facing danger in their home countries
- Three-month legal stay, extendable by another three months
- Support to obtain identification documents and passports
- Work legally as independent contractors or employees - for specific groups
- Stay for six months under humanitarian criteria

- Continue using CATEM facilities for housing and food
- Humanitarian status

Costa Rica Grants Humanitarian Status to U.S. Deported Migrants

Government Allows Migrants Deported by the US to Work Legally in Costa Rica ⋆ The Costa Rica News

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Costa Rica's legal framework, including the General Law on Migration and Foreign Nationals (Law No. 8764), governs deportation and mandates humanitarian conditions for reception, with the Directorate General of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) responsible for implementing these policies. While the law allows for deportation, it also requires the provision of basic necessities like food, water, and sanitation, and individuals are entitled to access an attorney, notify family, and receive medical care. For third-country nationals deported to Costa Rica, there are no specific programs for temporary protection or broad-scale reintegration, though humanitarian care and potential asylum claims are addressed.

Key Legal Frameworks and Regulations:

- General Law on Migration and Foreign Nationals (Law No. 8764):
  - This is the primary domestic law governing migration in Costa Rica, establishing the Directorate General of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) and outlining procedures for entry, stay, and the deportation of foreigners.

  Law-8764-Unofficial-Translation.pdf
- International Law and Human Rights Treaties:
  - Costa Rica is a party to various international human rights agreements that influence its domestic policies on deportation.

Governing Bodies and Policies:

- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME):
  - This autonomous agency is responsible for executing migration policies, including the authorization and execution of deportation orders.

  Public Sector Organization - Directorate-General for Migration and Aliens (DGME)
- Migration Policy Committee (NMC):
  - The NMC is tasked with developing comprehensive migration policy and ensuring its implementation and monitoring.

  Migration Policy Institute | migrationpolicy.org

Reception and Reintegration Policies:

- Right to Basic Needs:
  - The law mandates that deported individuals have access to fundamental necessities such as food, water, sanitation, basic healthcare, and housing during their deportation.
- Notification and Family Contact:
  - Deported individuals are authorized to contact family members and others in the receiving country.
- Legal and Medical Support:
  - Detainees are entitled to prompt access to an attorney, with indigent individuals having access to a public defender at government expense.
- Asylum and Humanitarian Care:
  - For those who are third-country nationals deported to Costa Rica, the government is expected to provide humanitarian care and address any claims for asylum.
- Extended Legal Status:
  - In certain situations, such as the influx of third-country nationals from the United States, the government has been encouraged to allow individuals to extend their legal status to decide their next steps.

Research: The State of Costa Rican Migration and I.. | migrationpolicy.org

Challenges and Gaps:

- Humanitarian and Integration Support:
  - While basic needs are legislated, the actual provision of comprehensive social, economic, and cultural integration for deported third-country nationals has been noted as a challenge.
- Specific Policies for Reintegration:
  - There is a recognized need for policies and programs to specifically support the reintegration of deported individuals, particularly third-country nationals, into Costa Rican society.
- Detention Conditions:
  - Despite legal provisions, reports have highlighted issues with inadequate separation of different categories of detainees and substandard sanitary conditions in the designated detention facility.

  Research: The State of Costa Rican Migration and I.. | migrationpolicy.org
- Other Sources

INTER-AMERICAN PRINCIPLES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND OTHER PERSONS IN THE CONTEXT OF MIXED MIGRATION MOVEMENTS

Laws & policies | Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform

Costa Rica - United States Department of State

Limited Aid and Impossible Choices for People Seeking Refuge: The Human Impact of Trump Administration Policies in Costa Rica - Refugees International

Laws & policies | Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform

Research: The State of Costa Rican Migration and I.. | migrationpolicy.org

National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights

Limited Aid and Impossible Choices for People Seeking Refuge: The Human Impact of Trump Administration Policies in Costa Rica - Refugees International

countries - Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

- Migrants are provided with housing at the CATEM
- Work in general is not possible. There was an exception granted recently to a group of 25 migrants.
- US is covering the costs with maintenance, repatriation, costs, and assistance in relocation.

Costa Rica Confirms US Migrant Agreement Was Verbal, Not Written

Costa Rica offers three-month permits to US-deported migrants

Government Allows Migrants Deported by the US to Work Legally in Costa Rica ⋆ The Costa Rica News

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Yes - migrants are taken to the CATEM for data collection and to initiate the repatriation process to their home Countries.

Some information regarding CATEM and migrants experience:

1. "(...) the families are held in a migrant reception center in Corredores canton, Puntarenas province. They have access to their mobile phones and can purchase minutes and data, but Costa Rican authorities hold their passports and other identity documents.

   Although those interviewed expressed appreciation for the shelter, food, and generally welcoming attitude of the staff in the center, they described conditions that are not suitable for children. Parents said the very warm and humid climate left their children listless and with little appetite. The center provides no education or other structured activities for children and few recreational opportunities.

Costa Rica's ombuds office has criticized the conditions in the center".

2. "Those who are still at the center are some of the most difficult cases because they simply don't know what to do next. None are originally from Latin America, let alone Costa Rica. They can't return to their native countries because of persecution and violence. Yet they face enormous barriers to building new lives elsewhere.

   The temporary permits granted by the Costa Rican government are valid for only three months, with a possible extension. But they don't allow people to work, making it nearly impossible to support themselves or their families.

   Some migrants have decided to return to Mexico to wait at the border, hoping they might somehow be allowed back into the U.S. Others have exhausted their resources and don't have the money to leave Costa Rica. They find themselves truly trapped."

New Repatriation Measures: Costa Rica Prepares for U.S. Deportees Arrival : The Tico Times | Costa Rica News | Travel | Real Estate

Costa Rica: Allow Deported Migrants to Seek Asylum | Human Rights Watch

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Here's a detailed breakdown of the legal mechanisms available in Costa Rica for deported individuals (Costa Rican nationals) to recover or renew their national identification documents (cédula de identidad), with explained procedures and precise sources.

1. Legal Basis: Supreme Elections Tribunal (TSE)

   Costa Rica's Supreme Elections Tribunal (TSE), through the Registration Office, is responsible for issuing identity documents (cédula de identidad) to nationals, including those born abroad or in special situations. Applications and necessary certificates are processed free of charge, and the results are authenticated by local authorities or a lawyer.

2. Recovery or Renewal via Costa Rican Consulates

   Costa Rican citizens abroad—such as deported individuals who cannot immediately return home—may request a new cédula or renew an expired one through embassies or consulates. Requirements are:

   - Renewal:
     - Present the expired cédula or birth certificate
     - Provide two passport-sized photos with a light gray background
     - If the cédula has been expired for over ten years, two Costa Rican witnesses are required.
     - No administrative fee is charged at the Consulate, but it may take up to two months for the document to be issued and shipped from the Civil Registry.
   - First-time issuance:
     - Present a passport or birth certificate
     - Follow similar procedures regarding appointment and documentation as above

Consulates may also leverage a "Friendly Consulate" approach—if access to the nearest diplomatic office is limited, applicants can designate a different consulate to process their request, though they must cover courier costs.

3. Procedural Steps and Fees

   Once an application is submitted at the consulate:

   1. Appointment required—to be arranged in advance.
   2. Processing time—typically up to two months for the TSE to issue the cédula via the Civil Registry. The Consulate handles final delivery.
   3. Replacement cost—the first issued or renewed document is free at the consular service level. However, TSE began charging approximately ₡6,070 (~US$11.92) for replacements if more than one cédula is requested in the same calendar year. Some groups (e.g. people with disabilities, seniors, indigenous people) are exempt.

- The TSE's Registration Office manages national ID issuance, including for deported Costa Ricans, with no consular fee for renewal or first issuance,
- Deportees can apply for their ID at Costa Rican consulates, presenting the necessary documentation.
- If the request is urgent or travel constraints exist, the Friendly Consulate policy may help—though additional shipping costs apply.
- While consular services themselves are free, TSE may charge for additional replacements beyond the first annually.
- Expect a processing duration of up to two months for issuance, considering both registry processing and delivery.
- Deported Costa Ricans can legally reclaim or renew their national ID via Costa Rican consulates or embassies abroad.
- There's no fee for the first issuance within a calendar year, but subsequent replacements carry a TSE-imposed fee (from the second card onward)—unless exempted.
- The process typically spans 30 days, with faster options available at additional cost.
- Proper documentation is essential, and for long-expired IDs, consular procedures may involve sworn testimonies.

Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones, República de Costa Rica

Embajada de Costa Rica en los Países Bajos Ambassade van Costa Rica in Nederland - De website van embacr-nl!

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Here's a detailed explanation—in English—of the legal status of individuals deported from the U.S. and received in Costa Rica, including whether they face any administrative or judicial procedures. All key points are carefully sourced.

1. Legal Entry and Temporary Authorization

   Upon arrival, Costa Rica's Migration Directorate grants these individuals "exceptional entry" and "temporary stay" permits—initially valid for 30 days, extendable for another 30 days—explicitly for the purpose of onward travel to their home countries or a third country. These permits are lawful and the individuals are not considered undocumented.

Entry Requirements - Visit Costa Rica - Guidelines

2. Detention at CATEM and No Criminal Charges

   Despite their legal temporary status, many deportees were detained at the Temporary Migrant Care Center (CATEM) without criminal charges. Importantly:

   - None were accused of wrongdoing.
   - All maintained valid migration status during detention.
   - The Court emphasized that detention "would require them to have an irregular immigration status and an administrative decision justifying deprivation of liberty, which is not the case."

   So, the detention was not based on criminal culpability but appears to have been a discretionary measure by authorities.

Costa Rica's Migrant Crisis: A Paradise for Tourists, a Hell for Detained Deportees

3. Delayed Release and Judicial Action

   Faced with criticism and the filing of habeas corpus petitions, Costa Rica's Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court intervened:

   - The court ordered immigration authorities to process the detainees' immigration status and release them.
   - It further directed the state to assess their needs—including healthcare, education, housing, and social assistance.

   This action affirmed that judicial processes can protect migrants even if no criminal proceedings are in effect.

Costa Rican Court Orders Release of Migrants Deported Under Trump Deal

4. Humanitarian Regularization and Special Status

   In response to mounting legal pressure and humanitarian concerns:

   - On April 15, 2025, the Migration Directorate issued a resolution granting remaining deportees a special humanitarian permit (as of April 23 implementation).
   - This permit allows:
     - 90 days of legal stay (extendable)
     - Freedom of movement across Costa Rica
     - Recovery of passports and documents
     - No authorization to work, unless the individual later obtains a regular immigration category

   This change was intended to mitigate the arbitrary aspects of previous detention practices.

Costa Rica Grants Humanitarian Status to U.S. Deported Migrants

5. No Penal Proceedings, but Administrative Oversight

   To clarify:

   - No deportees faced criminal or penal charges.
   - Their status has been managed administratively, starting through temporary transit permits, shifting to detention under CATEM, and ultimately transitioning to a humanitarian permit.
   - Judicial oversight—through habeas corpus and rulings demanding fair treatment—played a key role in ensuring their rights.

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. HIAS Costa Rica • What they do: Provide intensive legal support—including legal interviews, asylum interview preparation, petitions, representation in hearings with authorities—along with guidance on rights, distribution of basic necessities (food, water, hygiene kits), and psychosocial support, especially for women, children, and survivors of violence. • Areas of operation: Offices in San José, and teams present at border regions (north and south of the country). • Resources: Services are free; fraud reports are directed to the organization's ethics team.

   HIAS Costa Rica | Support For Refugees In Costa Rica | HIAS

2. Fundación Rights Across Borders (RAB) • What they do: NGO offering free services to migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees—with a focus on dignity, inclusion, and integration—mainly operating at Costa Rica's southern border. • Approach: Person-centered, diverse teams focused on empowerment, protecting rights, and promoting local integration.

   Fundación Rights Across Borders (RAB) – Promoviendo la dignidad, resiliencia e integración de migrantes y refugiados a través de protección y apoyo humanitario en Costa Rica

3. ANADDIR (National Association for the Defense of the Rights of Immigrants and Refugees) • What they do: Founded in 2022, provides legal information, migratory guidance, human rights training, and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. • Impact: Has served thousands (over 5,000 people), secured 68 amparo (constitutional protection) actions in 2024, and distributed about 3,000 food packages between 2023 and 2024.

   AnaddirCR

4. Asociación de Consultores y Asesores Internacionales • What they do: Offers legal assistance related to acquiring nationality (including through naturalization), seeking protected status, as well as material

assistance. • Location: San José, near Paseo Colón.

Inicio | Asociación de Consultores y Asesores Internacionales

5. Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social (IMAS) • What they do: Government social assistance agency offering support programs for people in poverty—which may include families who have been deported or vulnerable refugees. • Service: Socioeconomic assessment via the 'Ficha de Información Social (FIS)' to access benefits and social support programs.

   Inicio | Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social

6. International organizations and support networks • UNHCR / ACNUR: Provides guidance on asylum processes and fundamental rights; can also offer helpful referrals. • American Friends Service Committee, CEJIL, and Jesuit Service for Migrants Costa Rica: These NGOs promoted in 2025 a temporary humanitarian migration regularization for people deported from the US, allowing them to stay in the country for six months (renewable), work legally or independently, move freely, and spend nights at CATEM (Temporary Migrant Assistance Center).

   From detention to freedom | American Friends Service Committee

   Costa Rica: New report exposes human rights violations against migrants expelled from the U.S. and warns: "This cannot happen again." | CEJIL

7. American Friends Services Committee, CJIL, Servico Jesuita para Migrantes Costa Rica

   Home | American Friends Service Committee

   Home | CEJIL

   Servicio Jesuita para Migrantes Costa Rica - Jesuitas en Centroamérica

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Costa Rican citizens are entitled to free legal assistance provided by the Public Defender's Office, which covers civil, family, labor, and fundamental rights proceedings. However, this coverage does not extend to all types of legal issues. In certain cases, foreigners who can demonstrate a lack of resources may also be eligible for this assistance. Deportees and asylum seekers do not have an automatic right to this service. Administrative proceedings are not covered by the Public Defender's Office, but instead, support is often provided by NGOs and civil society organizations. Please see sources in the question above.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Costa Rica is a signatory to key international human rights treaties, and its Constitution gives such treaties higher legal status than domestic laws. The country has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José), the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These treaties prohibit arbitrary returns, discrimination, and illegal detention, ensuring effective legal protection, including for migrants and deportees.

Regarding refugee law, Costa Rica is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1984 Cartagena Declaration—which broadens the refugee definition to include victims of generalized violence and massive human rights violations. These international standards are incorporated into national law (Law No. 8764 of 2009), which recognizes the right to seek asylum, prohibits refoulement (forcible return), and guarantees due process for asylum seekers, even if undocumented.

For deportees and returnees:

- Costa Rican nationals deported from abroad have the right to enter the country, cannot be arbitrarily prevented from returning, and retain all constitutional rights, including access to justice and essential services.
- Foreigners who are deported to Costa Rica (by mistake or otherwise) may apply for international protection (asylum) if at risk of persecution, and have the right not to be returned to a place where they may face torture or threats to their life (non-refoulement).

In practice, implementation challenges remain, such as lack of free legal assistance in migration/asylum processes, long waiting times for asylum claims, cases of summary deportations or arbitrary detention at borders (especially for Nicaraguan, Haitian, and Venezuelan migrants), and limited access to social services for vulnerable returnees and deportees. These issues have been criticized by UNHCR, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and local organizations.

tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=41

volume-1144-I-17955-English.pdf

A_HRC_WG.6_33_CRI_2_CostaRica_Annex.docx

Other sources in the previous answers

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

There is no specific legal education program exclusively for deported persons in Costa Rica. However, there are broader initiatives aimed at migrants and refugees, from which deported individuals could potentially benefit. These include:

1. A legal compendium on education rights for migrants and refugees prepared by UNHCR and the Ministry of Public Education, which provides information on school enrollment, scholarships, and how to address discrimination, serving as a legal reference but not as an active legal education program.

   Costa Rica | UNHCR

2. Free access to technical and vocational training for refugees and asylum seekers through the National Institute of Learning (INA), though this focuses on technical rather than legal education.

   Technical and vocational education and training | UNHCR

3. A national plan created by the International Organization for Migration and the Ministry of Education to promote the right to non-discriminatory education for migrants, emphasizing inclusion but not specifically legal education.

   UN Migration Agency, Costa Rica to Promote Migrants' Right to Education without discrimination | International Organization for Migration

4. An Emergency Education Program by Red Internacional de Derechos Humanos Europa (Ridhe) offering legal assistance, scholarships, and psychosocial support to displaced Nicaraguan students in Costa Rica, with legal support focused on refugee crisis circumstances rather than deported individuals generally.

   Red Internacional de Derechos Humanos Europa | RIDHE

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

With the support of AI and consultation on some websites that have written about the topic, a step-by-step guide was presented for recovering assets left in the US, namely:

1. Identification and exact location of the assets;
2. Appointment of a legal representative in the US (this can be a friend or relative, but they must be able to take care of the sale or shipment of the assets - do not trust in random people;
3. Hire (if possible) a specialized law firm or company that deals with this issue;
4. Contact authorities and consulates, such as the Costa Rican Consulate in the US or the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs—although they are not responsible, they can provide guidance on documents and consular assistance;
5. Check the status of rented properties, as the owner may evict you and retain your belongings;
6. Arrange for shipment or sale through your representative, for subsequent shipment by carrier or transfer of the sale proceeds to your country of origin.

NOTES: The refugee should document all actions and communications and, if possible, check any legal deadlines for removing property (especially vehicles).

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

First, it is worth noting that even after deportation, the person remains the legal owner of their property (real estate, vehicles, bank accounts, personal belongings). The U.S. government does not automatically confiscate the property of deportees, but it also does not take responsibility for its safekeeping or return.

According to Itamaraty—the Brazilian foreign ministry, whose guidelines can also be used when dealing with US legislation, the responsibility for the items left behind lies entirely with the deportee. Durval Magalhães, an expert and researcher on this topic, said that the assets are usually lost. However, he says that it is possible to resolve the issue remotely, although **there is no concrete information about the measures taken by the two countries**.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

To date, there is no specific bilateral agreement between the United States and Costa Rica that directly addresses the recovery of personal property after deportation. However, there are cooperation instruments and memoranda of understanding that can be used as a basis to facilitate this type of assistance, especially in consular and legal contexts:

1. Migration and Consular Cooperation Agreement (note: signed during the Biden administration): Readout of Secretary Mayorkas's Visit to Mexico and Costa Rica | Homeland Security
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural and Heritage Cooperation: although focused on cultural heritage, this document shows that there are formal channels for dealing with property and the return of assets between governments. Link to the memorandum: 21-115-Costa-Rica-Cultural-Property-Import-Restrictions.pdf
3. Hague Apostille Convention, a multilateral treaty to which Costa Rica is a signatory and which facilitates the recognition of legal documents between countries: HCCH | Authority

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Yes, Costa Rica has legal and institutional mechanisms in place to ensure safe and dignified repatriation, especially for Costa Ricans returning to the country after living abroad. These mechanisms are mainly coordinated by the Directorate General of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) –

Costa Rica - Migrants & Refugees Section

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Although no specific guidelines were found, it was possible to locate the IRM Program (Respuestas Integrales sobre Migración), funded by USAID, which

1. Promotes the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants;
2. Strengthens socioeconomic and labor capacities; and
3. Facilitates access to basic services and development opportunities—see
4. Programa Respuestas Integrales sobre Migración en Centroamérica (IRM) | OIM Costa Rica

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

First flight: 135 migrants.
Second flight: 65 migrants.
Third and fourth flights: 200 migrants.

Costa Rica's Role as Bridge Country for US Deportations Begins with First Repatriations

"The Strategy Is to Break Us": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Costa Rica | HRW

First U.S. Deportation Flight to Costa Rica Lands with 135 Migrants

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

Juan Santamaría International Airport.

Costa Rica Receives 135 Deported Migrants Amid Flawed Reception

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

They go to CATEM (Center for Temporary Attention for Migrants) in Corredores, near the Panamanian border.

"Costa Rican Immigration Director Omer Badilla explained that the migrants underwent a primary screening at Base 2 upon arrival. They will then be transferred to the Center for Temporary Attention for Migrants (CATEM) in the canton of Corredores, near the Panamanian border, where a more comprehensive medical, psychological, and linguistic evaluation will be provided with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Officials emphasized that the migrants will remain in Costa Rica "for the strictly necessary time," estimated to be between four to six weeks, while they await either repatriation or relocation to other countries".

Second U.S. Deportation Flight Lands in Costa Rica as Migration Debate Intensifies

On a U.S. deportation flight of mostly Asians to Costa Rica, half will be minors

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

- Children: At least 81 minors (ages 1–17), including unaccompanied children and infants.
- Adults: Majority aged 30–60, with some elderly individuals over 60.
- Pregnant women: At least two identified.
- Families were often separated during detention and deportation.
- Agreement with Costa Rica provided a deportation of migrants from Central Asia and India on February 2025.
- The group includes nationals of Afghanistan, China, Iran, Russia, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries, and Vietnam. The United States has also deported third-country nationals to Panama and, over the weekend, to El Salvador.

U.S. Deportation Flight to Costa Rica Includes Many Minors Among 135 Aboard

Costa Rica Confirms US Migrant Agreement Was Verbal, Not Written

After a month in a Costa Rican shelter, many deported from the U.S. still have no home

After a month in a Costa Rican shelter, many deported from the U.S. still have no home

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

- More focused on minor offense of improper entry.

  US President Donald Trump and other US officials have repeatedly said that immigration enforcement is targeting people accused or convicted of serious crimes. But those deported to Costa Rica appear to have spent only a few weeks at most in the United States, and neither government has provided any indication that these people have been

accused of a crime, other than the very minor offense of improper entry, in the United States or anywhere else.

Costa Rica: Allow Deported Migrants to Seek Asylum | Human Rights Watch

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

I do not believe that they are required to publish - although there is a law allowing access to Government Data. Costa Rica and US signed an agreement for the deportation - which seems to be a verbal one. But the websites do not show this kind of data.

- Framework for Public Information Access law.

  Costa Rica passes landmark Public Information Law

  Dictamen_23113REDACCION-FINAL.pdf

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME).

Government Allows Migrants Deported by the US to Work Legally in Costa Rica ⋆ The Costa Rica News

Costa Rica's Role as Bridge Country for US Deportations Begins with First Repatriations

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

- Framework for Public Information Access law.

Costa Rica passes landmark Public Information Law

Dictamen_23113REDACCION-FINAL.pdf

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Cuba

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Cuba

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the U.S. to this country..

Based on recent information available in the internet (links below), the Cuban government has expressed its willingness to accept deported migrants from the United States, provided that the bilateral agreements established between the two nations are respected. Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister, emphasized the necessity of ensuring migration that is regular, safe, and orderly, highlighting that returns should occur in accordance with the agreed terms. Despite facing an unprecedented economic crisis, the administration led by Miguel Díaz-Canel remains committed to accepting migrants who seek better opportunities in the U.S. but have been detained and expelled. However, since the resumption of return flights to Cuba in April 2023, hundreds of Cubans have been deported, many of whom have no guarantees of reintegration into an impoverished society and are under the watchful eye of State Security. The returnees encounter interrogations, employment limitations, and, in some instances, political persecution for having left the country (Cuban Regime Continues to Accept Deportees from the U.S.).

This site ICE Arrests Cubans with Deportation Orders from the 1980s: "They Are in Danger if They Return to Cuba" also mentions that Deported Cubans returning to the island face the risk of being detained upon arrival, suffering reprisals for their political activism or statements in the press. They could face interrogations and violations of their human rights. Additionally, they will lose benefits such as Social Security that they have accumulated after decades of work in the United States. "*They are in danger because they have been living in the United States for many years and, depending on their employment here, their family members, the statements they have made to the press, and their political activism, they may be detained upon arriving in Cuba*," explained the lawyer." Also, the deported Cubans would confront an unknown reality and possible violations of their human rights, including being subjected to interrogations to disclose details about their activities in the United States.

Nonetheless the above, according to the IOM UN Migration website (International Organization for Migration | IOM, UN Migration) the institution is a leading intergovernmental organization within the UN system, dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration since 1951. With respect to migrants from US to Cuba, the information is that IOM supports the Cuban government in the framework of the Organizations' mandate. In Cuba, IOM currently cooperates in assistance for resettling refugees, who arrive to the country from other ones without having planned Cuba as a destination; Facilitation of the process of voluntary repatriation process of stranded migrants in Cuba; Assistance for family reunification cases and Support for reintegration of Cuban citizenships who had returned voluntarily to the country (Cuba | International Organization for Migration). In this sense, IMO is a good source of help for the migrants that come to Cuba from the US voluntarily or not.

The contact information is (Cuba | International Organization for Migration) Email: rosanjose@iom.int, Website: Oficina Regional para las Américas | IOM, ONU Migración.

Finally, this site explains the current situation and the step by step that can be followed by migrants in Cuba: Understanding Refugee and Asylum Laws in Cuba: Eligibility, Application Processes, and Legal Protections

And there is also the possibility to ask for help from UNCHR: Know your rights - UNHCR Cuba

How to apply for asylum? - UNHCR Cuba

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

There are no formal programs to help deportees reintegrate into Cuban society. Many return to poverty and uncertainty (Cuban Regime Continues to Accept Deportees from the U.S.), as explained in question 1. The same news from March 2025 show however that the Cuban government is willing to receive the migrants deported from US in a regular, safe, and orderly manner, but highlighting that returns should occur in accordance with the agreed terms between the countries.

A good option seems for the migrant to contact the IOM UN Migration team. According to their website (International Organization for Migration | IOM, UN Migration) IOM supports the Cuban government in the framework of the Organizations' mandate and currently cooperates in assistance for resettling refugees, who arrive to the country from other ones without having planned Cuba as a destination; Facilitation of the process of voluntary repatriation process of stranded migrants in Cuba; Assistance for family reunification cases and Support for reintegration of Cuban citizenships who had returned voluntarily to the country (Cuba | International Organization for Migration). In this sense, IMO is a good source of help for the migrants that come to Cuba from the US voluntarily or not. The contact information is (Cuba | International Organization for Migration) Email: rosanjose@iom.int, Website: Oficina Regional para las Américas | IOM, ONU Migración.

This other article from UNHCR shows that even though refugees do not have a regularized migration status during their stay in Cuba, they have access to health and education, as well as to other rights, including inter alia access to courts, police protection (in case of need), freedom of religion, and de facto freedom of movement. Through UNHCR, refugees also receive housing and small subsistence allowances. Microsoft Word - UNHCR_UPR16_CUB_E_main.doc

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

See answers to questions 1.1 and 1.2 which mention the lack of support and resources for migrants in Cuba. UN says in this 2012 article that Cuba needs to develop in this sense (Microsoft Word - UNHCR_UPR16_CUB_E_main.doc).

The gaps are in summary:

- no national refugee law or status determination system exists;
- Cuba is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.
- The Cuban Constitution (Article 13) allows political asylum, but only in a discretionary and politically motivated way.
- The Migration Law (1978) mentions temporary residence for refugees, but this is rarely applied in practice (https://generisonline.com/understanding-refugee-and-asylum-laws-in-cuba-eligibility-application-processes-and-legal-protections/)

Since Cuba lacks a formal asylum system, the process is handled by UNHCR. The steps are:

- Contact UNHCR in Havana: Individuals fearing persecution must reach out to UNHCR for guidance;
- Submit an Application: Includes personal details, reasons for fleeing, and supporting documents.
- Interview: Each adult applicant is interviewed individually. Children may be interviewed if necessary.
- Legal Assessment: UNHCR prepares a report and makes a decision on refugee status.
- Outcome: If recognized, the individual receives temporary protection until resettlement to a third country

This site indicates the next steps for the migrants to finalize their migration process in Cuba (Understanding Refugee and Asylum Laws in Cuba: Eligibility, Application Processes, and Legal Protections).

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Please refer to answers 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

There is a lack of readily available information on national law that governs the reception or reintegration of deported individuals in Cuba.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Cuba does not have specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to healthcare, housing, employment, or education. The country lacks a formal reintegration framework, and most support is discretionary or provided through humanitarian channels. Know your rights - UNHCR Cuba

Healthcare

There is no formal entitlement to healthcare for deported individuals.

Refugees recognized by UNHCR may receive a health access card from the Cruz Roja Cubana, allowing treatment at Cuban health centers.

For deported individuals who are not refugees, access depends on government discretion and humanitarian support.

Housing

Cuba offers no legal guarantees or structured housing assistance for deported individuals.

Housing access is informal and subject to availability, with no reintegration programs or state-sponsored support.

Employment

Refugees do not have the right to work unless they receive special authorization or external support.

Deported individuals may face employment restrictions, especially if they are under surveillance or considered politically sensitive.

Education

Children of refugees may access education through coordination between UNHCR and Cuban authorities. For deported individuals, access to education is not guaranteed by law and depends on individual circumstances and government discretion. Cuba's free education system benefits refugees | UNHCR

Legal Status

Cuba's draft immigration law includes provisions for regulating foreign residents and visitors but does not establish rights for deported individuals regarding social services. How to apply for asylum? - UNHCR Cuba

This site is a good source to ask for help and start the process in Cuba: UNHCR Cuba - Help for refugees and asylum-seekers

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

There is a lack of readily available information detailing whether individuals face detention or screening upon arrival in Cuba.

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

There is a lack of readily available information detailing the legal mechanisms that exist in Cuba for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

There is a lack of readily available information on the legal status of individuals upon deportation to Cuba.

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide

- Data on the number of individuals helped
- Other organizations they partner with

IOM - International Organization for Migration

- Cuba | International Organization for Migration
- Assistance for resettling refugees, who arrive to the country from other ones without having planned Cuba as a destination; facilitation of the process of voluntary repatriation process of stranded migrants in Cuba; assistance for family reunification cases; support for reintegration of Cuban citizenships who had returned voluntarily to the country.

Red Cross

- Cuban Red Cross | Restoring Family Links
- assistance with reconnecting with family members

UN Refugee Agency

- Know your rights - UNHCR Cuba

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees):

- UNHCR Cuba - Help for refugees and asylum-seekers
- The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) protects persons forced to flee due to conflict and persecution. UNHCR works with governments and partners in over 130 countries to provide lifesaving support and protect rights.

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

There is a lack of readily available information detailing the specific legal framework for deportation proceedings and associated legal aid in Cuba.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes, for international human rights. Cuba must uphold numerous international human rights and labor rights conventions it has ratified but has also failed to do so. Of note though is that Cuba has not ratified key human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and thus has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. Cuba also is notably absent among those countries that have signed or ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The government does not take credible steps or action to identify and punish officials who committed human rights abuses.

CUBA'S REPRESSIVE MACHINERY

2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Cuba - U.S. Embassy in Cuba

No, not refugee law standards. The Cuban state is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. Moreover, Cuba has also not signed the 1954 nor the 1961 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. There is no legal framework or national mechanism for determining refugee status or for the protection of refugees. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carries out these procedures for those who request international protection in Cuban territory.

Microsoft Word - UNHCR_UPR16_CUB_E_main.doc

Cuba Legal Assistance – Rights in Exile

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

There is a lack of readily available information detailing the existence of legal education or rights-awareness programs in Cuba.

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S.

No Cuba-Specific NGO Programs: As of now, there are no known U.S. or Cuban NGOs that specialize in helping Cuban deportees recover belongings. Most aid is generalized or focused on legal status, not property recovery.

The most effective way to manage this situation is by establishing a Power of Attorney (POA) before deportation, allowing a trusted person in the U.S. to retrieve belongings, manage finances, and handle legal matters on their behalf.

General immigration advocacy organizations, such as No More Deaths and the American Immigration Council, offer limited assistance, mostly focused on individuals deported through the U.S.-Mexico border. These groups can sometimes help recover items from detention centers, but they do not provide Cuba-specific services. Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation? Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council *Note: these publications are old. There is no confirmation that NGOs still maintain this support. It is important to get in touch*.

The U.S. government's Project Homecoming program offers logistical support for voluntary deportation, including flights and exit bonuses, but it has also been criticized for threatening property confiscation in cases of non-compliance. USCIS Supports "Project Homecoming" Self-Deportation | USCIS

Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the U.S. after returning to this country?

Deportation does not automatically revoke ownership rights. Individuals retain legal title to their property, bank accounts, vehicles, and other assets. U.S. law distinguishes immigration status from property rights, meaning that even undocumented or deported individuals can legally own and sell property in the U.S.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the U.S. and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

The United States and Cuba have signed several bilateral agreements over the years to manage migration and repatriation. These agreements, known collectively as the U.S.-Cuba Migration Accords, were established to promote safe and legal migration while discouraging irregular departures from Cuba.

The first major agreement was signed in 1994 in response to a surge in Cuban migrants attempting to reach the U.S. by sea. Under this accord, the U.S. committed to issuing at least 20,000 immigrant visas annually to Cuban nationals, aiming to reduce illegal migration by offering legal pathways. Cuba, in turn, agreed to take steps to prevent unauthorized departures from its territory. On December 4, 2024, the United States and Cuba held their second biannual migration talks of the year in Havana, reaffirming their ongoing commitment to the U.S.-Cuba Migration Accords.

U.S. - Cuba Bi-Annual Migration Talks Held in Havana, Cuba - U.S. Embassy in Cuba 6. Department of State Report to Congress: Compliance with U.S. -Cuba Migration Accords (October 2002

8/28/00: Fact Sheet: Cuba-U.S. Migration Accord

8/28/00: Fact Sheet: Cuba-U.S. Migration Accord

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Cuba is bound by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties it has ratified, which require respect for the dignity, safety, and rights of all individuals during repatriation. Cuba also endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Lastly, Cuba is bound by the 1994 U.S.-Cuba Migration Accord, where they agreed to take measures to prevent unsafe departures and promote safe, legal, and orderly migration, which indirectly supports dignified return obligations.

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the U.S. in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

There is a lack of readily available information detailing the role of Cuba's consulates in the U.S regarding deported nationals.

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to this country from November 2024 to present.

From November 2024 to September 2025, the United States has deported at least 676 Cuban nationals through various operations, primarily via air repatriation flights.

This number may be slightly higher due to unreported or smaller-scale deportations not covered in public sources.

Vuelos de deportación Archivos - Cubanet

Deportaciones de Cubanos Hoy | Noticias y Listas Actualizadas en CiberCuba

No exact, centralized figure has been published for the number of immigrants deported from the United States to Cuba between November 2024 and September 2025, but reports indicate that several deportation flights took place with a total exceeding 600 Cubans returned to the island in 2025 alone through August, according to Cubanet.

The U.S. deports 89 Cubans on the sixth flight of the Trump era

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this countrywhere deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

Nearly all U.S. deportation flights carrying Cuban nationals have landed at José Martí International Airport in Havana, Cuba. This airport serves as the primary point of entry for deportees under the bilateral migration agreements between the U.S. and Cuba. [The U.S. deports 89 Cubans on the sixth flight of the Trump era], [Flight Brings Deportees Back to Cuba from the United States], [Rare look inside U.S. deportation flight to Cuba: handcuffs, tears and broken families - CBS Miami]

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Deported individuals from the U.S. are typically resettled in their home provinces or cities across Cuba. The Cuban government processes them through immigration and health checks, and then facilitates their return to their original communities.

Major Cities and Provinces Where Deportees Are Resettled:

1. Havana – Many deportees remain in the capital, especially if they have family or housing there. [They left Cuba seeking the American Dream. ICE sent them home in shackles]
2. Holguín
3. Granma
4. Santiago de Cuba
5. Guantánamo

These eastern provinces are frequently cited as the places of origin for many deportees, and Cuban authorities often return individuals to these areas after processing. [Cuba - Migrants & Refugees Section]

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S.) of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Gender and Age

- Predominantly male: Across multiple flights, men consistently make up 80–85% of deportees.
  - Example: On June 18, 2025, out of 89 deportees, 76 were men, 12 women, and 1 minor. [The U.S. deports 89 Cubans on the sixth flight of the Trump era]
  - On July 31, 2025, 118 deportees included 96 men and 22 women. [118 Cuban

Nationals Deported to Havana on Latest U.S. Charter Flight]

- Few minors: Only isolated cases of minors have been reported, suggesting most deportees are adults, typically aged 20–50.

Family Status - Not Precise Info

- Many deportees leave behind family members in the U.S., including U.S.-born children. [118 Cuban Nationals Deported to Havana on Latest U.S. Charter Flight]
- Some are primary breadwinners, which exacerbates the hardship upon return.
- Family separation is a recurring theme, especially for those who entered under humanitarian parole or CBP One programs. [Cubans deported and at risk of deportation under the Trump administration – Progreso Weekly]

Education Level

- Most deportees are working-class individuals with limited formal education.
- They often held blue-collar jobs in the U.S. or were self-employed. [Cubans deported and at risk of deportation under the Trump administration – Progreso Weekly]
- There is no formal data on education levels, but anecdotal evidence suggests low-to-moderate educational attainment.

Years Spent in the U.S. - Not Precise Info

- Many deportees had been in the U.S. for less than 2 years, having entered during the 2022–2024 migration surge. [Cubans deported and at risk of deportation under the Trump administration – Progreso Weekly]
- Others had lived in the U.S. for 5–10 years or more, especially those with older deportation orders from the 1980s and 1990s. [Cubans deported and at risk of deportation under the Trump administration – Progreso Weekly]
- Some individuals were detained for months or years before deportation. [Cubans deported and at risk of deportation under the Trump administration – Progreso Weekly]

Source:

CiberCuba – Deportation Flight Reports [The U.S. d...Trump era]

Cuba Headlines – July Deportation Flight [118 Cuban...ter Flight]

Progreso Weekly – Deportation Risk Analysis [Cubans dep...Trump ...]

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Immigration Violations

1. Visa Overstay or Unauthorized Entry
   - Many Cubans entered the U.S. without valid visas or overstayed their permitted duration.
   - Those who failed to regularize their status under the Cuban Adjustment Act or other programs were subject to removal.
2. Humanitarian Parole Expiration
   - Over 110,000 Cubans entered under the CHNV humanitarian parole program, which was revoked in early 2025.
   - Those who didn't meet the one-year residency requirement or failed to apply for adjustment of status became deportable.
3. Border Detention and Inadmissibility
   - Thousands were detained at the U.S.-Mexico border and deemed inadmissible under expedited removal procedures.
   - Use of CBP One app was discontinued, leaving many in legal limbo.
4. Old Deportation Orders
   - ICE reactivated deportation orders from the 1980s and 1990s, targeting individuals who had lived in the U.S. for decades.

- [The U.S. d...Trump era]

Revocation of Social Security Numbers and Benefits: Used to pressure migrants into "self-deportation".

Failure to Comply with Supervision Orders (I-220A/B): Many Cubans released under these

orders were later deported when their cases were dismissed.

[Cubans dep...Trump ...]

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

There is a lack of readily available information detailing any legal requirements for the publication of deportation data.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

There is a lack of readily available information detailing which agencies in Cuba are legally responsible for collection and publishing deportation data.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

There is a lack of readily available information detailing whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in Cuba.

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Dominican Republic

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Dominican Republic

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Social Impact

- Stigma and discrimination: Deportees are labeled as 'criminals' or 'failures', even when the cause was only immigration irregularities. This limits access to jobs and social networks, creating exclusion and vulnerability.
- Family separation: Forced separation from children and partners in the U.S. leads to family breakdown and loss of emotional ties. Many return without support networks in the Dominican Republic, increasing isolation.
- Reverse cultural shock: After years in the U.S., some deportees struggle to readjust to Dominican culture, reinforcing feelings of 'not belonging'.

Economic Impact

- Loss of remittances: Deportations reduce the flow of money sent from the U.S., affecting thousands of households. Remittances represent about 10% of the Dominican GDP, so their decline impacts consumption and economic stability.
- Unemployment and precariousness: Many deportees return without resources and face a saturated informal labor market. The lack of strong reintegration programs worsens poverty and social inequality.
- Previous debt: Before migrating, many incurred debts to finance the trip. Returning without money makes these obligations an unsustainable burden.
- Psychological Impact
- Chronic stress and anxiety: Uncertainty during the deportation process and the loss of the 'American dream' generate high stress levels, which can lead to depression and sleep disorders.
- Feelings of failure and guilt: Many deportees feel shame for not meeting family and social expectations, affecting self-esteem and sense of belonging.
- Accumulated trauma: Migration experience, detention, and deportation can reactivate previous traumas and cause symptoms of post-traumatic stress, especially when children are forcibly separated.

Aggravating Factors

- Limited coverage of reintegration programs: Although there are government and NGO initiatives (psychological assistance, identity processing, job training), their reach is insufficient for the scale of the problem.
- Persistent social stigma: Negative community perception hinders reintegration and increases the risk of returning to illicit activities for survival.

Sources Consulted:

https://www.diariolibre.com/

https://haitiantimes.com/

https://www.unicef.org/

https://eulacfoundation.org/system/files/digital_library/2023-07/emigrant-policies-latinamerica-and-thecaribbean.pdf

https://www.elcaribe.com.do/

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

People deported from the United States to the Dominican Republic have some resources and institutional support to facilitate their social and economic reintegration. Here are the main ones:

1. General Directorate of Migration (DGM)
    - Reception interviews: Upon arrival, deportees are interviewed to assess their personal needs and conditions
    - Reintegration plans: The DGM is developing strategies to facilitate access to the labour market and improve the living conditions of returnees.

- International collaboration: They work with organizations such as UNICEF to offer training in various areas, career guidance and access to health and wellness services.

2. Supérate Program

- In conjunction with the DGM and UNICEF, Supérate is designing an assistance plan that includes:
  - Psychological support.
  - Assistance in obtaining identity documents.
  - Family relocation, if necessary

3. Office of the Attorney General of the Republic

- Through the Reintegration of Repatriates Unit, they have assisted more than 20,000 deportees since 2015.
- They offer help for:
  - Labor reintegration.
  - Access to basic services.
  - Legal and social guidance

4. Non-governmental organizations

- Some NGOs collaborate in the implementation of training, mental health and legal advice programs, although their coverage may be limited and focused on specific areas.

There is a draft law on the National Programme of Comprehensive Care for Repatriated Dominicans presented in the Chamber of Deputies which seeks to create a national programme with the following components:

- National Registry of Deportees.
- Technical-vocational training to improve employability.
- Labor intermediation to connect returnees with employers.
- Support for entrepreneurship.
- Guidance to access formal employment in their communities.
- Initial duration of five years, with the possibility of renewal.
- Financing: national budget, international cooperation and private contributions.

UNICEF and the Supérate programme are developing a comprehensive plan that includes

- Social and psychological assistance.
- Support in obtaining identity documents.
- Job training.
- Family relocation if necessary.

An additional legislative proposal seeks to facilitate formal employment for deportees by:

- State support through the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of the Interior and Police
- Inclusion in existing employment programs.
- Prevention of marginalization through coordinated public policies.

These programs are still under development or in the legislative phase, but they show a growing effort on the part of the Dominican State to meet the needs of returnees.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

1. Institutional Coverage Gaps

- Lack of comprehensive programs: Although the government announced reintegration plans in coordination with Supérate, DGM, and UNICEF, these are in early stages and do not cover most deportees. Psychological and social assistance is optional and depends on institutional capacity, creating unequal access.
- Limited focus on vulnerable cases: Reports from Observatorio Migrantes del Caribe (OBMICA) and official diagnostics indicate that pregnant women, minors, and individuals with chronic illnesses receive priority attention, while adult men without family networks are largely excluded from sustainable support.

2. Territorial Inequality

- Concentration in Santo Domingo: Most services (job orientation, identity processing,

psychological support) are offered in the capital. Deportees returning to rural areas face greater difficulties accessing programs, widening the regional gap.

3. Socioeconomic Gaps

- Absence of direct financial support: There are no subsidies or relief mechanisms for deportees returning with debts incurred during migration. This particularly affects those who relied on remittances to support their families, increasing the risk of extreme poverty.
- Lack of differentiation by profile: Experts warn that there are no clear policies to distinguish between deportees for administrative reasons and those with criminal records. This causes generalized stigmatization and limits job access for all.

4. Rights Protection Gaps

- Due process and dignified treatment: OBMICA evaluations reveal deficiencies in guaranteeing rights during deportation and reception in the Dominican Republic, including lack of clear information on available resources and absence of protocols for special cases (separated families, persons with disabilities).

5. Structural Factors

Insufficient funding: Official diagnostics on social care policies indicate that programs depend on international cooperation and lack stable budgets, limiting their sustainability and national reach.

Sources Consulted:

https://obmica.org/images/Publicaciones/MigrationPolicyBrief/Deportados_espaol_final_mpb.pdf

https://eulacfoundation.org/system/files/digital_library/2023-07/emigrant-policies-latinamerica-and-thecaribbean.pdf

https://www.diariolibre.com/

https://www.unicef.org/

https://www.elcaribe.com.do/

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Current Initiatives and Pilot Programs for Assisting Deported Individuals in the Dominican Republic

1. Government and UNICEF Reintegration Plan

- Institutions involved: General Directorate of Migration (DGM), Supérate (social program), UNICEF.
- Objectives: Provide social assistance, psychological support, help with identity documents, and facilitate reintegration into the workforce and society with dignity.
- Key actions: Formation of an inter-institutional team to address social and economic needs; explore relocation strategies for families if needed.

2. Supérate and UNICEF Comprehensive Assistance Program

- Focus: Sustainable solutions for deported Dominicans, including job orientation and training, psychological counseling, and access to social services.
- Goal: Ensure deportees can rebuild their lives and contribute productively to the country.

3. Pilot Program for Protection and Reintegration

- Led by: Attorney General's Office, Social Policy Coordination Cabinet, National Institute of Migration.
- Purpose: Offer integral protection and assistance to deportees; strengthen public policies for vulnerable returnees.
- Actions: Memorandum of understanding signed during the Forum on Protection of Returned Migrants in Vulnerability.

4. Reintegration Mechanisms by DGM

- Current efforts: Individual case analysis upon arrival; development of strategies for employment, reintegration, and social inclusion.
- Partners: NGOs and international agencies like UNICEF.

5. Long-term support by the Unit for Reintegration of Repatriates

- Operated by: Attorney General's Office.
- Services: Assistance with identity documents, psychological and legal support, orientation on credit and social programs.
- Impact: Over 20,000 deportees have received assistance since 2015.

Sources Consulted:

https://migracion.gob.do/migracion-superate-y-unicef-plantean-crear-programa-de-asistencia-a-dominicanos-repatriados/

https://dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2025/02/10/government-and-unicef-to-launch-reintegration-plan-for-exiled-dominicans/

https://pgr.gob.do/autoridades-coordinan-creacion-de-programa-piloto-para-dar-asistencia-a-los-deportados/

https://pgr.gob.do/autoridades-coordinan-creacion-de-programa-piloto-para-dar-asistencia-a-los-deportados/

https://expressdiario.com/actualidad/deportados-reconectados-20115-retornados-reciben-ayuda-para-reinsertarse-en-republica-dominicana/

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

1. General Migration Law No. 285-04 and its Regulation (Decree 631-11)

- Establishes the legal framework for deportation, expulsion, and readmission of nationals and foreigners.
- Defines the responsibilities of the General Directorate of Migration (DGM) in registration, migration control, and interviews upon arrival.
- Includes provisions on due process and human rights in migration procedures.

2. National Regularization Plan (Decree No. 327-13)

- Derived from Law 285-04, this plan aimed to guarantee documentation and legal stay for foreigners, preventing mass deportations.
- Serves as a precedent for current reintegration and migration control policies.

3. Government Strategy for Social Reintegration (2025)

- Coordinated by the General Directorate of Migration (DGM) along with the Social Policy Cabinet and international organizations such as UNICEF.
- Includes registration and interviews at the Reception Center in Haina, job orientation, training, and psychological support.
- Ensures access to basic services and social protection for deported individuals.

4. Social Protection Framework

- Evaluations by the Social Policy Coordination Cabinet and the National Institute of Migration (INM) identify State obligations in social security, health, education, and labor inclusion for returned nationals.
- These policies aim to reduce vulnerability and guarantee rights for repatriated Dominicans.

5. International Guidelines

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) implements programs for assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, focusing on human rights and protection of vulnerable migrants.
- Recommended action areas: psychosocial support, job access, and monitoring mechanisms.

Sources Consulted:

https://migracion.gob.do/documentos/marco-legal/

https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2014/9452.pdf

https://migracion.gob.do/migracion-superate-y-unicef-plantean-crear-programa-de-asistencia-a-dominicanos-repatriados/

https://inm.gob.do/documentos/marco-legal/

https://dominicanrepublic.iom.int/es/asistencia-poblacion-vulnerable-y-trata-de-personas

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Legal Protections for Deported Individuals in the Dominican Republic: Health, Housing, Employment, and Education

1. Health

- The Constitution and General Health Law (Law 42-01) guarantee universal health rights for all citizens, including deported Dominicans. However, there is no specific regulation of granting priority or exclusive programs for deportees.
- Recent criticism: Amnesty International reported a health protocol requiring documentation for access to public health services, which could lead to deportation for irregular migrants, contradicting universal access principles.
- NGOs and international organizations (UNICEF, UNFPA) recommend strengthening coverage for vulnerable returnees, especially pregnant women and children, but these measures are implemented only in pilot programs, not as guaranteed legal rights.

2. Housing

- There are no laws granting subsidies or priority housing access for deportees. State assistance is provided through the Supérate social program, but it is not designed exclusively for returnees. NGOs highlight this gap as critical for reintegration.

3. Employment

- The General Migration Law (Law 285-04) and labor policies recognize the right to work for Dominican citizens, including deportees.
- The government has announced reintegration plans in coordination with DGM and Supérate, but these are voluntary and limited programs, not enforceable rights.

4. Education

- The Constitution guarantees access to education for all Dominicans. However, there are no specific provisions for adult deportees. NGOs report a lack of technical training programs and scholarships for returnees, limiting labor reintegration.

Conclusion: The Dominican Republic does not have specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding health, housing, employment, or education. General rights apply, but assistance depends on social programs or pilot initiatives without exclusive legal guarantees.

Sources Consulted:

https://migracion.gob.do/

https://migracion.gob.do/migracion-superate-y-unicef-plantean-crear-programa-de-asistencia-a-dominicanos-repatriados/

https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2025/04/republica-dominicanaprotocolo-de-salud-racismo-politicas-migratorias/

https://dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2025/02/10/government-and-unicef-to-launch-reintegration-plan-for-exiled-dominicans/

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Detention and Review Procedures for Deported Individuals upon Arrival in the Dominican Republic

1. Review and Migration Control

- Upon arrival, deportees are received by the General Directorate of Migration (DGM) at the Processing Center in Haina.
- Procedures include biometric verification (fingerprints, facial recognition), medical evaluation, and background checks to confirm identity and legal status.
- These steps are regulated by Articles 68, 69, and 124-127 of Migration Law No. 285-04, which require verification before reintegration or referral to judicial authorities.

2. Temporary Detention

- The Haina Reception Center operates as an administrative detention facility, not a prison. Deportees are held for security checks and clearance.
- The stay is usually temporary (around 24 hours), unless there are pending judicial processes.

3. Legal Requirements

- Articles 121-127 of Migration Law No. 285-04 allow detention in cases of non-admission or while ensuring effective departure.
- The Regulation (Decree 631-11) requires DGM to guarantee the right to a phone call, inform the reason for detention, and ensure dignified treatment and respect for human rights.

4. Operational Protocols

- Protocols include photographic registration, fingerprinting, signing of deportation forms, and communication with authorities if there are criminal records.
- These procedures aim to comply with security standards and human rights obligations.

Sources Consulted:

https://migracion.gob.do/documentos/marco-legal/

https://migracion.gob.do/

https://inm.gob.do/documentos/marco-legal/

https://migracion.gob.do/migracion-superate-y-unicef-plantean-crear-programa-de-asistencia-a-dominicanos-repatriados/

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

https://www.pasaportes.gob.do/index.php/servicios-s/renovacion-de-pasaporte/item/265-renovacion-de-pasaporte-para-adultos-por-vencimiento

Dominican Passport Renewal

Requirements:

Original birth certificate with QR code.

Valid identity and electoral card.

Expired or soon to expire passport booklet.

Payment of taxes (Banco de Reservas or online).

Digital photograph (taken in the office or attached online).

Procedure:

Schedule an appointment online or by phone.

Present yourself in person at the passport office.

Capture of biometric data, signature and photograph.

Pick-up of the passport with ID card and delivery form.

Online modality available: Web Application Portal

Official source: General Directorate of Passports

Obtaining a card for the first time (Dominican citizens)

Requirements for adults (18 years or older):

Original and recent birth certificate for identity card purposes.

Copy of the identity card of one of the parents (if they are deceased, death certificate).

Blood typing (not essential).

Presence of the interested party at the identification center.

https://ayuda.jce.gob.do/kb/a51/cuales-son-los-requisitos-para-obtener-una-cedula-por-primera-vez.aspx

Renewal of ID (Dominicans and resident foreigners)

Required documents:

Valid passport (photocopy of the page with photo and data).

Valid residence card (if applicable).

Previous ID (if you had one).

Payment receipt.

What documents are required for foreigners to obtain their Identity Card?

The appointment is scheduled online at the following link:

www.citas.jce.gob.do

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Legal Status of Deported Individuals upon Arrival in the Dominican Republic

1. Legal Status upon Arrival

- Dominican nationals retain full citizenship rights upon return. They are not considered irregular migrants but undergo administrative review by the General Directorate of Migration (DGM) to verify identity and check for pending judicial issues.
- Foreign nationals deported from the Dominican Republic are classified as inadmissible if they attempt re-entry, as per Articles 126 and 127 of Law 285-04.

2. Administrative Procedures

- Governed by Law No. 285-04 and Regulation No. 631-11:
  - Article 68: Defines illegal entry and grounds for deportation.
  - Article 69: Authorizes DGM to issue deportation orders.
  - Articles 124-127: Outline steps for document withdrawal, notification to security agencies, and communication with foreign consulates.
- Upon arrival, deported Dominicans undergo identity verification, background checks, and temporary retention at the Haina Reception Center for security clearance.

3. Judicial Safeguards and Jurisprudence

- Constitutional Court Ruling TC/0051/21:
  - DGM must not execute deportation if the individual has an ongoing administrative process for residency or legal status.
  - Deportation can only proceed after all appeals are exhausted, and a final, irrevocable decision is issued.
- This ruling reinforces due process guarantees under Law 285-04 and protects individuals from arbitrary removal during pending legal procedures.

4. Key Legal References

- Migration Law No. 285-04: Establishes deportation, expulsion, and inadmissibility rules.
- Regulation No. 631-11: Details procedural guarantees and rights during migration processes.
- Constitutional Court Decision TC/0051/21: Jurisprudence on deportation safeguards.

Sources Consulted:

https://dgii.gov.do/sobreTarjetaTurista/Documents/Ley285-04.pdf

https://migracion.gob.do/documentos/marco-legal/

https://morillosurielabogados.com/detencion-migratoria-y-deportacion-en-republica-dominicana/

https://eldia.com.do/el-proceso-de-deportacion-en-republica-dominicana/

https://santanaripoll.com/es/jurisprudencia-migratoria-dominicana/

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Right to Legal Aid: Does the Dominican Republic recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Short answer

- There is no explicit, universal guarantee of free or state-supported legal aid specifically for deported individuals in the Dominican Republic. General legal aid exists (particularly in criminal matters and for vulnerable groups), but access for migrants and deportees is limited, uneven, and often dependent on NGOs and international organizations. Barriers include limited scope of state legal aid, documentation and language issues, geographic disparities, and resource constraints.

Key references (official or primary)

- Constitución of the Dominicana República: due process and defense rights

  Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo | Colección de constituiciones

Law No. 277 04 creating the Public Defender's Office; Organic Law of the Public Ministry No. 133 11 (Public Defense subsystem within the Judicial Power)

Consulta Externa | Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo

Law 277 04 text (Gaceta Oficial archive):

Consulta Externa | Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo

Organic Law 133 11:

Marco Legal – Procuraduría General de la República Dominicana

- General Migration Law No. 285 04 and its Regulation No. 631 11 (framework for migration control and deportation procedures)

Law 285 04: Marco Legal - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN

Regulation 631 11:

Marco Legal - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN

- General Administrative Procedure Law No. 107 13 (procedural guarantees in administrative actions, potentially applicable to deportation/expulsion proceedings)

  Marco Legal - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN

- Ministry of Interior and Police / General Directorate of Migration (DGM)

Inicio - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN

Due process, procedures, and forms pages:

Marco Legal - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN

What the framework provides (and does not) for deported persons

- Constitutional due process and defense rights: The Constitution guarantees the right to defense and access to justice to all persons, including foreigners present in national territory. See Constitution, arts. 68–69 (fundamental rights and due process) and art. 38 (dignity) and art. 25–26 (international relations and treaties). While this ensures the right to be heard and to counsel, it does not by itself create an automatic entitlement to state-funded counsel in administrative migration proceedings. Links:

  Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo | Colección de constituiciones

- Public Defender's Office (ONDP): Law 277 04 establishes free legal defense primarily for persons accused in criminal proceedings who lack resources. The ONDP's mandate is criminal-defense centric; it does not routinely provide representation in administrative immigration proceedings (deportations/expulsions) unless these are connected to criminal cases (e.g., post-sentence expulsion). See ONDP mission/competencies and legal framework:

- Oficina Nacional de Defensa Pública - Inicio

- Migration Law and Regulation: Law 285 04 and Regulation 631 11 set out deportation/expulsion procedures administered by the DGM. They recognize procedural steps (notifications, resolutions, appeal possibilities), but they do not establish a categorical right to free state-funded legal counsel for migrants facing deportation, nor for deported returnees seeking redress.

- Administrative appeal and judicial review: Under Law 107 13 and general constitutional guarantees, individuals can file administrative appeals (reconsideration, hierarchical appeal) and seek judicial review (amparo, contentious-administrative action). However, no statute provides automatic free counsel for such actions.

- Special protections for vulnerable groups: There are norms on children and refugees/asylum-seekers that can entail representation or guardianship:

  - Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (Law 136-03): https://drlawyer.com/tag/law-136-03/

  - Refugee Law (Decree 2330 86) and CONARE procedures under the Ministry of Interior; however, these do not create a general legal aid scheme for deportation defense. Ministry of Interior/CONARE:

    Inicio - Ministerio de Interior y Policia

Bottom line on guarantee

- There is no explicit statutory guarantee of free state legal aid for adult migrants in deportation proceedings in the Dominican Republic. Free legal aid by the state is centered on criminal defense via the ONDP. Migrants often rely on NGOs (e.g., Centro

Bono, Mosctha), international organizations (IOM, UNHCR partners), or private counsel.

Barriers to accessing legal aid

- Legal scope limitations:
  - ONDP's mandate focuses on criminal cases, not administrative deportation processes.
  - Procedural and institutional barriers:
  - Deportations are administrative and often rapid, limiting time to secure counsel or file appeals. Law 285 04 and Regulation 631 11 vest broad powers in the DGM without a built-in public counsel mechanism.
  - Law 285 04
  - Regulation 631 11
  - Access to detention centers and border holding facilities for lawyers and NGOs can be restricted by administrative practice
- Documentation and identity:
  - Many affected individuals, particularly persons of Haitian descent and stateless/at-risk populations, face documentation issues that hinder access to services and representation. While not an explicit legal bar, it is a practical barrier noted in ombudsperson and international reports. Defensor del Pueblo (Ombudsman) and statistics portals:
  - Oficial inicio - Defensor del Pueblo
  - UN bodies often cited by the Dominican Ombudsman; see also Constitutional Tribunal decisions database: https://unwatch.org/database/country/dominican-republic/
- Language and socioeconomic barriers:
  - Limited availability of Creole/French-speaking counsel or interpreters; no dedicated state interpreter service for migration proceedings is specified in Law 285 04/Reg. 631 11.
- Cost and availability of private counsel:
  - Absent a public scheme, migrants must pay private lawyers; NGOs have limited capacity.
  - Regional disparities
- Urban vs. provincial:
  - Legal aid resources are concentrated in Santo Domingo, Santiago, and a few major cities where courts and NGOs are based. Provincial areas and border provinces (e.g., Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia) have fewer legal aid providers and limited NGO presence.
  - ONDP coverage maps show offices primarily aligned with criminal courts; availability for migration issues is incidental.
- Detention and border posts:
  - Proceedings at the Haina detention center and at border points often move quickly with less access to counsel than in urban court settings.

2. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in the Dominican Republic that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals.

National Council for Dominican Communities Abroad (CONDEX)

Type: Government Body (under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Mission: While not exclusively for deported individuals, CONDEX's mission is to support and protect the rights and interests of Dominicans living abroad and those returning to the country. This includes facilitating their reinsertion into Dominican society.

Services:

Guidance and Orientation: Providing information on legal processes, social services, and opportunities in the DR.

Referrals: Connecting returning Dominicans, including those deported, with relevant government agencies, NGOs, and community resources for housing, employment, education, and healthcare.

Advocacy: Working on policies and programs to facilitate the reinsertion of Dominicans.

Impact Data: Specific impact data on deported individuals is not readily available publicly in a disaggregated form. Their overall impact relates to the number of Dominicans abroad they serve and assist in their return and reinsertion processes.

Partnerships: As government entity, CONDEX partners with various ministries, consulates, and national and international organizations to fulfill its mandate.

Links:

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) - CONDEX Page](Protección a Nacionales en el Exterior - MIREX | Portal Único de Servicios de Relaciones Exteriores)

1. Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM) - International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Dominican Republic

Type: Intergovernmental Organization (part of the UN System)

Mission: IOM's mission in the Dominican Republic includes promoting humane and orderly migration, providing assistance to migrants, and working with the government to address migration challenges. This explicitly includes assistance to returning migrants, which encompasses deported individuals.

Services (relevant to deported individuals):

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programs: While primarily for voluntary returns, IOM often works with governments to facilitate the dignified return and reintegration of individuals, including those who have been deported, by providing direct assistance, referrals, and support for sustainable reintegration.

Counselling and Referrals: Providing information on available services, psychological support, and connecting individuals to local resources for housing, employment, and social services.

Capacity Building: Supporting the Dominican government and local NGOs in managing migration, including the reintegration of returning migrants.

Impact Data: IOM produces various reports and statistics on their global and regional activities. Specific, publicly available impact data solely for deported individuals in the DR might be embedded within broader "return and reintegration" figures, rather than isolated. Their global reports often highlight numbers of individuals assisted through AVRR.

Partnerships: IOM partners extensively with the Dominican government (e.g., General Directorate of Migration), UN agencies, civil society organizations, and international donors.

Links:

[IOM Dominican Republic Website](OIM República Dominicana)

[IOM Global Reports and Publications](Migration data | International Organization for Migration) (You might find country-specific information within broader reports)

UNHCR

Services: Protection for refugees and asylum seekers

Local presence: Limited but coordinates with local partners

Website: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency | UNHCR

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

1. Treaty ratifications and their relevance to deportations/refugees

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Ratified: 1978
- Relevance: Due process, non-arbitrary detention, fair hearing before expulsion, family life, non-discrimination.
- UN Treaty Collection: UNTC
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Ratified: 1978
- Relevance: Access to health, education, and social protection for migrants at risk of removal.
- UN Treaty Collection: UNTC

- Convention against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT)
- CAT Ratified: 2012; OPCAT Ratified: 2006
- Relevance: Non-refoulement where there is a risk of torture; detention safeguards.
- CAT: UNTC
- OPCAT: UNTC
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Ratified: 1983
- Relevance: Non-discrimination in immigration enforcement, statelessness concerns affecting people of Haitian descent.
- UN Treaty Collection: UNTC
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Optional Protocols
- CRC Ratified: 1991
- Relevance: Best interests of the child; safeguards in deportations involving children/families; prohibition of child statelessness.
- CRC: UNTC
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Ratified: 1982
- Relevance: Gender-sensitive asylum and deportation procedures; protection from gender-based violence on return.
- UN Treaty Collection: UNTC
- American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR) and Inter-American system
- ACHR Ratified: 1978; DR recognizes the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR).
- Relevance: Due process in expulsion, protection against collective expulsions, nationality and statelessness jurisprudence (e.g., Yean and Bosico v. Dominican Republic).
- OAS: https://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_B-32_American_Convention_on_Human_Rights.htm

2. National legal framework impacting deportations and protection

- Constitution of the Dominican Republic (2015 consolidated text; original 2010)
- Guarantees due process, judicial review, non-discrimination; establishes migration control authority. Controversial nationality provisions after 2010 leading to statelessness risks.
- Official text: Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo | Portada (Constitución) or summary via Presidency: Presidencia de la República Dominicana
- General Migration Law No. 285-04 (2004) and its regulations (Decree No. 631-11)
- Core immigration statute: entry, stay, detention, deportation procedures; provides for expulsion orders, appeals, and humanitarian considerations.
- Law 285-04: Official Gazette reference; copy: Página no encontrada - Transparencia – DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN (buscar “Ley General de Migración 285-04”)
- Regulation 631-11: Página no encontrada - Transparencia – DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN
- Law No. 169-14 (2014)
- Special naturalization/regularization regime responding to Constitutional Court Judgment 168-13; aimed at persons of foreign descent (mostly Haitian) affected by denationalization; interfaces with deportation risk.
- Text: Inicio - MIREX | Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores or Presidency legal portal; analysis by UNHCR: https://www.refworld.org/thematic-area/asylum-and-migration
- National Plan for the Regularization of Foreigners (PNRE) (Decree 327-13)
- Administrative framework to regularize migrants; relevant for protection against removal for those registered.
- Decree 327-13 overview: dominicanrepublic-2015.pdf
- Criminal Procedure Code and Habeas Corpus Law No. 437-06
- Judicial review of detention/deportation, due process guarantees.

- Habeas corpus law note: https://cidh.oas.org/countryrep/DominicanRep99/Chapter2.htm
- Ombudsman (Defensor del Pueblo) Law No. 19-01
- Institutional oversight that can receive complaints about abuses, including in migration enforcement.
- Law: Marco Legal - Defensor del Pueblo

3. Which treaties are most influential in practice?

- Inter-American human rights law (ACHR + IACtHR jurisprudence): Directly binding and regularly cited in regional oversight; key on due process in expulsions, nationality, non-discrimination, and prohibition of collective expulsions.
- ICCPR and CAT: Foundational for non-refoulement where torture/ill-treatment risk exists, and for fair procedures and detention safeguards.
- CRC: Strong influence in cases involving children and family unity during deportations.

  Note: The absence of ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention/1967 Protocol and statelessness conventions limits the normative depth of refugee-specific and statelessness protections in the DR, though non-refoulement obligations can still arise under CAT and the ACHR.

4. Incorporation into domestic law and practice

- Constitutional hierarchy: International human rights treaties ratified by the DR have constitutional rank or supra-legal force in many interpretations, guiding courts and administrative bodies.
- See Constitution arts. on international treaties and rights catalog (Spanish): Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo | Portada
- Migration Law 285-04 and Regulation 631-11:
- Provide administrative procedures for expulsion, rights to notification, and limited appeal/review; detention and deportation implemented by the General Directorate of Migration (DGM).
- Framework references human rights standards and allows humanitarian considerations, but detailed asylum/non-refoulement procedures are not codified because the DR is not party to the Refugee Convention and lacks a dedicated asylum law.
- DGM legal framework: https://migracion.gob.do/en/documentos/legal-framework/
- Protection mechanisms:
  - Habeas corpus and judicial review can be used to challenge arbitrary detention or expulsions (Law 437-06).
  - Children's Code and CRC principles inform family unity considerations, though practice is inconsistent.

5. Compliance gaps and issues flagged by international/NGO bodies

- Lack of a formal asylum/refugee law or procedure
- UNHCR and human rights groups note the DR has no comprehensive asylum system; people at risk of persecution rely on ad hoc or humanitarian channels, despite CAT/ACHR-based non-refoulement duties.
- UNHCR country info: Dominican Republic | UNHCR
- Risk of collective expulsions and due process shortfalls
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has repeatedly reported summary deportations, inadequate individual assessments, and lack of effective remedies, especially affecting Haitians and people of Haitian descent.
- IACHR press release/reporting: Organization of American States (search "Dominican Republic expulsions")
- IACHR 2015 report on human rights of migrants/Haitians: dominicanrepublic-2015.pdf
- Discrimination and statelessness concerns
- ICERD Committee and IACHR condemned discriminatory nationality policies after Constitutional Court Judgment 168-13, leading to large-scale denationalization and heightened deportation vulnerability.
- IACtHR Yean and Bosico (2005) and later supervision; UN CERD concluding observations: tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyext

ernal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=6&DocTypeID=5

- Conditions and safeguards in migration detention
- CAT Committee has expressed concern about safeguards, access to counsel, prompt judicial review, and conditions.
- CAT concluding observations (Dominican Republic): tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=1&DocTypeID=5
- Deportations of pregnant women, children, and family separations
- Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented expulsions of vulnerable groups, lack of best-interests assessments for children, and summary procedures.
- HRW reporting (2023): https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024
- Amnesty International briefing (2023): https://www.ijdh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Human-Rights-and-the-Rule-of-Law-in-Haiti-Key-Recent-Developments-December-2023-through-May-2024.pdf
- Pushbacks/non-admission at borders and access barriers
- Reports of immediate returns at the border with Haiti without individual screening.
- IACHR/OAS and NGOs have flagged these as collective expulsions or refoulement risks.
- OAS/IACHR statements: Organization of American States (search Dominican Republic/Haiti expulsions)

6. Have NGOs critiqued implementation?

Yes. Key themes include discrimination, collective expulsions, lack of due process, and absence of asylum procedures.

- Human Rights Watch
- Critiques mass deportations, abuses by migration authorities, detention conditions, and expulsions of Haitians and people of Haitian descent without due process.
- https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/07/01/we-are-dominican/arbitrary-deprivation-nationality-dominican-republic
- Amnesty International
- Reports on unlawful expulsions, racial profiling, failure to protect children/families, and the humanitarian impact of denationalization and PNRE gaps.
- https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/06/haiti-dominican-republic-reckless-deportations-leaving-thousands-in-limbo-2/
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN agencies
- Situation reports on returns and protection needs; call for safeguards and regularization pathways.
- IOM DR: https://www.iom.int/news/report-spontaneous-returns-highlights-protection-and-reintegration-needs
- Dominican human rights organizations
- Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas (MUDHA), Centro Bonó, Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de los Migrantes (OBMICA) have documented due process violations, arbitrary detentions, and discriminatory enforcement.
- MUDHA: https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/organization/movimiento-de-mujeres-dominico-haitianas-mudha
- Centro Bonó: wiconnect.iadb.org/en/osc/centro-bono/
- OBMICA: OBMICA
- Refugee and statelessness advocacy
- Refworld country reports and legal analyses on Law 169-14 implementation gaps and continuing statelessness risks.
- UNHCR/Refworld: https://www.refworld.org/reference/countryrep/amnesty/2015/en/108006

7. Bottom line answers to your specific questions

- Has the DR incorporated international human rights/refugee standards into its legal framework for deported individuals?

- Partially. The DR is bound by and incorporates general human rights treaties (ICCPR, CAT, CRC, ICERD) and Inter-American human rights law, which apply to deportation procedures and detention. National laws (Constitution, Law 285-04, regulations, habeas corpus) provide procedural bases for expulsion and some safeguards. However, the DR has not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention/1967 Protocol and lacks a dedicated asylum law, leaving significant gaps in refugee-specific protections and statelessness safeguards.

- Which treaties are most influential?
  - ACHR (and Inter-American Court jurisprudence), ICCPR, CAT, and CRC are the most influential in shaping due process, non-refoulement, non-discrimination, and child-protection standards in deportation contexts.
- Are there compliance gaps?
  - Yes. Key gaps include lack of an asylum/refugee procedure; risks of collective/summary expulsions; limited individualized assessments; inadequate access to counsel and judicial review; discriminatory enforcement affecting Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent; and incomplete solutions to statelessness resulting from nationality rulings and the limited reach of Law 169-14.
- Have NGOs critiqued implementation?
  - Extensively. HRW, Amnesty, IACHR, and Dominican NGOs have documented due process failures, discrimination, pushbacks, and deportations of vulnerable groups. See the links listed above for detailed reports and data.
- Note on sources and verification
  - UN Treaty Collection, OAS/IACHR documents, UN treaty body concluding observations, and official DR legal portals are provided above to verify ratification status and domestic legal texts.
  - For specific article citations (e.g., Constitution articles; Law 285-04 provisions), consult the official compilations on the Migration Directorate's legal framework page: Law No. 285-04 Archives - Guzmán Ariza | The Dominican Republic Law Firm and the Constitutional text via the government portal: Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo | Portada

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

- There is no single, nationwide Dominican government program targeted specifically at deportees that offers comprehensive legal education. However, there are several NGO/legalaid initiatives and some government adjacent services that provide legal orientation, documentation support, and rights education to returnees, migrants, and stateless populations. Availability in multiple languages varies; Spanish is standard, with some services in Haitian Creole and English.

1. Centro para la Observación Migratoria y el Desarrollo Social en el Caribe (OBMICA)

- What it is: Dominican research and advocacy center on migration; runs community legal education, legal clinics, and policy advocacy for migrants, returnees, and people of Haitian descent.
- Relevance to deportees: OBMICA provides legal advice/rights information on documentation, nationality, and due process—issues commonly faced by deportees and returnees.
- Languages: Primarily Spanish; some outreach materials/events include Haitian Creole. Contact to confirm current language coverage.
- Funding/sponsors: Project based support from international donors (e.g., UN agencies, EU funded projects, foundations). Donor lists vary by project.
- Effectiveness: Independent evaluations are limited, but OBMICA is frequently cited by international organizations for expertise and community impact; it contributes to legal empowerment, though no randomized evaluations found.

Links:

- Organization page: OBMICA
- Publications (rights-focused): Publicaciones

2. Dominican Human Rights Clinic (Clinica de Derechos Humanos), Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE)

- What it is: University legal clinic providing strategic litigation, legal education, and outreach on human rights, including nationality and migration.
- Relevance: Offers rights education and legal assistance relevant to deportees and returnees dealing with documentation, detention, and due process concerns.
- Languages: Spanish; some capacity in English. Haitian Creole availability varies; confirm directly.
- Funding/sponsors: University-supported; periodic grants from international donors and partnerships (e.g., Open Society foundations and UN bodies in certain projects).
- Effectiveness: Recognized for litigation and advocacy, including cases before inter-American bodies; effectiveness evidenced by case outcomes and policy influence rather than formal impact evaluations.

Links:

- Clinic page: UNIBE - Universidad Iberoamericana
- Example advocacy/litigation notes: UNIBE - Universidad Iberoamericana

3. Caribbean Migrants Observatory (OBMICA partner) and civil society coalitions

- What it is: Networks and coalitions that run rights-awareness campaigns, hotlines, and trainings for migrants and deportees.
- Relevance: Joint advocacy and training sessions on due process, detention conditions, and reintegration rights.
- Languages: Spanish; some materials in Haitian Creole.
- Funding/sponsors: Mixed—EU, UN agencies, philanthropic foundations.

Link:

- Example coalition work referenced by OBMICA publications: Publicaciones

4. UNHCR Dominican Republic and partners

- What it is: UNHCR supports legal aid partners that provide information sessions, legal counselling, and referrals for asylum seekers, stateless persons, and returnees.
- Relevance: While not deportee specific, services often cover documentation, detention monitoring, and rights awareness useful to deported individuals, including those of Haitian descent.
- Languages: Spanish; partner outreach often includes Haitian Creole; English sometimes available.
- Funding/sponsors: UNHCR (UN), with implementing partners (e.g., Centro Bono, MOSCTHA).
- Effectiveness: UNHCR country operation reports include outputs (people counselled, documents obtained) but limited independent impact evaluations.

Links:

- UNHCR Dominican Republic: Dominican Republic | UNHCR
- 2024–2025 country factsheets/updates: Hello PrivilegedAccessController!

5. IOM Dominican Republic (International Organization for Migration)

- What it is: IOM runs migration management, counter trafficking, and reintegration support, including information campaigns and, at times, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) components in the Caribbean.
- Relevance: IOM has implemented rights-awareness and information materials related to safe migration, detention standards, and return; in DR, focus often includes information for migrants and border communities, which deportees can access.
- Languages: Spanish; some materials in Haitian Creole and English.
- Funding/sponsors: Donor governments (EU, USA, Canada), UN funds.
- Effectiveness: IOM publishes results frameworks and output indicators; deportee specific legal education impact in DR is not extensively evaluated publicly.

Links:

- IOM Dominican Republic: OIM República Dominicana

- Publications/Resources: https://lac.iom.int/en/dominican-republic

6. Dominican Government: Defensor del Pueblo (Ombudsperson)

- What it is: Independent constitutional body that provides rights information, receives complaints, and can mediate with authorities.
- Relevance: Deportees facing due process or documentation issues can receive guidance and rights information; not a deportee specific education program but a rights awareness and redress mechanism.
- Languages: Spanish; outreach sometimes in Haitian Creole via campaigns.
- Funding/sponsors: State-funded.
- Effectiveness: Annual reports show case handling and outreach; no deportee specific evaluation.

Links:

- Institution: Oficial inicio - Defensor del Pueblo
- Reports: Publicaciones - Defensor del Pueblo

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

- No formal U.S.–Dominican bilateral program specifically for post deportation property retrieval.
- U.S. detention standards allow detainees to access, safeguard, or mail personal property before removal; success depends on timing and facility compliance.
- Consulates and NGOs provide limited help (advice, notarized authorizations, contacts) but rarely fund or execute cross-border retrieval/shipping.
- Reintegration programs (IOM, USAID-funded initiatives) focus on documentation, livelihoods, and psychosocial support; they generally do not transport property left in the U.S.
- Common challenges: lost/confiscated property during arrest/transfer, lack of power of attorney, cost/logistics of shipping, identification requirements, time constraints, and inconsistent compliance at detention facilities.

What exists (with sources)

1. U.S. ICE/Detention policies that allow property retrieval or mailing before removal

- ICE Detention Standard: “Funds and Personal Property” (Performance-Based National Detention Standards)
- Requires facilities to safeguard detainee property, allow access, and provide means to mail property at detainee’s expense before release/transfer/removal.
- Official: 2011 Operations Manual ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards | ICE (see “Funds and Personal Property” and “Issuance and Exchange of Clothing, Bedding, and Towels”)
- 2011 PBNDS “Funds and Personal Property” PDF: PBNDS 2011, Rev. 2016
- ICE “Removal” fact sheet/process
- Notes coordination of travel documents and personal property handling before removal.
- Removal | ICE

Success and challenges: Compliance is uneven; detainees often report difficulty sending or collecting property due to quick transfers or lack of funds. Independent monitoring has documented gaps:

- DHS Office of Inspector General reports have found property safeguarding issues in some facilities.
- Example: OIG-18-67 (2018) found property and records management deficiencies in ICE facilities: https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2018-06/OIG-18-67-Jun18.pdf
- National Immigrant Justice Center and ACLU reports document inconsistent access to property and problems retrieving it after transfers:
  - NIJC detention conditions reports: https://immigrantjustice.org/issues/detention-and-enforcement/
  - ACLU detention reports: Immigrants’ Rights and Detention | American Civil Liberties Union

2. U.S. Consulates/Embassies and foreign consulates (including the Dominican Republic) – assistance and notarizations

- Dominican consulates in the U.S. can help nationals execute authorizations/powers of attorney to allow a trusted person in the U.S. to access apartments, retrieve documents, and ship belongings. They do not usually fund shipping.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) consulate directory: https://www.dominicanembassy.in/mfa
- Dominican Consulate in New York services (notarial/legalizations): https://do.usembassy.gov/services/notarials/
- U.S. Embassies' general policy: they cannot recover personal belongings for individuals but provide guidance on local legal resources and notarization. This applies symmetrically for foreign nationals in the U.S. and U.S. citizens abroad; for verification:
- U.S. Department of State – "Judicial Assistance" and "Notarial and Authentication Services" describe what consular officers can and cannot do: https://fam.state.gov/fam/07fam/07fam0000apB.html

3. IOM (International Organization for Migration) – return and reintegration programs

- IOM runs Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) globally and country-level reintegration projects for returnees to the Dominican Republic, focusing on documentation, employment, psychosocial services, and referrals. These programs do not advertise belongings-retrieval from the U.S. as a service.
- IOM Dominican Republic (OIM RD) overview: OIM República Dominicana
- IOM AVRR global framework: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/a_framework_for_avrr_en.pdf
- Example project pages for reintegration in the Caribbean emphasize socio economic support, not property shipping.

4. NGO and legal aid support in the U.S. (pre and post removal)

- Some immigrant legal services providers help clients arrange property retrieval before removal (e.g., authorizations to landlords, arranging for someone to collect documents or medications, or mailing items out of detention). This is case-by-case and not a formal "program" with guaranteed logistics.
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) network: Homepage | Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
- American Bar Association – Immigration Justice Project and pro bono locator: Commission on Immigration
- Vera Institute's SAFE Network partners: vera.org/projects/safe-initiative
- Post-deportation support networks occasionally provide guidance on how to contact landlords or storage facilities, but they do not routinely recover belongings across borders.
- Post-Deportation Human Rights Project (Boston College, generally Mexico/Central America focus): Post-Deportation Human Rights Project - Center for Human Rights and International Justice - Boston College

5. Dominican government reintegration and reception for returnees

- The Dominican government receives deportees and provides identification and limited reintegration assistance. Public documentation focuses on reception and social assistance, not belongings retrieval abroad.
- Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM RD) – research and policy: Inicio - Instituto Nacional de Migración | INM RD
- Dirección General de Migración (DGM) – reception of repatriated nationals: DGM reports that 3,581 Dominicans have repatriated from the US so far in 2025. - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN
- USAID and other donors fund community reintegration and youth violence prevention; these projects generally do not handle personal property left in the U.S.
- USAID/Dominican Republic: Audit of USAID's Anticorruption Activities in the Dominican Republic | Office of Inspector General
- How successful are these efforts?
- ICE detention property protocols: Mixed. Where facilities follow PBNDS and detainees have time, detainees often can mail

documents or small items before removal. However, watchdog reports show frequent failures (lost items, inability to access property during transfers, detainees paying postage they can't afford).

- DHS OIG and civil society reports cited above document recurring problems.
- Consular/NGO assistance: Variable and typically limited to paperwork help and advice. Success depends on having a trusted contact in the U.S., the ability to execute a power of attorney, and funds for shipping/storage. There is no systematic success-rate reporting.
- IOM/Dominican reintegration: Successful for documentation and livelihoods in many cases, but not designed for U.S.-side belongings recovery; no success metrics on property retrieval.

Are they government or NGO-led?

- Property access/mailing prior to removal: U.S. government policy implemented by ICE-contracted facilities.
- Consular notarizations/assistance: Government (Dominican consulates in the U.S.).
- Reintegration support: Primarily IOM (INGO) in coordination with Dominican government ministries; some donor-funded NGO programs.
- Legal aid/social services: NGO/nonprofit and pro bono networks in the U.S.

Common challenges

- Time and transfers: People are moved between local jails, ICE facilities, and staging for removal with little notice, making property retrieval hard.
- OIG-18-67 and civil society reports note transfer-related property loss.
- Cost of shipping and storage: Detention rules require detainees to pay for postage; storage lockers or apartments may accrue fees or be cleared by landlords.
- ICE PBNDS notes detainee responsibility for postage; see 2011 PBNDS "Funds and Personal Property": PBNDS 2011, Rev. 2016
- Lack of documentation/power of attorney: without notarized authorization, third parties may be unable to access apartments or release property.
- Dominican consulate notarial services: Reform Immigration Detention: Safer, More Humane Alternatives
- Communication barriers: Limited phone access, language, and lack of legal counsel hinder coordination.
- Documented in NIJC/ACLU detention conditions reports: Immigration Detention Conditions | American Civil Liberties Union; Immigrants' Rights and Detention | American Civil Liberties Union
- No dedicated cross-border retrieval mechanism: neither U.S. nor Dominican authorities operate a program to collect and ship belongings internationally post deportation; arrangements are private and ad hoc.

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

Dominicans deported from the United States do not automatically lose their property, wages, or financial assets, but they face legal and administrative obstacles to recovering or managing them from the Dominican Republic. Below are the available mechanisms and the relevant agreements:

Property and real estate

The U.S. Constitution protects the right to private property, even for deported persons. Houses, cars and businesses are not confiscated by the U.S. government for the sole fact of deportation. However, if mortgages, taxes or services are not paid, the assets can be seized by creditors, as would happen to any citizen.

Recommended courses of action:

- Power of attorney: Allows a family member or trusted person to manage assets from the U.S.
- Living trust: Temporarily transfers the administration of the assets to a third party.
- Co-ownership or legal transfer: Prevents assets from going unmanaged after deportation

- Bank accounts and financial assets
- Bank accounts are not automatically closed, but access may be blocked if there is no co-owner or remote access.

Withdrawing money from abroad is possible if it is accessed online and there is a legal representative.

Bank Enables International Operations

Recommendations:

- Keep copies of bank documents and passwords.
- Check with the bank about withdrawal options from abroad.
- Go to the Dominican consulate in the U.S. for legal guidance.

Wages and Labor Rights

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) protects the right of every worker, regardless of immigration status, to be paid for what they worked. Outstanding wages can be claimed even from outside the U.S., if you have: pay stubs, contracts, and communications with the employer.

Legal courses of actions include contacting labour lawyers specialized in migration, request support from organizations such as Legal Aid, National Immigration Law Center (NILC) or Dominican Consulates, and the applicable international conventions.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

The MLAT in the Dominican Republic requests legal cooperation from the U.S. for cases involving assets, accounts, or court proceedings.

The International Convention on the Rights of Migrants and Their Families recognizes the right of deported migrants to keep their property and claim wages or financial assets.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | OHCHR

Practice

- Make an asset checklist before any immigration process.
- Organize key documents in physical and digital formats.
- Consult with immigration and wealth lawyers.
- Inform family members about important asset locations and keys.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

1. There is no exclusive formal treaty on repatriation, but there are established procedures and regular cooperation between the two countries for the deportation of Dominicans from the U.S.

Legal and operational basis: repatriations are carried out under U.S. immigration regulations and the acceptance by the Dominican Republic of its nationals. Frequency: The U.S. organizes chartered flights (usually four times a month) to transport deported Dominicans, mainly from U.S. prisons after serving sentences. Main causes: drug trafficking, violent crimes, fraud, rape, illegal possession of weapons and irregular migration. Procedure in the DR: Deportees are received at Las Américas Airport, transferred to the Collection Center in Haina for purification and registration. If they have pending processes in the DR, they are referred to the judicial authorities; otherwise, they are given to relatives.

2. Related memorandums of understanding although there is no exclusive MoU on repatriation, there are memorandums of cooperation on security and border control, which indirectly facilitate migration management:

Memorandum of Understanding for the Knowledge of Air, Sea and Land Spaces (June 2025):

Exchange of information between radars and sensors through the Cooperative System for the Integration of Situational Information (CSII). Objectives: border surveillance, early detection of threats, search and rescue operations, and maritime and air security. Impact: Strengthens capacity to control illicit flows, including irregular migration and transnational crime.

3. Main Practical Provisions

Mandatory acceptance: DR must receive its nationals deported by the U.S. U.S. Safe transportation: chartered flights supervised by ICE and Dominican authorities. Control and registration: purging, recording and delivery to relatives or judicial authorities. Expanded

cooperation: data exchange to improve security and reduce crimes associated with irregular migration.

Sources:

Dominican Republic and the United States Strengthen Cooperation in the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking, Humanitarian Assistance and Security - MIREX | Ministry of Foreign Affairs

More than 200 Dominicans deported from the U.S. and PR - Diario Libre

President Abinader Highlights Ties of Friendship and Shared Values Between the U.S. and the DR – El Nuevo Diario (Dominican Republic)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - MIREX | Ministry of Foreign Affairs - 2024 memorandum of cooperation (Spanish version)

Dominican Republic and U.S. strengthen cooperation on security and humanitarian assistance

U.S.-Dominican Republic Open Skies Agreement Takes Effect, Boosting Aviation and Economic Ties - ForeignPolicyWatchdog.com (Aviation Agreement (Indirect Impact on Repatriation Logistics)

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

The Dominican Republic has clear international obligations to ensure the safe and dignified repatriation of its citizens deported from the United States. These obligations derive from treaties, conventions and recommendations of multilateral organizations, and are related to respect for human rights, non-discrimination and social reintegration. Here are the main commitments of treaties and conventions:

- The American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José) (Articles 1 and 5 guarantee the right to humane treatment and protection from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.)
- The Dominican Republic must ensure deportees are not subjected to conditions that violate their dignity (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families). It also recognizes the right of deported migrants to return to their country of origin with guarantees of security, identity and access to basic services.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 12 recognizes the right of every person to enter his or her own country. It implies that the State must facilitate return without arbitrary obstacles

Recommendations of International Organizations

The OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) has issued specific recommendations to the Dominican Republic to avoid the criminalization of deported migrants, guarantee access to basic social services such as health, education and housing strengthen reintegration mechanisms with a human rights approach.

Full document: Recomendaciones-DerechosHumanos-Migrantes-REPUBLICA-DOMINICANA.pdf

Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

The Dominican Republic is part of the Regional Agreement that establishes as a priority:

- Safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation.
- Avoid all forms of discrimination and exclusion.
- Promote inclusive public policies for returned migrants

Cielo RD Program: Cielo RD Repatriation Insurance Program | Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

Linked National Legislation

The General Migration Law No. 285-04, Article 147 mandates the National Institute of Migration (INM) to carry out studies and support programs for the care of deported persons. Although it does not establish specific rights, it serves as a basis for developing public policies for reintegration.

Official document: Returnees in a condition of vulnerability DIGITAL.pdf

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Protección a Nacionales en el Exterior - MIREX | Portal Único de Servicios de Relaciones Exteriores

Sección Consular - Embajada de la República Dominicana en los Estados Unidos de América

The Dominican Republic maintains a network of consulates across the United States to protect and assist its citizens abroad. These consulates play a critical role in the deportation process, both prior to removal and repatriation, ensuring compliance with international norms and safeguarding the rights and welfare of deported nationals.

1. Pre-Removal Support

Consulates intervene during the detention and deportation phases to mitigate the impact on nationals and uphold their rights:

- Legal Guidance and Advocacy: The consular officers provide information on legal options, refer detainees to immigration attorneys, and monitor due process. This advocacy ensures that deportees understand their rights and that U.S. authorities comply with bilateral and international agreements.
- Identity Verification and Documentation: consulates issue or renews passports and confirms nationality, which is essential for processing deportation. This step accelerates removal procedures while preventing wrongful deportation of non-nationals.
- Humanitarian Assistance: in cases of medical emergencies or vulnerable individuals (e.g., minors, elderly), consulates coordinate with U.S. agencies and NGOs to ensure humane treatment.

Communication with Families: Consulates notify families about detention status and expected removal dates, reducing uncertainty and facilitating emotional and logistical preparation.

2. Post-Removal Support

Once deportees arrive in the Dominican Republic, consular involvement shifts to coordination and reintegration:

- Reception Coordination: consulates liaise with Dominican immigration authorities to prepare for arrival at the Centro de Acopio in Haina, where deportees undergo identity checks, criminal background screening, and health assessments.
- Judicial Referral: if deportees have pending legal cases in the Dominican Republic, consulates ensure smooth handover to judicial authorities, maintaining legal continuity.
- Reintegration Assistance: consulates provide information on social programs, vocational training, and psychological support available in the Dominican Republic, aiming to reduce recidivism and social marginalization.
- Humanitarian Follow-Up: for vulnerable deportees, consulates coordinate with local NGOs and government agencies to provide housing, medical care, and counseling.

Sources:

- News and Analysis on Deportations and Consular Involvement
- Diario Libre – Dominicans with Deportation Orders in the U.S: Dominicanos con orden de deportación en EE.UU. - Diario Libre
- Reports on deportation statistics and consular responses.
- Diario Libre – Dominicans Deported During Biden Administration: Dominicanos deportados: 11,000 durante gobierno de Biden - Diario Libre
- Dominican Today – Calls for Stronger Consular Protection
- Guillermo Moreno calls for protection of Dominican immigrants' rights in the U.S.
- Highlights advocacy for consular services to defend deportees' rights.
- Dominican Today – Routine Coordination Between ICE and Dominican Embassy
- Dominican Ambassador calls U.S. deportations routine and ongoing

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

3,990 people have been removed from Nov 2024 to present using OHSS charts.

Additional Resources:

- Table 42. Noncitizen Removals by Criminal Status and Region and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2013 to 2022 | OHSS
- Immigration Enforcement and Legal Processes Monthly Tables | OHSS
- https://ohss.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/2025_0116_ohss_immigration-enforcement-and-legal-processes-tables-november-2024.xlsx

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

Checked OHSS, ICE Air Operations prioritizes safety and security for its passengers | ICE (ICE Air Operations), archived ICE reports

Airports and Locations Receiving Deportation Flights from the U.S. in the Dominican Republic

1. Main Airport Receiving Deportation Flights

- The primary airport for receiving deportation flights is Las Américas International Airport (AILA), located in Santo Domingo.
- Official protocols indicate that deportees arrive at AILA under coordination between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Dominican General Directorate of Migration (DGM).
- Upon arrival, deportees undergo biometric registration, background checks, and medical evaluations before being transferred to the Haina Reception Center for further processing.

2. Reception and Processing Location

- After landing at AILA, deportees are transported to the Haina Reception Center (Centro Vacacional de Haina) in San Cristóbal.
- This center serves as an administrative facility for identity verification and clearance before reintegration or judicial referral.

3. Operational Details

- Deportation flights are organized by ICE and coordinated with DGM.
- Flights typically arrive on Tuesdays, though schedules may vary based on operational needs.
- Security agencies involved include the Specialized Corps for Airport Security and Civil Aviation (CESAC) and the Public Prosecutor's Office for cases with pending judicial processes.

Sources:

- Inicio - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN
- Migración, Supérate y UNICEF plantean crear programa de asistencia a dominicanos repatriados - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN
- aerodom.com/app/do/las-americas-international-airport

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Santo Domingo and San Pedro de Macorís are the major cities where deported individuals are resettled after arrival. Some key city characteristics include the following:

- Santo Domingo - Capital city; highest concentration of deportees; access to call centers and services.
- Santiago - Second-largest city; strong labor market in commerce and services.
- San Cristóbal - Proximity to Haina Reception Center; industrial and manufacturing opportunities.
- La Romana - Tourism and service sector jobs; presence of family networks.

- San Pedro de Macorís - Known for industrial zones and port-related employment.
- Puerto Plata - Tourism-driven economy; seasonal employment opportunities.

Limitation:

- Official statistics do not publish tables within resettlement cities; instead, the method is done only by the country of deportation and demographic characteristics.
- Qualitative studies (INM, OBMICA) suggest urban patterns, but they are not exhaustive censuses.

Sources:

- Personas Retornadas en Condicin de Vulnerabilidad DIGITAL.pdf
- Deportados_espaol_final_mpb.pdf
- republica_dominicana_-_compendio_regional_de_fuentes_de_datos_sobre_migracion_-_oim_rmdu_-_ro_san_jose_mayo_2022.pdf
- Migration and Forced Displacement

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Most deported individuals to the Dominican Republic are young adults. The majority fall within the age range of 25 to 39 years, representing approximately 55% of the total, while those aged 20 to 24 account for around 20%. Only a small proportion, less than 5%, are over 50 years old. This indicates that deportation primarily affects individuals in their most productive years.

Gender distribution is highly uneven, with men comprising between 90% and 93% of deportees, and women representing only 7% to 10%. This imbalance reflects broader migration patterns and enforcement practices that disproportionately impact male migrants.

Family status is another critical factor. A significant number of deportees have children living in the United States or maintain transnational family ties. Many were heads of household prior to deportation, which often results in severe economic and emotional consequences for their families.

In terms of education, most deported individuals have incomplete or complete secondary education. Fewer than 15% have pursued higher education, which limits their opportunities for formal employment upon return. This educational profile underscores the need for vocational training and reintegration programs.

Regarding length of stay in the United States, deportees typically lived there for an average of 10 to 15 years before being removed. Many had previously held legal status, such as permanent residency, which they lost due to criminal convictions or administrative irregularities. This long-term presence abroad often means that deportees face significant challenges readjusting to life in the Dominican Republic.

Sources Consulted:

- Human Mobility in the Americas (International Data)
- ICE Deportations: Gender, Age, and Country of Citizenship
- Deportados_ingls_final_m pb.pdf
- Personas Retornadas en Condicin de Vulnerabilidad DIGITAL.pdf
- Human Mobility in the Americas (International Data)
- Latin America and the Caribbean | World Migration Report
- Dominican Republic: IACHR urges the State to Eradicate Statelessness

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

There are certain grounds for deportation such as: overstaying a visa, criminal conviction, border apprehensions, final order of removal, and abuse of visa programs.

Sources:

- local law enforcement referrals (287(g) - Delegation of Immigration Authority Section 287(g) Immigration and Nationality Act | ICE

- Not specific to Dominican Republic - Policies for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants

Main Legal and Administrative Reasons for Deportation to the Dominican Republic

4. U.S. Perspective

- Violations of immigration laws: irregular entry through unauthorized borders or ports, overstaying visas, and document fraud.
- Serious crimes: Drug trafficking, robbery, assault, domestic violence, document forgery, and driving under the influence.
- Applicable regulations: Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), Sections 212 and 237; executive orders allowing expedited removal for undocumented migrants with less than two years in the U.S.

1. Dominican Perspective

- Withdrawal of migration documents (Art. 124), communication to security agencies and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Art. 125), temporary detention until effective departure (Art. 126).

2. Relevant Jurisprudence

- Constitutional Court Decision TC/0051/21: Prohibits deportation while an administrative process for residency is pending; ensures due process before definitive expulsion.

Sources:

- Regulation 285-04.pdf
- Regulation 631-11
- Jurisprudencia Migratoria Dominicana - Santana Ripoll & Assoc.
- Migration Law No. 285-04 and Regulation No. 631-11:
- Article 68 and 69: Illegal entry, false documents, expired stay.
- Article 121: Deportation for clandestine entry, document fraud, failure to comply with deadlines.
- Article 122: Expulsion for activities affecting public order, national security, or social peace.
- Article 15: Admission impediments (serious crimes, lack of lawful means of livelihood, contagious diseases).

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

The promulgation of the General Migration Law No. 285-04 of August 15, 2004 and the approval of its Application Regulations contained in Decree no. 631-11), constituted not only the second major legislative effort with a systemic objective of ordering, modernization and organization of institutionality in the area of migratory affairs, but being the culmination of a dilated and sinuous dynamic, they turned out to be a profound value, together with a first great effort to tune the norm and practice, in the configuration of a new culture within the framework of a new Dominican Migration Law. The expanded immigration interdiction and containment plan is being implemented in all the country's provinces, in strict compliance with Law 285-04 and its Regulation, No. 631-11. It is also implemented in accordance with due process standards, carrying out individualized assessments, aligned with respect for human rights, and without harming the dignity of individuals.

Transparency Laws and Public Reporting on Deportation in the Dominican Republic

1. General Transparency Law (Law No. 200-04)

- Law No. 200-04 on Free Access to Public Information guarantees the right of any person to request and receive complete, truthful, and timely information from any state body.
- Article 1 establishes the right to access public information, and Article 3 obliges public institutions to ensure transparency and maximum publicity.
- Decree No. 130-05 sets deadlines for responding to requests (15 business days, extendable by 10 days).
- This law applies to the General Directorate of Migration (DGM), which must provide information on deportations upon request.

2. Constitutional Provisions

- Article 138 of the Dominican Constitution states that Public Administration is subject to the principle of transparency.
- Article 49 guarantees the right of every person to seek, investigate, receive, and disseminate public information.

3. Migration Law

- Migration Law No. 285-04 and its Regulation (Decree 631-11) governs deportation procedures but does not establish an obligation to publish periodic reports.
- However, the General Directorate of Migration publishes data on its portal to comply with transparency standards.
- There is no specific law requiring the publication of deportation statistics, but Law No. 200-04 and the Constitution guarantee the right to request this information. The DGM partially complies by publishing data on its official website.

Sources:

- Ley General de Libre Acceso a la Información Pública, No
- Transparencia - Cámara de Diputados de la República Dominicana
- deportaciones - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MIGRACIÓN
- https://migracion.gob.do/en/history/

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

1. General Directorate of Migration (DGM)

- Main Role: Executes deportations, maintains official records, and publishes statistics on its portal.
- Legal Basis: Migration Law No. 285-04 and its Regulation (Decree 631-11).
- Specific Functions: Orders deportations (Art. 69), communicates decisions to security agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Art. 125), and publishes data in compliance with the Free Access to Public Information Law (Law 200-04).

2. National Institute of Migration (INM)

- Main Role: Produces studies, diagnostics, and statistics on migration and deportation.
- Legal Basis: Attached to the Ministry of Interior and Police; recognized by Law 285-04 as a technical body supporting the National Migration Council.
- Specific Functions: Publishes reports and manages transparency in migration data under Law 200-04.

3. Ministry of Interior and Police

- Main Role: Defines migration policies and supervises the application of Migration Law No. 285-04.
- Specific Functions: Coordinates with DGM and INM to ensure legality and transparency; participates in drafting the Regulation of Application (Decree 631-11).

Sources:

- https://migracion.gob.do/deportaciones/
- Inicio - Instituto Nacional de Migración | INM RD
- Inicio - Instituto Nacional de Migración | INM RD
- Ley General de Libre Acceso a la Información Pública, No
- Decreto Nº 631-11. Reglamento de aplicación de la Ley General de Migración Nº 285-04, del 14 de agosto de 2004

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

The Office for Access to Public Information (OAI) is the body designed to comply with the precepts of the “General Law on Access to Public Information” (Law 200-04), Decree No. 130-05 that creates the regulations of said law, and other regulations related to free access to information. Through the multiple functions granted to it by law, it guarantees that citizens exercise the right of free access to public information.

What is RAI?

The Access to Information Representative (RAI) is responsible for processing and providing the required information and for being the channel of communication between the institution and citizens.

Information Request Process:

1. Complete the information request form.
2. This form is reviewed in order to verify that it is duly completed.
3. Acknowledgement of receipt is delivered to the applicant.
4. Depending on the complexity of the information, the collection and delivery process may take up to 15 business days; and if necessary, an extension of 10 additional working days is requested to complete each request for information, as stipulated in Law 200-04.
5. A tracking number is assigned to each request, with which the citizen can verify the status of their process until confirming that the information has been provided.

Accessing Deportation Data in the Dominican Republic through Freedom of Information Laws

Freedom of Information (FOI) laws in the Dominican Republic grant citizens the right to access public data, including migration and deportation statistics. These laws aim to promote transparency and accountability in government institutions. The primary legislation governing this right is the General Law on Free Access to Public Information (Law No. 200-04), which establishes procedures and timelines for obtaining official information.

Applicable Laws

- Law No. 200-04: General Law on Free Access to Public Information.
- Decree No. 130-05: Regulation for implementing Law 200-04.
- Dominican Constitution (Article 44): Recognizes the right to information and personal data protection.
- Law No. 172-13: Governs personal data protection, relevant when deportation data includes personal identifiers.

Procedure to Request Deportation Data

1. Submit a written request to the relevant public authority (e.g., Dirección General de Migración). Include: full name, ID, description of requested information, authority holding the data, reason for request, and contact details.
2. Response time: 15 business days (extendable by 10 additional days in exceptional cases).
3. Delivery: Information must be provided in a complete and truthful manner, free of charge unless reproduction costs apply.
4. Appeal: If denied, you can appeal administratively or judicially under the law.

Official Sources:

- Ley No. 200-04 (PDF - Presidencia) Ley-200-04.pdf
- OAS Guide on Ley 200-04 Ley acceso a informacion.indd
- Brochure on FOI Procedures
- Brochure Libre Acceso a la Información Pública web
- Law No. 172-13 Overview Law No. 172-13 Dominican Republic

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Ecuador

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Ecuador

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Core Impacts -- most of the data comes from 2023-2024 reports or news articles from the beginning of 2025.

- Social: Individuals who are deported face stigma, fractured family ties, and insecurity. Reintegration is harder for those returning to gang-controlled coastal cities like Guayaquil, where extortion and violence are rampant. (https://english.elpais.com/international/2025-03-22/trumps-ecuadorian-deportees-returning-to-a-country-under-the-terror-of-organized-crime.html | https://www.weareceda.org/ceda-publications/ecuador-at-a-crossroads-the-intersection-of-violence-migration-and-displacement | https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/ecuador | https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/6245212_ECUADOR-2024-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf)

- Economic: Poverty remains high (28% nationally; 43% rural), and informal employment dominates. Individuals who are deported often return with debt and limited job prospects. Government assistance includes $50 immediate aid and a $470 monthly stipend for three months, plus training, but these measures are insufficient given structural unemployment (https://www.weareceda.org/ceda-publications/ecuador-at-a-crossroads-the-intersection-of-violence-migration-and-displacement | https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/ecuador-crisis-response-plan-2025 | https://www.plenglish.com/news/2025/02/13/the-united-states-deported-1297-ecuadorians-in-2025/

- Psychological: Recent studies highlight high rates of depression, PTSD, and anxiety among returnees, worsened by detention trauma and unsafe environments. Women face additional stress from caregiving burdens and gender-based violence risks (https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-025-02455-w | https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1577018/full)

Differences by Gender, Age and Time in the US

- Gender: Women often assume sole caregiving roles and face heightened vulnerability to violence and discrimination. Men experience pressure to re-migrate for economic reasons. Gender norms influence coping strategies and reintegration success (https://english.elpais.com/international/2025-03-22/trumps-ecuadorian-deportees-returning-to-a-country-under-the-terror-of-organized-crime.html)

- Age: Youth (15–30) are more likely to attempt re-migration due to lack of opportunities and high violence exposure. Older individuals struggle with identity rupture and diminished employability (https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1577018/full).

- Time in the US: Longer stays correlate with deeper cultural disconnection and harder reintegration, especially for those with U.S.-born children (https://english.elpais.com/international/2025-03-22/trumps-ecuadorian-deportees-returning-to-a-country-under-the-terror-of-organized-crime.html).

Changes Over the Last Five Years (https://refugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Country-Conditions-Ecuador.pdf | https://www.weareceda.org/ceda-publications/february-2025-update-ecuador-at-a-crossroads | https://www.as-coa.org/articles/tracking-trump-and-latin-america-migration-ecuador-enters-safe-third-country-agreement)

- Security Collapse: Homicide rates surged to 44.5 per 100,000 in 2024—the highest in South America. Child homicides rose 640% since 2019. Deportees now return to far more violent conditions than five years ago.

- Migration Dynamics: Ecuadorians are now the second most intercepted population in the Darién Gap, reflecting repeated migration cycles driven by insecurity and poverty.

- Policy Shifts: U.S. immigration enforcement intensified under Trump's second term, targeting 1 million deportations in 2025. Executive orders halted all U.S. foreign aid to Ecuador, eliminated Safe Mobility Offices, and increased deportations, leaving Ecuador without critical humanitarian support (https://www.weareceda.org/ceda-publications/february-2025-update-ecuador-at-a-crossroads).
    - On November 14, 2025, the US published an agreement with Ecuador regarding the transfer of "third-country nationals": "The agreement states that the United States will propose the transfer of citizens "at its sole discretion" and also emphasizes that Ecuador "at its sole discretion" will consider accepting such a proposal in whole or in part." (https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2025/11/14/latinoamerica/ecuador-eeuu-acuerdo-tercer-pais-seguro-inmigrantes-deportados-orix).

Regional Differences: (https://english.elpais.com/international/2025-03-22/trumps-ecuadorian-deportees-returning-to-a-country-under-the-terror-of-organized-crime.html | https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/ecuador-crisis-response-plan-2025).

- Coastal Provinces (Guayas, Esmeraldas): Highest violence and extortion risks; deportees face severe security threats and business extortion ("vacunas").
- Highlands (Cañar, Chimborazo): Reintegration benefits from family networks and indigenous community support, but economic opportunities remain scarce.
- Amazon Region: Less gang violence but extreme poverty and limited infrastructure hinder reintegration

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Government Resources

The Ecuadorian government provides essential support to deported individuals through its ministries, focusing on identity verification, consular assistance, and social protection. These programs aim to ensure that returnees have access to basic services and reintegration opportunities upon arrival.

Resource:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cancillería) – https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/migrantes-retornados/

In addition to consular support, Ecuador's Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) offers social programs that provide temporary housing, food assistance, and economic reintegration measures for vulnerable deportees.

Resources:

- Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) – Social Protection Programs https://www.inclusion.gob.ec

Citation:

Ministerio de Inclusión Económica y Social. (2024). Programas Sociales. https://www.inclusion.gob.ec

International Organizations

International organizations play a critical role in complementing government efforts. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) runs reintegration projects that include psychosocial support, vocational training, and small business grants for deported individuals (https://ecuador.iom.int/).

For deportees who face protection risks, UNHCR provides legal counselling and humanitarian assistance, ensuring compliance with international human rights standards (*https://www.acnur.org/ecuador*).

Key Treaties and Agreements

Bilateral agreements between Ecuador and the United States govern repatriation procedures, ensuring safe and orderly returns. These agreements include provisions for consular notification, humanitarian safeguards, and compliance monitoring.

Resource:

- U.S. Department of State. (2024). U.S. Relations with Ecuador (https://2021-2025.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-ecuador/)

NGO Reports and Critiques

Civil society organizations such as Fundación Esperanza have highlighted gaps in reintegration programs, including insufficient funding and lack of tailored support for vulnerable groups like women and minors.

Resource:

- Fundación Esperanza. (2024). Programas de Reinserción (https://fundacionesperanza.org.ec/)

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Limitations and Absence of Resources for Deported Persons in Ecuador

Government Assistance Programs

The Ecuadorian government has implemented emergency plans to assist deported nationals, such as the 'Ecuador es tu hogar' program, which provides a monthly stipend of USD 470 for three months and limited reintegration support. However, these programs are temporary and only cover basic needs, leaving long-term reintegration largely unaddressed.

- Limited duration of financial aid (only 3 months).
- No comprehensive employment or housing solutions beyond initial assistance.
- Reintegration programs like 'Aquí hay futuro' lack nationwide coverage and funding.

Social Protection Gaps

Despite emergency measures, deported individuals face significant challenges accessing healthcare, psychological support, and social services. Many returnees report stigmatization and lack of tailored programs for vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and victims of trafficking.

- Absence of permanent reintegration policies.
- Limited mental health and trauma support.
- High dependency on informal labor markets, increasing vulnerability.

Role and Limitations of NGOs

While organizations like United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR/ACNUR), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and the Norwegian Refugee Council provide legal advice and humanitarian aid, their focus is primarily on refugees and asylum seekers, not deported nationals. This creates a gap in specialized assistance for deportees.

- Scarcity of NGOs dedicated exclusively to deported Ecuadorians.
- Services often concentrated in major cities, leaving rural areas underserved.

Reintegration Challenges

The Ecuadorian labor market has limited capacity to absorb deported individuals, with estimates suggesting that up to 70% end up in informal employment. Structural reforms and targeted economic programs are needed to prevent poverty and social exclusion.

Updated Sources:

- Government Assistance Overview: https://quenoticias.com/comunidad/programa-de-apoyo-migrantes-ecuatorianos/
- Financial Aid Details: https://www.expreso.ec/actualidad/economia/migrantes-deportados-acceder-ayuda-470-231669.html
- Reintegration Plan: https://migranteecuatoriano.com/reinsercion-y-apoyo-a-migrantes-ecuatorianos-deportados-desde-ee-uu/
- NGO Contacts: https://help.unhcr.org/ecuador/bienvenido-a/donde-encontrar-ayuda/contactos-de-organizaciones/
- Labor Market Challenges: https://lanacion.com.ec/desafios-laborales-para-los-deportados-desde-ee-uu-y-propuestas-para-su-reinsercion-en-ecuador/

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Government Reintegration Program: "Ecuador es tu hogar" (recently launched)

- Implemented by: Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES).
- Objective: Support Ecuadorians deported from the U.S. in their reintegration process.
- Benefits: Economic Assistance: $470 monthly for three months (equivalent to the basic unified salary).

- Training and Education: Programs to improve employability and create new job opportunities.
- Eligibility: Must have been forcibly deported from the U.S.
- No serious criminal record (e.g., homicide, terrorism, organized crime).
- Listed in the official registry of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Over 18 years old.

International Cooperation and Humanitarian Support

- IOM Crisis Response Plan (2025): Focus on livelihoods, economic recovery, and social inclusion for returnees.
- Provides technical support to Ecuadorian authorities for reintegration programs.
- Includes mental health, psychosocial support, and regular migration pathways

Sources:

https://crisisresponse.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1481/files/appeal/pdf/2025_Ecuador_Crisis_Response_Plan_2025.pdf

https://quenoticias.com/comunidad/programa-de-apoyo-migrantes-ecuatorianos/

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

1. Main Legal Framework

Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana (LOMH), is Ecuador's main legal framework for governing migration and human mobility. It's purpose is to regulate the rights and obligations of migrants, emigrants, and Ecuadorians returning to the country and to establish the responsibilities of the State in managing migration and protecting these groups.

https://www.gob.ec/regulaciones/ley-organica-movilidad-humana-2025

2. Reintegration Policies and Programs

Certificado de Migrante Retornado is an official document issued by Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility that recognizes an Ecuadorian citizen (and certain of their family members) as a returned migrant. This official documents allows returned migrants to qualify for benefits under the LOMH.

https://www.gob.ec/mremh/tramites/emision-certificado-migrantes-ecuatorianos-retornados

Inscripciones | Apoyo a Migrantes Retornados 2025 (MIES)

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

1. Constitutional Rights

The LOMH guarantee equal rights for all persons, regardless of migratory status and prohibits discrimination for being deported (Articles 9 and 11). The LOMH further recognizes the right to migrate and prohibits labeling anyone as "illegal" due to migration status (Article 40).

2. Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana (LOMH)

The LOMH and its reforms (2023–2025) establish certain rights for Ecuadorians returning after deportation, which include the following:

- Deported Ecuadorians have the right to access public health services without discrimination. The law mandates inclusion in national health programs.
- Reintegration is linked to the principle of Buen Vivir, enabling access to social programs and housing assistance, especially for vulnerable groups (Article 21).
- Guarantees recognition of foreign studies and access to scholarships for deported Ecuadorians and their families.
- Through the Certificado de Migrante Retornado, deported individuals can:
  - Import household goods and work tools duty-free.
  - Access entrepreneurship programs and credit lines.

- Participate in job placement and vocational training initiatives.

https://www.gob.ec/regulaciones/ley-organica-movilidad-humana-2023

3. Government Programs

MREMH Assistance Services Free consular and reintegration support, including orientation for health, housing, and employment.

https://www.gob.ec/mremh/tramites/gestion-asistencia-ecuatorianos-exterior-deportados-expulsados-hacia-ecuador, https://www.gob.ec/regulaciones/ley-organica-movilidad-humana-2023

Plan "Ecuador es tu Hogar" (MIES) is a government program created in 2025 to support Ecuadorians who have been deported from the United States and need help reintegrating into Ecuadorian society. Under this program, deported migrants may receive:

- $470 monthly for 3 months.
- Training and job programs.
- Social inclusion measures.

https://quenoticias.com/comunidad/programa-de-apoyo-migrantes-ecuatorianos/

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Below is an analysis based on official sources and media reports regarding the situation of deported individuals upon arrival in Ecuador, particularly whether they face detention, investigation, or other legal procedures. This includes both the treatment upon arrival and the reception protocols.

No automatic detention or criminal investigation

- The Ecuadorian government does not detain or investigate deported individuals simply because they were returned.
- They are issued a Returned Migrant Certificate to access social benefits.
- https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2025/02/06/cancilleria-establece-plan-de-asistencia-emergente-para-ecuatorianos-en-estados-unidos-y-de-apoyo-a-compatriotas-retornados/

Support and reintegration programs

- Executive Decree 521 (Feb. 2025): $470 monthly subsidy for 3 months for deportees from the U.S.
- "Ecuador es tu hogar": legal assistance, training, personal kits, psychological support.

Sources:

- https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/sociedad/subsidio-ecuador-deportados-eeuu/
- https://www.inclusion.gob.ec/

Conditions prior to arrival in the U.S.

- Deportees report being shackled and handcuffed during ICE transfers.
- Link: https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/we-had-no-idea-where-we-were-going-deportees-pass-through-msp

Background checks in special cases

- Ecuador rejects individuals with criminal records under bilateral agreements (e.g., third-country asylum applicants) (https://www.telesurenglish.net/the-u-s-and-ecuador-sign-safe-third-country-deal/).

Informal risks after deportation

- Loss of documents, extortion, arbitrary detention by informal actors (not by the State) (https://www.hrw.org/es).

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

1. Applicable Legal Framework

Human Mobility Organic Law (Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana): Governs rights of Ecuadorians abroad and returnees, ensuring access to identity documents regardless of migration status. It emphasizes that no person should be considered "illegal" due to immigration status and guarantees consular services for identity recovery.

Civil Registry Law (Registro Civil): Establishes procedures for issuance and renewal of cédulas for citizens and residents

2. Mechanisms for Ecuadorian Citizens Abroad or Deported

   Consular Services: Ecuadorian citizens who have been deported or reside abroad can renew or request a new cédula at Ecuadorian consulates. This applies if:

   - The cédula has expired.
   - It was lost or stolen.
   - Personal data needs updating (e.g., marital status, education).

Requirements:

- Previous cédula (if available).
- Ecuadorian passport or birth certificate.
- Payment of fees.
- Certificate of voting (for adults).

3. For Those Without Any ID

   If the person lacks any Ecuadorian ID:

   - Birth Certificate: Must be registered in Ecuador's Civil Registry. If not, the individual must request registration using apostilled or legalized documents.
   - Order of Cedulación: Issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (MREMH) after verifying nationality and migration status. This document authorizes the Civil Registry to issue the cédula.

Online and In-Person Options

- Agencia Virtual: Ecuador's Civil Registry platform allows scheduling appointments and paying fees online.
- Consular Appointments: Required for in-person processing at consulates.

Sources:

https://consuladoenusa.ecugob.com/renovar-tu-cedula-ecuatoriana-usa/

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ecuador-immigration-policy/ecuador-immigration-policy

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Legal Status of Deported Persons upon Arrival in Ecuador

Legal Status upon Arrival

Deported Ecuadorian nationals regain full citizenship rights upon arrival. They are not subject to criminal penalties for deportation itself, as migration-related infractions are considered administrative in nature. Foreign nationals deported from Ecuador lose their migratory status and face prohibitions on re-entry, which under recent reforms can extend up to 40 years for cases involving threats to national security.

Administrative and Judicial Procedures

The deportation process is primarily administrative, regulated under Articles 142–146 of the Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana. It requires a motivated resolution and guarantees the right to defense and judicial review. Recent legal reforms (2025) introduced expedited deportation within 24 hours for individuals deemed a security threat, while maintaining the prohibition of collective expulsions and compliance with international human rights standards. Judicial oversight is exercised through constitutional actions such as 'acción de protección' and review by the Constitutional Court.

Relevant Law

Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana (LOMH) establishes principles of universal citizenship, non-discrimination, and due process in migration matters. Key provisions include:

- Article 40 of the Constitution: Right to migrate.
- Articles 142–146 LOMH: Grounds and procedure for deportation.
- 2025 Reform: Expedited deportation and extended re-entry bans.

Relevant Jurisprudence

- Constitutional Court Judgment 639-19-JP/20: Prohibition of collective expulsions and requirement of individualized due process.
- 2019 Decision on Cuban national: Obligation to assess family ties and proportionality before deportation.

Sources:

- Official Law Text: https://www.gob.ec/regulaciones/ley-organica-movilidad-humana-2025
- Recent Reforms Overview: https://betzabethjaramillo.com/nuevas-reformas-a-la-ley-organica-de-movilidad-humana-en-ecuador-2025/
- News on Expedited Deportation: https://www.infobae.com/america/america-latina/2025/10/23/ecuador-reformo-su-ley-de-movilidad-se-exigiran-antecedentes-penales-y-se-aceleraran-las-deportaciones/
- Constitutional Court Ruling: https://www.corteconstitucional.gob.ec/sentencia-639-19-jp-20/

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Organizations in Ecuador that provide assistance to deported individuals include the Public Defender's Office for free legal aid, UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) and its partners like HIAS and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for humanitarian and legal support, and IOM (International Organization for Migration) for reintegration assistance. The Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana (Ecuadorian Red Cross) also offers basic humanitarian assistance.

In 2024, UNHCR and partners registered 48,515 forcibly displaced people (globally), representing a decrease of approximately 19% from those registered in 2023. Around 71% had unmet basic needs, including legal status, education, or severe medical conditions. Nearly 65% of those assisted were Venezuelan, 25% Colombian, and 10% other nationalities.

UNHCR supported asylum authorities through the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI), enhancing reception and civil registration. 14,486 individuals globally were registered with protection needs, an increase compared to the 10,740 in 2023, including 4,117 recognized as refugees, reducing the asylum backlog to 6,997 cases. Refugee recognition rates increased to 69%, and processing times decreased to about five months

Sources:

https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/ecuador_arr_2024.pdf and https://rightsinexile.org/legal-assistance-by-country/ecuador-legal-assistance/#:~:text=Tel:%20+593%2022%2024%2015,Email:%20coordinacion@fequidadecuador.org

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Yes, Ecuador's constitution guarantees the right to legal defense and state-supported legal aid, which extends to all individuals, including those facing deportation. Detainees have the right to an attorney, and those who cannot afford one are entitled to a court-appointed public defender. This right to a legal defense and a public defender is also supported by international human rights standards and has been clarified by Ecuadorian courts to ensure due process in immigration cases.

Source:

https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/Proteccion/Buenas_Practicas/11424.pdf

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes, Ecuador has incorporated international human rights and refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported and returned individuals, notably through its 2017 Organic Law on Human Mobility (https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2017/11404.pdf. This law aligns with key international principles, including the definition of

refugees from the 1951 Convention and Cartagena Declaration, and guarantees due process and the principle of non-refoulement. This law also applies to Ecuadorians returning from abroad, including those deported, by mandating state support for reintegration and prohibiting discrimination against returnees.

Other key legal provisions and their impact

- Constitutional foundation: Ecuador's 2008 Constitution recognizes the right of Ecuadorians to return to Ecuador and the government's obligation to protect its citizens abroad and upon return in certain circumstances (Article 40, Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador; https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ecuador_2021).
- Organic Law on Human Mobility (2017): This law was a significant step in domesticating international standards.
  - It incorporates the refugee definition from the 1951 Convention and the Cartagena Declaration.
  - It includes the expanded definition of a refugee, covering those fleeing "generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflict, massive violation of human rights, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order".
  - It establishes due process guarantees in the process of determining refugee status.
  - It also provides certain rights to Repatriated Ecuadorian Nationals (Chapter II).
- Rights of those in human mobility: The law ensures that all individuals in a situation of human mobility in Ecuador enjoy the rights established in the constitution and international instruments, regardless of their migratory status.

Sources:

https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/12/PPI-Country-Profiles-Ecuador.pdf

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, deported individuals can access legal education and rights-awareness programs in Ecuador through government channels like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana). International organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/ecuador-crisis-response-plan-2025) and the UNHCR (https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/4889cb8e2.pdf also provide assistance, including orientation and legal information. Local legal aid and human rights organizations further offer support for vulnerable populations.

Source:

https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/4889cb8e2.pdf

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Options to recover belongings after deportation from the U.S. to Ecuador:

1. ICE/CBP
   - Request inventory and assign a representative with a notarized power of attorney before deportation.
   - Contact ICE: https://www.ice.gov/contact
   - Property info: https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management
2. Ecuadorian Consulates & Programs
   - Ministry of Foreign Affairs: https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/
   - "Ecuador es tu hogar" program (MIES): https://www.inclusion.gob.ec
3. NGOs & UNHCR
   - Legal advice and psychosocial support: https://help.unhcr.org/ecuador/

4. Private Shipping Companies

- https://grupoenviworld.com/
- https://servientrega.us/
- https://aeropost.com/ECU/es
- https://www.stackry.com/es
- https://deblex.com/

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

Below are the legal mechanisms, formal agreements, resources, and strategies available for Ecuadorians deported from the U.S. to recover assets such as properties, wages, or bank accounts while in Ecuador:

1. Legal Rights and Property in the U.S.

- Deportation does not remove ownership of property, accounts, or legal assets.
- Assets can only be seized if linked to criminal activity through due process.
- Source: https://legalclarity.org/what-happens-to-your-money-and-property-if-you-get-deported/

2. Power of Attorney (POA) and Trusts

- Granting a POA allows someone you trust to manage property, accounts, and payments on your behalf.
- Creating revocable trusts or joint ownership makes asset management easier from abroad.
- Source: https://www.visaverge.com/news/do-you-lose-ownership-of-us-property-after-deportation/

3. Claiming Property Held by ICE

- ICE has a Property Claim Program for recovering money, documents, and personal items.
- If not claimed promptly, items may be destroyed or auctioned.
- Source: https://larepublica.pe/estados-unidos/2025/02/12/deportaciones-de-inmigrantes-que-pasa-con-tu-dinero-telefonos-y-otras-pertenencias-tras-ser-detenido-por-ice-en-estados-unidos-lrtmus-414696

4. Legal Resources and Free Assistance

- EOIR publishes an official list of pro bono attorneys by state.
- You can also use USA.gov to find free or low-cost legal help.
- Sources: https://www.lanacion.com.ar/estados-unidos/migraciones/gratis-y-en-eeuu-la-lista-oficial-actualizada-de-abogados-pro-bono-para-casos-de-deportacion-de-nid12062025/ and https://www.usa.gov/es/asistencia-legal-gratis

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

The U.S. and Ecuador have maintained cooperation on deportation and repatriation for decades. The framework is primarily based on:

1. Formal Agreement on Transfers (2025): Allows the transfer of third-country nationals to Ecuador and outlines conditions for accepting certain migrants, primarily refugees, under strict health and security criteria.
2. Safe Third Country Arrangement: Agreement under which Ecuador agrees to process asylum claims for certain migrants who might otherwise seek asylum in the U.S.
3. Consular Notification and Assistance Agreement: Ensures Ecuadorian consular officials are informed and can assist nationals during removal proceedings.
4. Standard Repatriation Procedures: Ecuador accepts deported Ecuadorian nationals from the U.S. under standard repatriation procedures, which include:
    - Advance Notification: U.S. authorities must provide Ecuador with passenger lists and flight details before repatriation.

- Humanitarian Standards: Deportees must be treated with dignity, provided food, water, and medical care during transport.
- Identification and Documentation: Ecuador agrees to verify nationality and issue travel documents promptly.

Safeguards Included

- Protection of Minors: Special handling for unaccompanied children.
- Medical Screening: Health checks before and after flights.
- Consular Access: Ecuadorian officials can monitor conditions and assist deportees.

Sources:

https://www.ice.gov/remove/removal

https://2021-2025.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-ecuador/

https://www.as-coa.org/articles/tracking-trump-and-latin-america-migration-ecuador-enters-safe-third-country-agreement

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/17/2025-19939/agreement-between-the-government-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-government-of-the-republic

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Below is an overview of Ecuador's international and national obligations to ensure safe, dignified, and individualized repatriation:

1. International Obligations

   Ecuador complies with treaties ensuring safe and dignified repatriation:

   - Refugee Convention (UNHCR): https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention
   - Convention Against Torture (UN): https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading
   - Global Compact for Safe Migration (UN Migration): https://migrationnetwork.un.org/es/global-compact-for-migration

2. National Legislation

   Legal framework regulating human mobility and repatriation:

   - Organic Law on Human Mobility (LOMH): https://www.gob.ec/regulaciones/ley-organica-movilidad-humana-2023
   - Executive Decree 354 – Regulation: https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022.03.18_reglamento_a_la_ley_organica_de_movilidad_humana_-_rlomh.pdf

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Below is a detailed assessment of the role of Ecuadorian consulates in the United States in supporting nationals before and after deportation, based on official data and impact evaluations:

1. Before Deportation

   - Emergency Assistance Plan (2025): free legal advice, emergency passports, 24/7 hotlines, detention prevention, and voluntary repatriation. https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2025/02/06/cancilleria-establece-plan-de-asistencia-emergente-para-ecuatorianos-en-estados-unidos-y-de-apoyo-a-compatriotas-retornados/
   - Essential Consular Services: legal, medical support, emergency protection, notarization, and document processing. cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Catalogo-ServiciosV5.pdf

2. After Deportation

   - Comprehensive Returnee Assistance Plan: basic kits, financial support, psychological counseling, reintegration programs ("Aquí hay futuro"), partnerships with WFP/UN. https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2025/02/06/cancilleria-establece-plan-de-asistencia-emergente-para-ecuatorianos-en-

estados-unidos-y-de-apoyo-a-compatriotas-retornados/

- Institutional Coordination: protocols with Civil Registry and ministries for document replacement and reintegration. https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2025/02/06/cancilleria-establece-plan-de-asistencia-emergente-para-ecuatorianos-en-estados-unidos-y-de-apoyo-a-compatriotas-retornados/

3. Regulations and Protocols

- Ministerial Agreement (2021): governance and coordination of consulates by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

  https://cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/0000041.pdf

- Repatriation Guidelines: procedures for inmates, visa cancellations, and judicial cooperation (letters rogatory).

  https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/newyork/citaciones-judiciales/

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (MREMH) confirmed that in the first half of 2025, 3,977 Ecuadorians arrived on 47 deportation flights.

Source:

https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/mas-3-900-ecuatorianos-fueron-deportados-ee-uu-primer-semestre-2025/

According to data from Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared through an infographic prepared by Radio Pichincha, 7,598 Ecuadorians were deported from the United States in 2025, on a total of 86 flights.

Source:

https://www.radiopichincha.com/realidad-migrante-ecuatorianos-deportados-gobierno-noboa/

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport (Guayaquil): main arrival point. Flights come directly from Texas (Harlingen, El Paso) and Houston.

There are 2 to 3 flights per week, some on military aircraft (C-17) and others on charter flights.

In January 2025, MREMH confirmed a charter flight with 120 deported Ecuadorians arriving at Quito's Mariscal Sucre Airport under the new U.S. deportation policy.

Source:

https://www.teleamazonas.com/vuelo-migrantes-deportados-llega-guayaquil/ and https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/ecuador/estados-unidos-ecuador-vuelos-deportacion-migrantes/

Flights usually depart from Houston and other U.S. cities with immigration detention centers, such as Harlingen (Texas).

Source:

https://www.radiopichincha.com/semana-llegan-ecuador-300-deportados-estados-unidos/

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Ecuador does not publish systematic data on which cities Ecuadorians deported from the United States resettle in after their arrival. What can be confirmed from official sources and statistics is that reception and initial assistance take place at the arrival airports (Guayaquil or Quito). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MREMH), the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), the Ministry of Public Health, and the Red Cross provide immediate humanitarian and medical care, and then refer individuals to services based on their place of residence in Ecuador.

A report by INEC on "returnees" (Ecuadorian migrants who return voluntarily or forcibly) shows that this population is concentrated in provinces such as Azuay, Cañar, Pichincha, and Guayas,

whose main cities are Cuenca, Azogues, Quito, and Guayaquil.

Source:

ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Bibliotecas/Libros/Reportes/retornados.pdf (data based on the 2022 census).

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Demographic Profile of Ecuadorians Deported from the U.S. (2025)

Age

58% between 25 and 44 years old

20% between 18 and 24 years old

Accompanied minors: low proportion, but present

Gender

Men: 57%

Women: 43%

Family Status

Over 40% have children in Ecuador

Return of entire family units, although single adults predominate

Education Level

Completed secondary education: 62%

Higher education: 14%

Primary or less: 24%

Time in the U.S.

Less than 1 year: 35%

1 to 5 years: 40%

More than 5 years: 25%

Migration Motives

Mainly job seeking and family reunification

Previous Socioeconomic Conditions

Majority worked in informal trade or services

Low income (less than $425 per month)

Source:

https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Bibliotecas/Libros/Reportes/retornados.pdf (Return and Reunion: Analysis of the Ecuadorian Returned Population | 2025)

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Grounds for Deportation (2025)

Irregular Entry into the U.S.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs clarifies that deportation flights include individuals intercepted while entering irregularly, without valid documents. These are not legal residents nor random raids. The Ministry and the Ecuadorian government have reiterated that Ecuador is not on the U.S. priority deportation list, but the flow remains high due to irregular migration.

https://www.ecuavisa.com/noticias/seguridad/2000-ecuatorianos-deportados-vuelos-estados-unidos-primer-trimeste-2025-GY9054954, https://www.primicias.ec/sociedad/migrantes-ecuatorianos-deportados-estados-unidos-balance-cifras-cancilleria-93028/, https://elmercurio.com.ec/actualidad/2025/04/01/ecuatorianos-deportados-estados-unidos-2/

Irregular Immigration Status

Migrants who remained in the U.S. without legal status or with expired visas are deported after administrative processes.

https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/ecuador/cancilleria-ecuatorianos-deportados-estados-unidos/

Judicial Removal Orders

Many deportees had a final deportation order issued by federal judges, generally after asylum applications or appeals were denied.

https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/ecuador/cancilleria-ecuatorianos-deportados-estados-unidos/

Strict Immigration Policy

Under the Trump administration (second term), mass deportations intensified and flights increased to 2–3 per week to Ecuador.

https://www.primicias.ec/sociedad/migrantes-ecuatorianos-deportados-estados-unidos-balance-cifras-cancilleria-93028/

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Ecuador has general transparency and access-to-information regulations, but these do not specifically require the proactive publication of deportation statistics as an independent category.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Responsibility is shared among several Ecuadorian institutions involved in migration and statistics:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (MREMH)
    - Through its Vice-Ministry / Subsecretariats of Human Mobility and Consular Services, and its territorial directorates (e.g., Dirección Zonal 8 in Guayaquil), MREMH coordinates assistance to deported Ecuadorians and compiles official figures on deportations and returns. These appear in mobility yearbooks, bulletins and accountability reports.
2. National Directorate of Migration (Policía Nacional / Ministry of Interior)
    - Identified in government documents as responsible for entry and exit records and migration control systems, which underpin statistics on deportations and inadmissions.
3. National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC)
    - Responsible for official statistics, including surveys and reports on returned population and international migration, which often use data supplied by MREMH and migration authorities.
4. Specialized bodies (e.g., anti-trafficking secretariat / PACTIM)
    - When deportations intersect with trafficking and smuggling issues, these bodies use and occasionally publish statistical tables on deported persons by sex, age and nationality.

So, while there is no single “deportation office”, the primary official source for published deportation data is MREMH, working with the National Migration Directorate and INEC.

Sources:

- https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2019/07/18/cancilleria-brinda-atencion-a-ecuatorianos-deportados-desde-estados-unidos/
- vf-rendicion_cuentas_2024_guayaquil_20240250565001750193118.pdf
- https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Bibliotecas/Libros/Reportes/retornados.pdf

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, in principle. Under Ecuador’s access-to-information framework, deportation data should be obtainable via information requests:

- Ley Orgánica de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública (LOTAIP) establishes that any person can request information held by public bodies, and that entities must respond within set time limits, except where information is classified (e.g., for national security, personal data protections, etc.).

- Deportation data (aggregate numbers, by year, by sex, etc.) are not listed as a protected category in the law; on the contrary, they have been used by oversight institutions like the Defensoría del Pueblo, which indicates that such data have been obtained from the authorities.
- The Defensoría del Pueblo explicitly references statistical tables of deported Ecuadorians, based on data from migration authorities, in its public reports, which is a strong indication that the information is accessible and can be shared at least in aggregate form.

Sources:

https://www.gob.ec/sites/default/files/regulations/2020-06/LOTAIP.pdf

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El Salvador

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

El Salvador

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Reception Process and Initial Risks

Deportees arriving in El Salvador are received at the Oscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport and transferred to the Migrant Assistance Directorate (DAMI) in San Salvador. There, they undergo interviews with the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners and the National Civil Police, receive medical checks from the Ministry of Health, and are offered basic services such as food and transportation. However, UN experts have raised concerns about arbitrary detention, lack of legal representation and family access, and the government's refusal to return individuals unlawfully deported—highlighting serious due process issues.

First Deportees Under Donald Trump Arrive in El Salvador — Los primeros deportados por Donald Trump llegan a El Salvador - El Salvador Now

Impact of U.S. Deportation Policy

U.S. deportation practices significantly affect El Salvador, with individuals—including those without criminal records—often deported under alleged gang affiliation, frequently without due process. These removals have been linked to increased gang activity and violence, fueling cycles of migration and insecurity. Controversially, El Salvador has even offered to accept deportees of any nationality, including U.S. criminals, into its prisons, raising humanitarian and legal concerns.

UN experts alarmed at illegal deportations from the United States to El Salvador | OHCHR

Reintegration Challenges and Available Support

Returnees face major barriers to reintegration, including unemployment, stigma, and pressure to re-migrate. While programs exist, they often emphasize economic reintegration over social and psychological well-being. Organizations such as the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) provide livelihoods programs, vocational training, and case management for young returnees, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports families of the missing. Nonetheless, questions remain about the effectiveness of these initiatives and the state's institutional capacity to manage large numbers of deportees.

The Forgotten Side of Deportation: The Cost of Ign.. | migrationpolicy.org

USCRI El Salvador - U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

El Salvador | International Committee of the Red Cross

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Deported individuals in El Salvador can access various resources and support services to help them reintegrate into society. Here are some key resources and support systems available:

1. Government Programs:

- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME): The General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners provides assistance to deported individuals, including reception services at the airport and initial support. Website.
- Programa de Atención al Migrante Retornado (PAMR): This program offers reintegration support, including psychological counseling, vocational training, and job placement services. Website.

2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

- International Organization for Migration (IOM): IOM provides various reintegration services, including psychosocial support, vocational training, and small business grants. More information can be found on their website.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS): CRS offers programs aimed at helping deported individuals reintegrate, including job training and educational opportunities. Visit their website for more details.
- Fundación para la Educación Integral Salvadoreña (FEDISAL): FEDISAL provides educational and vocational training programs

to help deported individuals gain new skills and find employment. Website.

3. Community-Based Organizations:

- Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM): ACISAM offers mental health support and counseling services to deported individuals and their families. More information can be found on their website.

4. International Aid:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): UNHCR provides support to deported individuals, particularly those who may be at risk of persecution or violence. Visit their website for more information.

5. Local Community Centers and Churches:

- Many local community centers and churches offer support services, including food, shelter, and counseling, to deported individuals.
- For more detailed information, you can visit the official websites of these organizations or contact them directly.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Deportees arriving in El Salvador go through an official reception process at the Oscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport and are taken to the Migrant Assistance Directorate in San Salvador. There, they meet with migration and police officials, get medical checks, and receive food and transport. Even so, UN experts have flagged serious concerns, pointing to cases of arbitrary detention, lack of legal assistance, and limits on family visits, all of which undermine basic due process.

First Deportees Under Donald Trump Arrive in El Salvador — Los primeros deportados por Donald Trump llegan a El Salvador - El Salvador Now

U.S. deportation policy plays a major role in this dynamic. Many people are returned under accusations of gang ties, even without criminal records or a fair hearing. This has been linked to higher levels of violence and gang activity in El Salvador, feeding a cycle of insecurity and renewed migration. At one point, the Salvadoran government even suggested taking in deportees from other countries, including U.S. citizens with criminal records, sparking human rights concerns.

UN experts alarmed at illegal deportations from the United States to El Salvador | OHCHR

Back home, returnees face stigma, joblessness, and pressure to leave again. Some support exists—like training and livelihood programs run by USCRI, or family assistance from the Red Cross—but these efforts are limited and often focus more on jobs than on mental health or social reintegration. With so many people being deported, the country's capacity to truly support them remains a pressing challenge.

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

El Salvador has undertaken several efforts and initiatives to assist deported individuals, focusing on their reintegration and support. Here are some key initiatives and programs:

1. Programa de Atención al Migrante Retornado (PAMR):

- This program, managed by the Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME), provides comprehensive support to deported individuals. Services include psychological counseling, vocational training, job placement assistance, and legal advice.
- More information can be found on the DGME website.

2. Bienvenido a Casa (Welcome Home) Program:

- This initiative aims to facilitate the reintegration of deported individuals by providing immediate assistance upon arrival. Services include medical check-ups, psychological support, and information on available resources and programs.
- More details can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador website.

3. International Organization for Migration (IOM) Programs:

- IOM collaborates with the Salvadoran government to support deported individuals through various programs. These include providing reintegration assistance, vocational training, and small business grants to help individuals start their own businesses.
- More information can be found on the IOM El Salvador page.

4. Fundación para la Educación Integral Salvadoreña (FEDISAL):

- FEDISAL offers educational and vocational training programs to help deported individuals gain new skills and find employment. They also provide psychological support and counseling services.
- Visit the FEDISAL website for more details.

5. Catholic Relief Services (CRS):

- CRS provides support to deported individuals through programs that offer job training, educational opportunities, and psychosocial support. They work in collaboration with local communities and other organizations to facilitate reintegration.
- More information can be found on the CRS website.

6. Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM):

- ACISAM offers mental health support and counseling services to deported individuals and their families. They also provide workshops and training sessions to help individuals understand their rights and access available resources.
- More information is available on the ACISAM website.

7. UNHCR and Other International Organizations:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international organizations provide support to deported individuals, particularly those who may be at risk of persecution or violence. They offer legal aid, psychosocial support, and assistance with reintegration.
- More information can be found on the UNHCR website.

These initiatives and programs reflect El Salvador's commitment to supporting deported individuals and facilitating their reintegration into society. For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) - El Salvador
- Fundación para la Educación Integral Salvadoreña (FEDISAL)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Mental Health Training and Research Association - EcuRed
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

These sources provide comprehensive information on the efforts and initiatives being undertaken to assist deported individuals in El Salvador.

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

El Salvador has several laws, regulations, and policies that govern the reception and reintegration of deported individuals, though the effectiveness and implementation of these measures have been a subject of scrutiny by human rights organizations. The legal and programmatic framework includes:

1. Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora y Personas en Movilidad Humana (Special Law of Benefits and Protection for the Diaspora and People in Human Mobility):

- This law, approved by the Legislative Assembly, is designed to create a legal framework to incentivize the return or temporary establishment of Salvadorans living abroad.
- It provides temporary benefits to returning citizens, such as exemptions from duties and taxes on household goods (up to a certain value, such as $100,000) and the importation of up to two vehicles.

- The law also aims to facilitate access to financial services, allowing returning Salvadorans to present their credit history from abroad.

  DACG-016-2025 Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora y Personas en Movilidad Humana.docx

2. National Policies and Government Programs:

- Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (Ministry of Foreign Affairs): This ministry, through its General Directorate of Human Rights and the Vice Ministry for Salvadorans Abroad, is involved in the reintegration process. They have programs that offer advice on claiming property, social benefits, and provide information on how to contact relatives abroad.

- General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME): The DGME leads the reception process for returned migrants, which includes an interview to collect personal information, reasons for migration, and length of time abroad.

- "Welcome Home" Program: This program, led by the DGME in collaboration with other government institutions (like the Ministry of Health and the National Civil Police), focuses on addressing the immediate needs of returned individuals, such as providing basic resources, medical check-ups, and transportation assistance.

  El Salvador promotes the reintegration of returnees with an instrument under a human development approach

  "Welcome Home" Program

3. International Agreements and Frameworks:

- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM): El Salvador has launched a GCM National Implementation Plan, which includes a focus on the return and reintegration of migrants. This plan is designed to improve migration governance and ensure a comprehensive approach to the migration cycle.

  El Salvador, país campeón del GCM, lanza Plan Nacional de Implementación | IOM (NTCA)

  ii_foro_de_paises_precursores-_key_messages_eng_nov_2024.pdf

- International Organization for Migration (IOM): The IOM works closely with the Salvadoran government to support reintegration efforts. They have programs like "My New Life Is" that provide immediate attention and support to returning migrants, especially those who have been away for a long time and have lost personal networks. The IOM's approach focuses on a holistic, needs-based response at the individual, community, and structural levels.

- SV_Subregional Infosheet_Nov2024_ENG_LQ

- Systematization of good practice. Program for returned migrants without roots. "My New Life Is" | Migrant Protection Platform

4. Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

- A number of NGOs, such as the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), also play a significant role in providing services to deported individuals.

- These organizations offer a range of services, including legal assistance, psychosocial support, vocational training, and employment assistance to help returnees rebuild their lives.

  USCRI_Brochure Still Standing

  USCRI El Salvador - U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

  El Salvador | American Friends Service Committee

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

El Salvador has legal protections and government policies aimed at providing access to key services for deported individuals, although the implementation and scope of these protections are complex and often rely on a combination of different laws, programs, and international cooperation.

Here's a breakdown of the specific legal protections and policies related to health, housing, employment, and education:

1. Health

- Legal Basis: The Salvadoran Constitution and national health policies generally affirm access to health services as a human right for all inhabitants.

  https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/El_Salvador_2014#s248

  LEY DEL SISTEMA NACIONAL INTEGRADO DE SALUD

- Specific Protections for Returnees: The Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora y Personas en Movilidad Humana (Special Law of Benefits and Protection for the Diaspora and People in Human Mobility) and the Ley Especial para la Protección y Desarrollo de la Persona Migrante Salvadoreña y su Familia (Special Law for the Protection and Development of the Salvadoran Migrant and their Family) include provisions for health assistance.

  DACG-016-2025 Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora y Personas en Movilidad Humana.docx

  LEY ESPECIAL PARA LA PROTECCION DE LOS DERECHOS DE LOS MIGRANTES

- Government Programs: The "Welcome Home" program, run by the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME) in coordination with the Ministry of Health, offers immediate medical and psychological care to arriving deportees. This includes on-site check-ups and referrals for more extensive treatment.

  "Welcome Home" Program

2. Housing

- Legal Basis: While there isn't a single law that guarantees housing for deported individuals, the legal framework facilitates their return and resettlement. The Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora provides tax and duty exemptions on household goods and up to two vehicles for returning Salvadorans, which can significantly ease the financial burden of re-establishing a home. This can be seen as an indirect form of housing support.

  DACG-016-2025 Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora y Personas en Movilidad Humana.docx

3. Employment

- Legal Basis and Incentives: El Salvador has specific legal mechanisms to promote the reintegration of deportees into the workforce. The Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora establishes incentives for businesses that hire Salvadoran returnees.
  - Tax Incentives: Companies can deduct a certain number of minimum wages from their income tax for each returnee they hire, creating a direct financial benefit for employers.
  - Labor Ministry Registry: The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is tasked with creating a registry of "Jobs for Returned Salvadorans" to connect returnees with potential employers.

  DACG-016-2025 Ley Especial de Beneficios y Protección para la Diáspora y Personas en Movilidad Humana.docx

- Vocational and Skills Recognition: Programs, often in partnership with international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM), offer vocational training and help returnees validate the skills they acquired abroad, making them more competitive in the local job market.

  Foreign Ministry facilitates the certification of labor skills of returned migrant compatriots

4. Education

- Legal Basis: El Salvador's laws, including the Ley Especial para la Protección y Desarrollo de la Persona Migrante, prioritize the well-being of returned migrant children and adolescents. The country's commitment to international conventions, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, further reinforces its obligation to ensure continuity of education.

  Decreto Nº 655. Ley especial para la protección y desarrollo de la persona migrante salvadoreña y su familia.

- Policies and Programs: While specific laws may not detail every aspect, the government and NGOs work to ensure that returned children and young adults can re-enter the school system. This includes efforts to recognize foreign academic credits and

provide psychosocial support to help them adjust to their new environment.

It is important to note that while these laws and programs exist on paper, their effective implementation can be a challenge. Organizations like Amnesty International and the UN Human Rights Office have at times raised concerns about the practical difficulties deportees face in accessing these services, including bureaucratic hurdles and a lack of resources. The legal and policy framework, however, shows an official recognition of the need to protect and support returned migrants.

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Deported individuals arriving in El Salvador face both official screening and, in certain cases, immediate detention.

The standard process for those arriving by air involves reception at the Directorate of Assistance to Migrants (DAMI) in San Salvador. Here, the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME) conducts a screening interview, which can last about three hours, to collect information on the individual's identity, reason for migrating, and family connections.

In addition to this standard process, El Salvador has a history of detaining undocumented migrants in facilities like the Centro de Atención Integral para el Migrante (CAIM), a long-term immigration detention center. However, a more recent and highly publicized operation involved the immediate imprisonment of hundreds of deportees in the Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo (CECOT). Human rights organizations have classified this detention as arbitrary and indefinite, noting that many of the individuals had no criminal convictions in the U.S.. These deportees were held incommunicado, without contact with family or legal counsel.

Sources:

US deportations raise serious human rights concerns | UN News

Facing deportation or returning to El Salvador | American Friends Service Committee

These Men Were Deported to El Salvador With No Due Process. Their Stories Show Why an Investigation Is Necessary - American Immigration Council

Men expelled to El Salvador repatriated

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

In El Salvador, deported individuals have several legal mechanisms to recover or renew their national identification documents. These mechanisms are facilitated by various government agencies to ensure that deported individuals can reintegrate into society and access essential services. Here are the key mechanisms:

1. Registro Nacional de las Personas Naturales (RNPN):

- The National Registry of Natural Persons (RNPN) is responsible for issuing and renewing the Documento Único de Identidad (DUI), which is the primary national identification document in El Salvador.
- Deported individuals can visit RNPN offices to apply for a new DUI or renew an expired one. They will need to provide necessary documentation, such as a birth certificate and proof of identity.
- More information can be found on the RNPN website.

2. Consular Services:

- Salvadoran consulates abroad provide services to deported individuals before their return to El Salvador. These services include issuing temporary travel documents and assisting with the renewal of national identification documents.
- Deported individuals can contact the nearest Salvadoran consulate for assistance. More information can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador website.

3. Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME):

- The DGME provides support to deported individuals upon their arrival in El Salvador. This includes assistance with recovering or renewing national identification documents.

- More information can be found on the DGME website.

4. Programa de Atención al Migrante Retornado (PAMR):

- This program, managed by the DGME, offers comprehensive support to deported individuals, including assistance with obtaining or renewing national identification documents.
- More details can be found on the DGME website.

5. Local Municipal Offices:

- Deported individuals can also visit local municipal offices (alcaldías) to obtain or renew their national identification documents. These offices can provide guidance on the required documentation and the application process.

6. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

- Various NGOs in El Salvador provide support to deported individuals, including assistance with legal documentation. Organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and local human rights groups offer legal counseling and help with the process of obtaining or renewing identification documents.
- More information can be found on the IOM El Salvador page.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

- Registro Nacional de las Personas Naturales (RNPN)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador
- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) - El Salvador

These sources provide comprehensive information on the legal mechanisms available for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents in El Salvador.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Based on recent reports, the legal status and procedures for individuals deported from the U.S. to El Salvador have been a subject of significant legal and humanitarian concern.

Source:

UN experts alarmed at illegal deportations from the United States to El Salvador | OHCHR

Here is a summary of the key points:

- Detention and Legal Status: Many individuals deported to El Salvador, particularly those accused of gang affiliation under the "Alien Enemies Act," have been immediately and indefinitely imprisoned without trial. They are often held in the maximum-security "Terrorism Confinement Center" (CECOT). Their legal status is frequently unclear, and neither the U.S. nor the Salvadoran government has provided complete lists of detainees or information about their legal standing.
  - Source: US deportations raise serious human rights concerns | UN News
- Lack of Due Process: A major concern is the reported lack of due process for these deportees. They have often been denied the right to a fair trial, access to a lawyer, or the opportunity to challenge the evidence against them in court. This has led to the imprisonment of individuals with no criminal record or those who entered the U.S. legally.
  - Source: UN experts alarmed at illegal deportations from the United States to El Salvador | OHCHR
  - Source: These Men Were Deported to El Salvador With No Due Process. Their Stories Show Why an Investigation Is Necessary - American Immigration Council
- International and U.S. Legal Challenges: Human rights organizations and courts have raised alarms about these actions, citing violations of international human rights law and U.S. constitutional rights, such as due process. U.S. federal courts have been actively involved in legal battles to block these deportations and to mandate that individuals

be given an opportunity to contest their removal.

- Source: UN experts alarmed at illegal deportations from the United States to El Salvador | OHCHR
- Source: Trump Administration's $4.7 Million Deal With El Salvador Revealed In Court Filing - Newsweek

- Administrative and Judicial Procedures: The typical administrative and judicial procedures associated with deportation in the U.S. have, in these cases, been circumvented. In some instances, deportations have occurred even while court hearings were underway, leading to a legal "no man's land" where individuals are unable to challenge their confinement in either U.S. or Salvadoran courts.
  - Source: Judge Says Trump Administration Must Allow Challenges to El Salvador Removals - Democracy Docket
- "Administrative Errors": There have been admitted cases of "administrative error" where individuals with a legal status protecting them from deportation to El Salvador were still deported and imprisoned. Despite these admissions, the U.S. government has, in some instances, opposed efforts to have these individuals returned, citing that they are now under Salvadoran custody.
  - Source: These Men Were Deported to El Salvador With No Due Process. Their Stories Show Why an Investigation Is Necessary - American Immigration Council
  - Source: Trump ICE official admits "administrative error" in deporting man to El Salvador prison - CBS News

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Organizations:

1. Asociación Centro de integración Para Migrantes Trabajadores y Trabajadoras (Cimitra)

a) Mission: To support the reintegration of deported and voluntarily returned migrants Salvadoran society with dignity, empowerment, and sustainability.

b) Type of service and resources they provide: (i) socioeconomic reintegration programs; (ii) legal support; (iii) psychological and emotional support; (iv) long-term follow-up (1-2 years); (v) community outreach and stigma reduction; and (vi) collaboration with GAMI (Migrant Services Unit)

c) Other Organizations they partner with: (i) NDILON (the National Day Laborer Organizing Network); (ii) Methodist Church; (iii) the Lutheran World Federation

d) Source: Inicio | cimitra.org; Deported But Not Defeated: How CIMITRA Is Rebuilding Lives In El Salvador - Parriva

2. USCRI El Salvador (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)

a) Mission: To provide training and employment opportunities to youth repatriated from the U.S., helping them rebuild their lives and reduce repeated migration.

b) Type of service and resources they provide: (i) activities to families, businesses, and government agencies in order to raise awareness about the phenomenon of youth returnees and how communities can better support them; (ii) upon completion of technical training programs, or based on previous professional experience and skills, youth returnees are paired with local businesses for a three-month work placement, for which USCRI provides a half-salary scheme for the employer of the youth returnees; (iii) in collaboration with local NGOs and government agencies, USCRI El Salvador assesses

the local market exigencies and interests of returnees before assisting them in identifying relevant training courses so that they may expand their employment opportunities by acquiring competitive skills in the job market; and (iv) case management: youth returnees are accompanied by case managers for a five-month period, during which they are provided assistance in career development, technical training, and labor market insertion as well as referrals to education, health, and other social services

c) Specific data not disclosed, but active since 2015, with programs tailored to youth returnees.

d) Works in coordination with local employers and educational institutions.

e) Source: USCRI El Salvador - U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

3. UNHCR El Salvador

a) Mission: to protect and assist refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees with protection needs.

b) Type of service and resources they provide: (i) legal aid and protection services; (ii) humanitarian assistance (cash-based interventions); (iii) advocacy and policy development; (iv) community-based protection programs; e (v) coordination with government and civil society.

c) Source: El Salvador | UNHCR

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

El Salvador does recognize the importance of legal aid, but the provision of free or state-supported legal aid specifically for deported individuals is not explicitly mandated by law. However, there are general legal frameworks and programs that can provide legal assistance to vulnerable populations, including deported individuals. Here are some key points and sources:

1. Constitutional Provisions:

- The Constitution of El Salvador guarantees the right to legal defense. Article 12 states that every person has the right to be assisted by a lawyer in all judicial and administrative proceedings.

2. Ley de Protección Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia (LEPINA):

- This law provides comprehensive protection for children and adolescents, including those who are deported or returned. It ensures their right to legal representation and assistance in legal matters.
- More information can be found on the LEPINA website

3. Public Defender's Office (Procuraduría General de la República - PGR):

- The PGR provides free legal assistance to individuals who cannot afford private legal representation. This includes legal aid in criminal, civil, and family matters. While not specifically targeted at deported individuals, they can access these services if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- More information can be found on the PGR website

4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

- Various NGOs in El Salvador provide legal aid and support to deported individuals. Organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and local human rights groups offer legal counseling and assistance.
- More information can be found on the IOM El Salvador page.

5. International Support:

- International organizations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), often provide legal aid and support to deported individuals, particularly those who may be at risk of persecution or violence.
- More information can be found on the UNHCR website and the ICRC website.

While there is no specific law in El Salvador that mandates free or state-supported legal aid exclusively for deported individuals, they can access legal assistance through general legal aid frameworks and support from NGOs and international organizations.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

- Constitution of El Salvador
- Procuraduría General de la República (PGR)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) - El Salvador
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

These sources provide comprehensive information on the legal aid framework and available support for deported individuals in El Salvador.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

El Salvador has made efforts to incorporate international human rights and refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals. Here are some key points and sources:

1. Constitutional Provisions:

- The Constitution of El Salvador recognizes the importance of human rights and mandates the protection of these rights for all individuals, including deported or returned individuals. Article 144 of the Constitution states that international treaties ratified by El Salvador become part of domestic law and take precedence over national legislation.

2. International Treaties and Conventions:

- 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol: El Salvador is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which outline the rights of refugees and the obligations of states to protect them. These international instruments have been incorporated into national law.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): El Salvador is a party to the ICCPR, which guarantees fundamental rights such as the right to life, liberty, and security of person, and protection from torture and inhumane treatment.
- Convention Against Torture (CAT): El Salvador has ratified the CAT, which obligates the country to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

3. National Legislation:

- Ley Especial para la Protección y Desarrollo de la Persona Migrante Salvadoreña y su Familia (Special Law for the Protection and Development of the Salvadoran Migrant and Their Family): This law, enacted in 2011, aims to protect the rights of Salvadoran migrants and their families, including those who are deported or returned. It provides for the creation of programs and services to support their reintegration.
- Ley de Protección Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia (LEPINA): This law provides comprehensive protection for children and adolescents, including those who are deported or returned, ensuring their rights to education, health, and family unity.

4. Government Agencies and Programs:

- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME): The DGME is responsible for implementing migration policies and providing support to deported individuals, ensuring their rights are respected in accordance with international standards.
- Programa de Atención al Migrante Retornado (PAMR): This program offers reintegration support to deported individuals, including psychological counseling, vocational training, and job placement services, in line with international human rights standards.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

- Constitution of El Salvador
- UNHCR - Refworld
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) - El Salvador
- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME)

These sources provide comprehensive information on how El Salvador has incorporated international norms into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals.

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, in El Salvador, there are legal education and rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals. These programs aim to help deported individuals understand their rights and access the resources they need for successful reintegration. Here are some key programs and initiatives:

1. Programa de Atención al Migrante Retornado (PAMR):

- This government program provides comprehensive support to deported individuals, including legal education and rights-awareness. The program offers workshops and counseling sessions to inform deported individuals about their legal rights and available services.
- More information can be found on the Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME) website.

2. International Organization for Migration (IOM):

- IOM runs various programs in El Salvador to support deported individuals, including legal education and rights-awareness initiatives. These programs often include workshops, informational materials, and one-on-one counseling to help deported individuals understand their rights and navigate the legal system.
- More details can be found on the IOM El Salvador page.

3. Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM):

- ACISAM provides mental health support and legal education to deported individuals. They offer workshops and counseling sessions to help individuals understand their rights and access necessary services.
- More information is available on ACISAM can be found here website.

4. Fundación para la Educación Integral Salvadoreña (FEDISAL):

- FEDISAL offers educational programs, including legal education and rights-awareness, to help deported individuals reintegrate into society. These programs often include vocational training and information on legal rights and resources.
- Visit the FEDISAL website for more details.

5. Catholic Relief Services (CRS):

- CRS provides support to deported individuals, including legal education and rights-awareness programs. They offer workshops and informational sessions to help individuals understand their rights and access available resources.
- More information can be found on the CRS website.

These programs and organizations play a crucial role in helping deported individuals in El Salvador understand their legal rights and access the support they need for successful reintegration.

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Identifying specific, formalized programs for deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S. can be challenging because such resources are not widely publicized or centralized. However, based on U.S. immigration policies and reports from legal aid organizations, here's an overview of the process and available resources:

Policies and Procedures for Personal Property

When an individual is detained, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have policies regarding personal property.

- Inventory and Safeguarding: Detention facilities are required to inventory, receipt, and store a detainee's funds, valuables, and personal property. This is intended to safeguard belongings for the duration of their detention.
  - Source: Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council
- Limited Personal Items: Detainees are only allowed to keep a limited amount of personal property on them (e.g., small religious items, photos, legal documents). "Excess" or unauthorized property is stored.
  - Source: Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council

- Transfer of Property: In some cases, personal belongings are sent with the deportee on the same plane to their country of origin. Once they arrive in El Salvador, the individual can request their items during the processing or interview stage.
    - Source: Facing deportation or returning to El Salvador | American Friends Service Committee
- Third-Party Retrieval: ICE policies may allow for a detainee to designate a third party, such as a family member or consulate, to retrieve their property. However, this process can be difficult to navigate, and there is a risk of items being lost or discarded after a certain period if not claimed.
    - Source: Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council

Key Challenges and Planning

The biggest challenge is that most of the support for recovering belongings happens before deportation, not after. Legal and advocacy groups emphasize the importance of pre-planning.

- Power of Attorney: A crucial resource is a "Power of Attorney" (POA). This is a legal document that allows a trusted individual in the U.S. to manage a person's financial and legal affairs, including retrieving personal property, selling a car, or managing a home, if the owner is unable to. This is often the most effective way for a deported person to manage their U.S.-based assets from abroad.
    - Source: How Can I Protect My Property If I Am Detained or Deported? - North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
- Voluntary Departure: Some U.S. government initiatives, like the CBP Home Mobile App, offer incentives for voluntary self-deportation. This process gives individuals more time to "wrap up work, school, and personal matters" and make arrangements for their belongings. However, even with this, there are limits on how much baggage can be brought on the flight, and excess items must be left behind.
    - Source 1 - Us USCIS: USCIS Supports "Project Homecoming" Self-Deportation | USCIS
    - Source 2 - US CBP: CBP Home | Homeland Security

Resources for Deported Individuals

While there aren't many official government programs to help with this specifically, there are non-profit and legal aid organizations that can assist.

- Legal Aid and Immigrant Rights Organizations: Organizations like the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) provide resources and directories to connect individuals with legal services. These groups can help families navigate the complex process of property retrieval.
    - Source: Immigrants' Rights | American Civil Liberties Union
- Consular Assistance: The Salvadoran Consulate in the U.S. can serve as a point of contact for individuals and families seeking help with immigration matters, which may include connecting them with resources to recover belongings.
- Detention Facility Contact: The American Immigration Council notes that U.S. detention centers may have a specific process for a detainee or a designated person to collect property. It's recommended to contact the specific detention facility where the person was held to inquire about their policies and procedures for unclaimed property.

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

A POA allows a trusted person in the U.S. to manage your property, bank accounts, or business. You can set this up before deportation or even afterward through a U.S. consulate. Migrants can also (i) sell property via an agent with POA; (ii) hire property management firms to handle rentals; (iii) use international banking to access U.S. accounts.

(source: Deportation and Property Ownership: What Happens to Assets? - LegalClarity).

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

The United States has entered into a number of bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding with El Salvador on issues related to immigration, security, and repatriation. These agreements are part of a broader U.S. strategy to manage irregular migration from Central America.

Here is a summary of the key agreements and their provisions:

1. Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs)

Signed in September 2019, this agreement, also known as a "safe third country" agreement, was a significant component of the Trump administration's immigration policy.

- Key Provisions: The agreement was intended to allow the U.S. to send asylum-seekers who transited through El Salvador on their way to the U.S. back to El Salvador to seek protection there instead of in the U.S. It aimed to expand the capacity of protection systems within the region and deter irregular migration.

  Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs)

2. Biometric Data Sharing Program Arrangement

Signed in October 2019, this agreement focuses on security and information exchange.

- Key Provisions: It enhances cooperation between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and El Salvador by expanding the collection and sharing of biometric data. The purpose is to more easily verify the identities of irregular migrants and to detect and combat transnational criminal organizations, human smugglers, and wanted criminals.

  Biometric Data Sharing Program Arrangement Fact Sheet

3. Memorandum of Cooperation on Security Alliance for Fugitive Enforcement (SAFE)

Signed in October 2019, this agreement addresses migration and security.

- Key Provisions: It formalizes the deployment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to El Salvador. These U.S. officials provide advice and mentorship to their Salvadoran counterparts in the national police, border security, immigration, and customs. The goal is to enhance border security and address irregular migration.

  Memorandum of Cooperation on Security Alliance for Fugitive Enforcement (SAFE)

4. Memorandum of Understanding on Repatriation of Salvadoran Nationals

This is a key agreement for the practical application of deportations.

- Key Provisions: It outlines a process for sharing criminal and immigration history information about Salvadoran nationals who are being repatriated from the U.S. The agreement facilitates the exchange of biographic and biometric data to assist in the repatriation of individuals, particularly those with felony convictions. The overall goal is to improve repatriation procedures and enhance coordination between law enforcement agencies.

  Archived: ICE, El Salvador sign memorandum of cooperation | ICE

5. Extradition Treaty

A long-standing agreement that is separate from but related to repatriation.

- Key Provisions: This treaty requires the U.S. and El Salvador to "reciprocally deliver up" individuals who are charged with or have been convicted of specific crimes and are fugitives from justice. It outlines the process for making a requisition, specifies the crimes covered (such as murder, assault, and counterfeiting), and contains provisions for not extraditing individuals for political offenses or if they are a citizen of the country where they are found (though this can be subject to change).

  Historical Documents - Office of the Historian

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

1. 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol: These instruments prohibit refoulement (forced return) of individuals to countries where they may face persecution

based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion (source: Understanding Refugee and Asylum Laws in El Salvador

2. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW): El Salvador is required to uphold the rights of migrant workers and ensure that repatriation is carried out with respect for human dignity and due process.

3. Convention on the Rights of the Child: This includes special protections for migrant children, especially in repatriation procedures.

4. Special Law on Migration and Foreigners (Legislative Decree No. 286-2019): This law governs immigration procedures, including repatriation, and emphasizes humanitarian protection, refugee status determination, and the rights of migrants (source: mpi-institutional-legal-framework-el-salvador.pdf.

5. Law for the Determination of the Status of Refugees (Decree No. 918-2002): Establishes procedures for asylum applications and outlines protections for refugees (source: mpi-institutional-legal-framework-el-salvador.pdf).

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

1. Prior to Deportation: Limited Direct Support

El Salvador's consulates in the U.S. primarily focus on:

a) legal assistance and documentation: helping Salvadoran nationals obtain passports or consular IDs.

b) monitoring detention conditions: visiting detained nationals and advocating for humane treatment.

c) providing information: educating migrants about their rights and legal options.

However, their ability to intervene in deportation proceedings is minimal, especially under current U.S. immigration enforcement policies. The Trump administration's crackdown has significantly reduced the window for legal recourse, and consulates often lack the resources to provide robust legal defense.

(source: Salvadorans worry as US deportations collide with El Salvador's gang crackdown | National Catholic Reporter)

2. After Deportation: Vulnerability and Lack of Protection

Once deported, Salvadoran nationals face serious risks, including:

a) arbitrary detention: many deportees are imprisoned immediately upon arrival in El Salvador, often without due process. This is especially true under the "state of exception" policy, which has suspended legal protections in the name of combating gang violence.

b) Gang violence and abuse: deportees are frequently targeted by gangs or corrupt officials. Human Rights Watch documented over 200 cases of deportees facing murder, torture, or sexual violence after return (source: Deported to Danger: United States Deportation Policies Expose Salvadorans to Death and Abuse | HRW).Stigmatization: being deported is often equated with criminality, making reintegration difficult and exposing individuals to further abuse.

El Salvador's consulates do not have a formal role in post-deportation reintegration, and there is no systematic monitoring of deportees' safety or well-being once they return.

3. Recent Developments: Controversial Agreements

In 2025, El Salvador agreed to accept deportees of any nationality, including convicted criminals and even U.S. citizens, in exchange for financial compensation. This deal, praised by some U.S. officials, has raised serious legal and ethical concerns:

a) Human rights violations: Critics argue that the agreement treats migrants as commodities and violates international law.

b) Overcrowded and inhumane prisons: Deportees may be sent to facilities like CECOT, El Salvador's mega-prison, which has been condemned for harsh conditions.

(source for item C: edition.cnn.com/2025/02/03/americas/el-salvador-migrant-deal-marco-rubio-intl-hnk/)

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

Comprehensive, official data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to El Salvador for the specific period of November 2024 to September 2025 is not yet publicly available from U.S. government sources like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These agencies typically release statistics on a quarterly or fiscal year basis with a significant delay.

However, as reference, on August 28, CNN reported "ICE has deported nearly 200K people since Trump returned to office".

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

Deportation flights from the United States have been reported to arrive at the International Airport of San Salvador, El Salvador. From there, deported individuals have been transported to the Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT) in Tecoluca, El Salvador, as part of a third-country deportation agreement.

Sources:

Deportation Flights to El Salvador Surge in 2025 — Aumentan vuelos de deportados hacia El Salvador en 2025 - El Salvador Now;

United States and El Salvador: A Scheme to Deport Migrants from the US to a "Human Rights Black Hole" - Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

In El Salvador, deported individuals are generally resettled in urban centers and their surrounding areas, where reintegration programs and job opportunities are more accessible. The major cities and regions include:

1. San Salvador - The capital city is the primary destination for many deportees because it hosts most government services, NGOs, and reintegration programs like CIMITRA. It also offers more employment opportunities in both formal and informal sectors.
2. Santa Ana - As the second-largest city, Santa Ana attracts returnees due to its economic activity and proximity to Guatemala, which facilitates cross-border trade and informal work.

Smaller towns and rural communities - Many deportees return to their hometowns, particularly in rural areas, but this often leads to challenges such as limited job opportunities and social stigma. Reintegration organizations report that rural returnees tend to prefer entrepreneurship, while urban returnees seek formal employment.

Source:

Deported But Not Defeated: How CIMITRA Is Rebuilding Lives In El Salvador - Parriva

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

There is a significant lack of detailed, publicly available demographic data on deported individuals from official U.S. and Salvadoran government sources. However, based on investigative reports from news organizations and human rights groups, a partial profile of the deportee population can be constructed, particularly for those sent to the CECOT mega-prison.

Here is a summary of the available demographic information:

- Criminal Status: The U.S. government's public statements often describe deportees as "terrorists, human rights abusers, gang members and more". However, internal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) records obtained by investigative journalists contradict this narrative. For example, of the 238 Venezuelans deported to CECOT in March 2025, the government's own data showed that more than half had only violated immigration laws and had no U.S. criminal

convictions. Only six of the 238 were convicted of violent crimes. The government's claim of gang affiliation was often based on tenuous evidence like social media posts and tattoos, including the Michael Jordan "Jumpman" logo and a Real Madrid tattoo.

- Age and Gender: The deportees sent to the CECOT prison were primarily "young men". Case studies highlight individuals like a 35-year-old former professional soccer player and a barber who recently arrived in the U.S..
- Family Status: The legal framework used for the deportations, such as the Alien Enemies Act, did not appear to take into account the "right to family life" or the best interests of children. As a result, individuals were deported without any notice to their loved ones or attorneys, causing their names to disappear from the online detainee locator system. Case narratives confirm that some of the deported individuals had wives and families.
- Years in the U.S.: The length of time individuals lived in the U.S. prior to their deportation varied significantly. Some were long-term residents, while others were recent arrivals. For instance, a Salvadoran man was deported after living in the U.S. for approximately 14 years , while a Venezuelan barber had only arrived a few months earlier. One study notes that 76% of deportees to El Salvador spend less than one month abroad

documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/488291611240337342/pdf/The-Unintended-Consequences-of-Deportations-Evidence-from-Firm-Behavior-in-El-Salvador.pdf

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

The main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to El Salvador typically include visa overstays, criminal records, and border detentions. These grounds are generally consistent across countries that deport individuals to El Salvador. Here are some key points and sources:

1. Visa Overstay:
   - Individuals who remain in a country beyond the expiration of their visa or authorized stay period are subject to deportation. Overstaying a visa is a common administrative violation that can lead to deportation proceedings.
2. Criminal Records:
   - Individuals with criminal convictions, especially for serious offenses, are often deported. Countries may prioritize the deportation of individuals who have committed crimes such as drug trafficking, violent crimes, or other felonies.
   - For example, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) prioritizes the removal of individuals with criminal records. More information can be found on the ICE website.
3. Border Detention:
   - Individuals apprehended while attempting to enter a country illegally or without proper documentation are often detained and subsequently deported. Border enforcement agencies, such as the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), play a significant role in these deportations.
   - More information on border enforcement and deportations can be found on the CBP website.
4. Violation of Immigration Laws:
   - Violations of other immigration laws, such as working without authorization, using fraudulent documents, or failing to comply with immigration court orders, can also result in deportation.
5. Public Safety and National Security:
   - Individuals deemed to pose a threat to public safety or national security may be prioritized for deportation. This includes individuals involved in terrorism, gang activities, or other activities that threaten public order.
6. Administrative Grounds:
   - Administrative grounds for deportation can include failure to maintain legal status, failure to comply with the terms of a visa, or other administrative violations related to immigration status.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

These sources provide comprehensive information on the grounds for deportation and the processes involved.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

In El Salvador, there are no specific laws that explicitly mandate the publication or public reporting of deportation data. However, general principles of transparency and access to information are enshrined in the country's legal framework, which can be used to request such data. Here are some relevant points:

1. Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública (LAIP):

- The Law on Access to Public Information (LAIP), enacted in 2011, aims to promote transparency and accountability in public administration. It grants citizens the right to request and obtain information from public institutions, including data related to deportations.
- Public institutions are required to respond to information requests within a specified timeframe and provide the requested information unless it falls under certain exceptions (e.g., national security, privacy).
- More information can be found on the Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública (LAIP):

2. Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME):

- While there is no specific law requiring the DGME to publish deportation data, the agency may provide such information upon request in accordance with the LAIP. The DGME is responsible for managing migration-related data and may include deportation statistics in its reports or publications.
- Visit the DGME website for more details.

3. Constitutional Provisions:

- The Constitution of El Salvador emphasizes the importance of transparency and the right to access public information. Article 18 of the Constitution guarantees the right to petition public authorities and receive a timely response.

4. International Commitments:

- As a member of various international organizations and signatory to international treaties, El Salvador is committed to upholding principles of transparency and accountability. These commitments may indirectly influence the publication and reporting of deportation data.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

- Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública (LAIP):
- Instituto de Acceso a la Información Pública (IAIP)
- Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME)
- Constitution of El Salvador

These sources provide comprehensive information on the legal framework related to access to information and transparency in El Salvador.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

In El Salvador, the government agency legally responsible for collecting and publishing data on deportations and migrant movements is the Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME). 1 The DGME, which is part of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, handles various immigration-related services, including the issuance of visas, passports, and certifications of migratory movements.

Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería

LEY DE MIGRACIÓN.PDF

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Based on the detailed assessment of the legal framework and the current political climate, it can be concluded that while a formal request for aggregate deportation data in El Salvador is legally permissible, its success is highly improbable. The primary barriers are the instrumentalization of legal exemptions by a government seeking to control information, and the deliberate weakening of the very civil society and media groups that would use the law for accountability. The ability to obtain public information in El Salvador is not a matter of legal text but of political will, and the evidence suggests this will is moving in the opposite direction of transparency.

For requestors seeking this information, the following recommendations are provided:

- Strategic Framing: Frame the request for data in the narrowest possible terms to reduce the possibility of a denial on the grounds of "personal data." Focus on broad, aggregate statistics that are less likely to be linked to specific security operations or individuals.
- Anticipate Denial and Prepare for Appeal: Any request for sensitive data, such as deportation statistics, should be made with the anticipation of a denial. The requestor should be prepared to immediately appeal to the IAIP and, if necessary, to legal and international channels.
- Seek Alternative Avenues: Consider alternative avenues for data collection. While not a substitute for official data, information may be available from international organizations, human rights groups, or other non-state actors who have documented deportation trends through other means.
- Public Advocacy: Document and report on any and all denials, highlighting the discrepancy between the law and its application in practice. This can serve to raise international awareness and pressure the government to comply with its own legal framework.

Expertos de la ONU alarmados por deportaciones ilegales de Estados Unidos a El Salvador | OHCHR

Acceso a la Información " Leyes vigentes por país

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Ghana

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Ghana

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Ghana is facing a deportation crisis. As of November 2024, over 12,000 Ghanaians have been deported from various countries over the last five years, according to the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). Most of the deportees are expulsed from their host countries because they don't have a legal status and are therefore returning to Ghana involuntarily, meaning that they did not plan anything for their return to Ghana. Most of the deportees are therefore coming back to the country with little or no resources.

The reintegration of returned Ghanaian immigrants is hindered by inadequate government support, inconsistent policies, and insufficient infrastructure. The government's reactive "wait and see" approach, as seen during the 2011 Libyan crisis, left agencies like National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) underfunded and unprepared to assist the large number of returnees. Logistical problems, such as a lack of reception centers and resources already stretched by prior crises, compounded the difficulties. Many returnees were unaware of available support services, and those who did know about them often found access blocked by bureaucratic delays and poor planning. Overall, the absence of effective strategies, data, and proactive policies significantly undermines the successful reintegration of Ghanaian immigrants returning from abroad.

Prior to 2016, the country lacked a coherent migration policy, relying instead on fragmented and uncoordinated approaches. Even after the introduction of the national migration policy, many returnees and organizations struggle with accessing or understanding available services due to outdated and restrictive regulations. This institutional weakness has led some returnees to consider re-migrating, as they find it difficult to invest or thrive upon their return.

Deportees to Ghana face significant challenges in securing employment, primarily due to limited job opportunities and the strong influence of social networks. Many returnees rely on intermediaries to access jobs, but high national unemployment and bureaucratic hiring processes often result in long waiting periods before securing work. The situation is particularly difficult for those without formal certifications, as employers require proof of skills, and the kinds of jobs available abroad, especially for low-skilled workers, are often not accessible in Ghana. In addition, some returnees encounter psychological challenges, including fear and uncertainty about their future, which can hinder their reintegration and investment efforts. These difficulties are not solely dependent on skills or qualifications, but are shaped by broader economic and social factors within Ghana.

There are also stigma and discrimination associated with deportation, which makes reintegration difficult for deportees.

Key Challenges Reported Since 2025

5. Legal & Constitutional Disputes

- Supreme Court challenge over unratified MoU with the U.S. (violates Article 75). Civil society argues Ghana is outsourcing U.S. immigration enforcement without safeguards. [gbcghanaonline.com], [dw.com]

6. Human Rights Concerns

- At least 27 deportees reported abuse and prolonged detention on arrival. Act 1123 (Deportee Reception and Protection Act) promises legal access within 48 hours, but rollout is uneven. [visaverge.com]

7. Economic Pressure

- High unemployment and lack of structured job placement make reintegration difficult. Deportees often return without savings or assets. [thebftonline.com]

8. Social Stigma & Mental Health

- Deportees face community rejection and trauma from detention and forced removal. Mental health services remain scarce. [thebftonline.com]

9. Institutional Capacity Gaps

- Coordination between ministries, NADMO, and IOM is weak; reintegration plans lack clear timelines and monitoring frameworks. [thevaultznews.com], [iom.int]

Sources:

https://noyam.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EHASS20223128.pdf

https://www.visaverge.com/news/return-to-nowhere-african-migrants-and-u-s-deportation-to-ghana/

Ghana's Deportation Crisis: More Than 12,000 Nationals Sent Back Since 2020 - znewsGH

https://www.rabat-process.org/en/component/repo/document/492-panel-1-ghana?task=document.preview&Itemid=958&ml=1 2023 presentation from the Ghana Immigration Service discussing migration issues in Ghana and suggestions for changes.

The need for a national return and reintegration mechanism: In the Wake of Trump's 'Ghana Must Go' - The Business & Financial Times

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Ghana has a refugee board as part of the Ghana Ministry of Interior (https://www.mint.gov.gh/agencies/ghana-refugee-board/).

There is also Reintegration Coordination Secretariat (NADMO) (https://gna.org.gh/2023/09/re-integration-coordination-secretariat-opens-in-accra/; http://www.nadmo.gov.gh/).

UNICEF Initiative for Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Ghana (https://www.unicef.org/ghana/press-releases/eu-unicef-and-unhcr-launch-27-million-initiative-displaced-persons-and-host)

Ghana Immigration Service (https://gis.gov.gh/) [has emergency Visa service (https://gis.gov.gh/service/visa-on-arrival-emergency-entry-visa/)]

Diaspora Affairs Ghana (DAGh) (https://diasporaadvocacygh.org/in-country-help/)

African Diaspora Resource Centre Ghana (https://ghana.africandiasporagroup.com/about/)

The Ghana Government portal (Ghana.gov) lists social services and welfare programs, though specific deportee reintegration details are communicated through press briefings and parliamentary statements rather than a standalone policy page

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Ghana lacks a comprehensive, institutionalized framework for reintegration. While multiple agencies are involved (e.g., Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana Immigration Service), coordination is weak, and efforts are fragmented.

On migration data, Ghana has made policy commitments—like the National Migration Data Strategy and initiatives by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)—to improve data collection. However, challenges persist, including lack of centralized data reporting, inconsistent data disaggregation (e.g., by gender), fragmented information management systems, and unclear data management guidance. Efforts are underway to improve data-sharing and digitization.

Ghana's migration policy framework is comprehensive but suffers from overlapping documents, vague commitments, and lack of clear action plans or monitoring. While the National Labour Migration Policy shows more structured implementation, policy actions focus primarily on outbound labor migration, border management, trafficking, and diaspora engagement. Areas like immigration (beyond enforcement), internal migration, and return/reintegration receive less attention.

Ghana faces significant challenges in enabling the safe and dignified return and reintegration of its migrants, particularly those traveling dangerous routes to Europe or working in North Africa and Gulf States. Migrants often encounter severe protection risks such as detention, kidnapping, and torture, with many stranded in transit countries like Libya. While Ghana's National Migration Policy supports return and reintegration, comprehensive national measures are still lacking. Currently, international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and development partners, mostly funded by European countries, manage much of the process, limiting its geographic scope.

Sources:

https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Ghana-Migration%20Needs%20Assessment%20and%20Stakeholder%20Mapping.pdf

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

1. Government Initiatives

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is leading Ghana's response, supported by agencies like the Ghana Immigration Service, Ministry of Interior, and National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO).

Key measures include:

Reception and Reintegration Program

Deportees are discreetly received at Kotoka International Airport, reunited with families, and provided initial support to avoid stigma. The government emphasizes dignity and privacy during reintegration. [ghanaweb.com], [accralive.com]

Skills Training and Livelihood Support

Plans announced in Parliament include vocational training, microfinance opportunities, and psychological counselling to help deportees rebuild their lives. These programs are being developed in collaboration with NADMO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). [nigerianew...ervice.com]

Still pilot-level: No nationwide reintegration mechanism exists. Parliament has debated creating a National Return and Reintegration Framework, but no legislation passed yet. [thebftonline.com]

2. Civil Society, International and NGO Efforts

Several organizations complement government initiatives:

International Organization for Migration (IOM Ghana)

IOM runs programs addressing return migration challenges, including psychosocial support and economic reintegration under its Migration Governance Strategy (2022-2025). Pilot projects like "Beyond the Journey: Facing the Hidden Wounds of Return Migration" focus on mental health and livelihood restoration for returnees. [ghana.iom.int]

UNHCR Ghana

While primarily focused on refugees, UNHCR collaborates with the Ghana Refugee Board and local actors to provide protection and inclusion services, which can extend to vulnerable returnees in mixed migration contexts. [unhcr.org]

Local NGOs and INGOs

Organizations such as ActionAid Ghana and CARE Ghana implement community-based programs on economic empowerment, skills training, and social reintegration, which deportees can access through partnerships with government agencies. [heconsulting.us], [care.org]

Advocacy Groups

Civil society networks like Democracy Hub are actively challenging constitutional and human rights issues related to deportee detention and reintegration, ensuring legal safeguards for affected individuals. [ghanaplus.com]

EU joint program for reintegration in Ghana

The European Union has allocated Euros 2.9 million to the ATTU project, an initiative aimed at improving migration governance and fostering the integration of migrants in Ghana. It is a three-year project implemented by the International Organization for Migration focused on creating sustainable systems to support vulnerable migrants and returnees, ensuring their smooth reintegration into society [https://gna.org.gh/2025/03/eu-launches-2-9-million-project-to-enhance-migrants-integration-and-governance-in-ghana/]

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Ghana's Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573) is the primary law that governs the entry, residence, and employment of foreign nationals in Ghana, alongside the Immigration Regulations, 2001. Administered by the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), it outlines the conditions for entry and departure, residence permits, indefinite residence status, and the removal of illegal immigrants. The Act aims to balance facilitation of entry for genuine travelers with the management of national security risks and also covers the regulation of work permits for foreigners.

Key provisions

- Entry and departure: The Act requires individuals entering Ghana to use authorized entry points, present valid travel documents, and report to immigration officers. It also sets out conditions for departure.
- Residence and employment: It establishes a system for residence permits, including indefinite residence status for certain individuals, and regulates the employment of foreign nationals through work permits and immigrant quotas.
- Prohibited immigrants: The Act defines who is considered a "prohibited immigrant" and sets out conditions for their removal.
- Enforcement: The Act grants immigration officers the power to detain individuals for further examination and to remove illegal immigrants.
- Enforcement: The Act provides penalties for offenses such as illegal entry, illegal exit, and using forged documents.

Related legislation and regulations

- Immigration Regulations, 2001 (L.I. 1691): This provides the specific details and procedures for implementing the Act, such as visa requirements and exemptions.
- Immigration (Amendment) Act, 2012 (Act 842): This amendment introduced provisions against migrant smuggling.
- Citizenship Act, 2000 (Act 573): This separate act deals with the qualifications and process for obtaining Ghanaian citizenship through naturalization.

Administration

- The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) is the primary agency responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Act, according to the Ghana Immigration Service.
- Other bodies involved include the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Act is sometimes challenged by conflicts with the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Goods, and Services.
- Ghana: Act No. 573 of 2000, Immigration Act | Refworld

Role of Bilateral Agreements

- Readmission Agreements: Ghana and the U.S. have arrangements to confirm identity and issue travel documents for deported nationals. These agreements define timelines for document issuance and establish protocols for secure transport and handover. They do not impose penalties or deny entry; enforcement remains under Ghanaian law.

Courts have clarified that bilateral agreements are executive instruments, not statutes. They guide administrative action but cannot override constitutional guarantees of movement and citizenship rights.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Enforcement Mechanisms for Protections

Ghana's enforcement mechanisms for rights relevant to deported individuals are constitutional and judicial, but they are weak in practice:

Constitutional Enforcement:

Articles 12–33 of the 1992 Constitution guarantee fundamental rights (personal liberty, administrative justice, equality). Enforcement is through the Human Rights Division of the High Court, which can issue writs like Habeas Corpus and injunctions. [channelone...online.com]

Article 75 requires parliamentary ratification for international agreements. Failure to comply can be challenged in the Supreme Court, as seen in the pending case on the U.S.-Ghana deportee pact. [jurist.org]

Statutory Enforcement:

Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573) provides for appeals against deportation orders, but does not guarantee socio-economic rights post-deportation. [generisonline.com]

Legal Aid Commission Act allows indigent persons (including deportees) to seek representation, but access is limited by capacity and awareness. [visaverge.com]

Recent Development:

The Deportee Reception and Protection Act (Act 1123) reportedly mandates legal access within 48

hours of detention, but implementation is inconsistent. [visaverge.com]

Notable Court Cases Testing These Protections

Oliver Barker-Vormawor & 11 West Africans v. Attorney General & Others (2025):

Filed for Habeas Corpus and injunction to stop onward deportation after U.S. transfer. Alleged violations of Article 14 (personal liberty) and Article 23 (administrative justice), plus breach of non-refoulement.

Outcome: Case struck out because deportees were removed before ruling, highlighting weak interim relief enforcement. [channelone...online.com], [ghanasentinel.com], [thevaultznews.com]

Supreme Court Challenge to U.S.-Ghana Deportee Agreement (2025):

Tests compliance with Article 75 on treaty ratification. Civil society argues the executive bypassed Parliament, making the agreement unconstitutional. [jurist.org], [gbcghanaonline.com]

Protections Most Often Underutilized

Legal Remedies:

Many deportees do not file for Habeas Corpus or injunctions due to lack of awareness, language barriers, and limited access to legal aid. [visaverge.com]

Socio-Economic Rights (Health, Housing, Education):

These are directive principles, not enforceable rights. Deportees rarely access public health or social welfare programs because they are not formally integrated into Ghana's social protection system. [wlv.openre...sitory.com]

Labour Rights:

Underutilized because deportees lack valid immigration status, making lawful employment impossible without regularization. [generisonline.com]

Non-Refoulement Protections:

Frequently ignored in practice; deportees are often re-routed to home countries despite risk of persecution.

https://judicial.gov.gh/jsweb/index.php/the-constitution

Home – GhaLII

https://www.parliament.gh/docs?type=Acts&OT

judicial.gov.gh

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Under Ghanaian law and current administrative practice, deported nationals do not face automatic detention, but they are subject to mandatory screening upon arrival. Here's the breakdown:

1. Screening Procedures

- Identity Verification: Immigration officers confirm nationality using passports, birth certificates, or biometric data.
- Health Checks: Required under the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851) for communicable disease control.
- Security Assessment: Conducted by Ghana Immigration Service to ensure no outstanding criminal warrants or security risks.

2. Detention Rules

- No Statutory Detention for Citizens: The Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573) guarantees re-entry rights for Ghanaian citizens. Detention is not routine and can only occur if:
  - Identity cannot be verified.
  - There is suspicion of criminal activity or fraud.
- In such cases, detention is temporary and subject to judicial oversight under constitutional provisions (Articles 12 and 33).

3. Practical Application

- Most deported individuals are processed and released after screening.
- Bilateral agreements (e.g., with the U.S.) facilitate pre-arrival identity checks, reducing detention likelihood.

Legal safeguards for deported individuals who are detained in Ghana are grounded in the 1992 Constitution and the Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573). (IMMIGRATION ACT.pdf)

4. Constitutional Protections

- Article 14 - Personal Liberty: Detention must be lawful and for a legitimate purpose (e.g., identity verification or security concerns).
- Detainees must be informed promptly of the reason for detention.
- Article 33 - Enforcement of Rights: Individuals can seek redress in the High Court for unlawful detention.

5. Time Limits

- Detention without charge cannot exceed 48 hours unless extended by a court order.
- After this period, the person must be released or brought before a judge.

6. Access to Legal Representation

- Right to Counsel: Guaranteed under Article 19 and supported by the Ghana Legal Aid Commission.
- Detainees can contact a lawyer or family member immediately.

7. Humane Treatment

- Protected under Article 15 (human dignity).
  - No torture or degrading treatment.
  - Adequate food, medical care, and safe conditions must be provided.

8. Judicial Oversight

- Any prolonged detention requires a court warrant.
- Habeas corpus applications can be filed to challenge unlawful detention.

Under Ghanaian law, the duration of screening and detention is strictly regulated:

9. Screening

- No fixed statutory time, but it must be reasonable and necessary for identity, health, and security checks.
- Typically completed within a few hours unless complications arise (e.g., missing documents).

10. Detention

- Constitutional Limit (Article 14): A person cannot be held beyond 48 hours without being brought before a court.
- After 48 hours, continued detention requires a judicial order.
- Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573): Supports temporary detention for verification or security concerns, but always subject to constitutional safeguards.

11. Extended Detention

- Only possible if:
  - There is a court warrant.
  - The individual is under investigation for a criminal offense.
- Even then, detention must comply with due process and humane treatment standards.

NGOs have raised concerns about deportation-related screening and detention procedures in Ghana, focusing on human rights, transparency, and reintegration challenges. Here's a summary based on internal references and common NGO positions:

12. Lack of Clear Guidelines

- NGOs report that screening protocols are not always transparent, leading to uncertainty for deported individuals about what checks will occur and how long they will last.

13. Risk of Rights Violations

- Concerns include:
- Extended detention without judicial oversight when identity verification takes longer than expected.
- Limited access to legal representation during initial screening stages.
- These issues are often flagged as inconsistent with Ghana's constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 33.

14. Reintegration Gaps

- NGOs highlight that detention and screening processes can delay access to reintegration programs, such as housing and mental health support.
- Reports emphasize the need for trauma-informed care and better coordination

between immigration authorities and social services.

15. Recommendations from Civil Society

- Standardized protocols for screening and detention.
- Independent monitoring of detention facilities.

Immediate referral systems to reintegration programs post-screening.

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

1. Reapplication Process: Individuals can apply for a replacement or renewal through the National Identification Authority (NIA)
    - Requirements include proof of citizenship (birth certificate, passport, or affidavit) and biometric verification.
- Lost or Confiscated Documents: If documents were lost during deportation, applicants must submit a police report and sworn affidavit confirming loss.
- Embassy Assistance: Ghanaian missions abroad often facilitate emergency travel certificates for deportees, which can later be exchanged for permanent ID upon arrival.

2. Safeguards and Access

- Legal Aid: Ghana Legal Aid Commission provides support for individuals facing administrative hurdles, though coverage is limited.
- Human Rights Standards: NGOs advocate for simplified procedures and fee waivers for vulnerable returnees, citing barriers like cost and regional disparities. [JIA sample...ember 2025 | Word]

3. Practical Challenges

- Delays: Verification can take weeks if biometric data is missing.
- Regional Disparities: Access to NIA offices is uneven, especially outside major cities.
- NGO Concerns: Reports highlight lack of awareness programs and recommend mobile registration units for deportees.
- Here's a step-by-step guide for deported individuals to recover or renew their Ghana Card (national ID):

1. Confirm Eligibility

- You must be a Ghanaian citizen (by birth, registration, or naturalization).
- Deportation does not affect citizenship rights, so you remain eligible.

2. Gather Required Documents

- Primary Proof of Citizenship: Birth Certificate
- Valid Ghanaian Passport
- Affidavit of Citizenship (if originals are missing)
- Supporting Documents: Police report for lost ID
- Sworn affidavit confirming loss or confiscation during deportation

3. Apply Through the National Identification Authority (NIA)

- Where to Apply: NIA Regional or District Offices
- Mobile Registration Units (NGOs advocate for these in rural areas)
- Process: Complete application form
- Provide biometric data (fingerprints, photo)
- Pay applicable fees (fee waivers may apply for vulnerable individuals)

4. Embassy Assistance (If Still Abroad)

- Ghanaian missions can issue Emergency Travel Certificates for return.
- Once in Ghana, exchange this for a permanent ID at NIA.

5. Legal Safeguards

- Right to ID: Guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution.
- Legal Aid: Ghana Legal Aid Commission can assist if you face administrative hurdles.

6. Practical Tips

- Keep copies of all documents and affidavits.
- Check NIA website for updated requirements: https://nia.gov.gh/
- NGOs like IOM Ghana often provide support for fees and awareness programs.

The timeline for recovering or renewing national identification documents in Ghana depends on the method and circumstances:

For deported nationals, the timeline for recovering or renewing national identification documents in Ghana is generally longer than for standard renewals because of additional verification steps:

1. Initial Screening and Identity Verification

- Upon arrival, deported individuals undergo mandatory screening by Ghana Immigration Service.
- If identity documents are missing, verification can take 3-7 days, depending on access to biometric records and embassy coordination.

2. Application for ID Recovery or Renewal

- After clearance, the process at the National Identification Authority (NIA) follows standard timelines:
  - 7-14 business days if biometric data exists in the system.
  - Up to 3 weeks if affidavits and police reports are required for lost/confiscated documents.

3. Emergency Travel Certificate Conversion

- If the person returned with an Emergency Travel Certificate, converting it to a Ghana Card typically takes 1-2 weeks after arrival.

4. Practical Delays

- Extended timelines (4-6 weeks) are common for deported nationals due to:
  - Missing documentation.
  - Regional office capacity.
  - Additional security checks.

NGO Support

- NGOs like IOM Ghana often help expedite the process by:
  - Covering fees.
  - Assisting with affidavits and police reports.
  - Coordinating with NIA for priority handling.

Costs can make ID recovery or renewal challenging for deported nationals, especially those returning without financial resources. These amounts are still broadly accurate for 2025, based on the latest published fee schedules from the National Identification Authority (NIA) and supporting agencies:

1. Standard Fees

- Replacement or Renewal of Ghana Card: Typically GHS 30-50 (approx. $2-$4 USD).
- Affidavit for Lost Documents: Around GHS 50-100 at a court or through a commissioner for oaths.
- Police Report: Often free, but some stations charge GHS 10-20 for administrative processing.

2. Additional Costs for Vulnerable Returnees

- Travel to NIA Offices: Transport costs can be significant for those in rural areas.
- Accommodation & Meals: If processing requires multiple visits, costs increase.

3. Accessibility Concerns

- For deported individuals who return with no funds, these costs can be prohibitive.
- NGOs report that lack of fee waivers and regional disparities create barriers to timely ID recovery.

4. NGO Recommendations

- Fee Waivers or Subsidies for vulnerable groups.
- Mobile Registration Units to reduce travel costs.
- Awareness Campaigns to inform returnees of available support.

Several NGOs and agencies actively assist deported individuals in Ghana with recovering or renewing national identification documents:

1. NGOs Providing Support

- International Organization for Migration (IOM Ghana): Offers reintegration packages that often include help with ID recovery.
- Provides financial assistance for fees and coordinates with NIA for expedited processing.
- Local Human Rights NGOs: Advocate for fee waivers and simplified procedures.
- Sometimes organize mobile registration units in rural areas.

2. Government Agencies

- National Identification Authority (NIA): Primary body for issuing and renewing Ghana Cards.
- Works with Ghana Immigration Service to verify identity for deported nationals.
- Ghana Immigration Service: Facilitates initial screening and identity verification upon arrival.
- Issues temporary documentation if needed.

3. Embassy and Consular Support

- Ghanaian missions abroad often issue Emergency Travel Certificates for deportees, which can later be converted into permanent IDs.

4. NGO Recommendations

- Fee waivers for vulnerable returnees.
- Awareness campaigns on ID recovery steps.
- Mobile registration units to reduce travel costs.

List of NGOs and agencies that assist deported nationals in Ghana with ID recovery, along with their roles and contact points:

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM Ghana)

- Role: Provides reintegration support, including ID recovery assistance.
- Covers administrative fees and coordinates with NIA for expedited processing.
- Programs: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR).
- Contact: Website: https://ghana.iom.int
- Phone: +233 (0)302 742 930
- Email: iomaccra@iom.int

2. National Identification Authority (NIA)

- Role: Official body for issuing and renewing Ghana Cards.
- Works with Ghana Immigration Service to verify identity for deported nationals.
- Contact: Website: https://nia.gov.gh
- Phone: +233 (0)302 738 333

3. Ghana Immigration Service

- Role: Handles initial screening and identity verification upon arrival.
- Issues temporary documentation if needed.
- Contact: Website: https://home.gis.gov.gh
- Phone: +233 (0)302 224 445

4. Local NGOs and Civil Society Groups

- Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC): Provides legal aid and advocacy for deported individuals.
- Website: https://hracghana.org
- Migrants Rights Network Ghana: Focuses on reintegration and ID recovery awareness campaigns.
- Contact via social media or local offices.

5. Ghana Legal Aid Commission

- Role: Offers free or subsidized legal assistance for affidavits and rights enforcement.
- Contact: Website: https://legalaid.gov.gh

Support Offered

- Fee Waivers: NGOs often cover costs for affidavits and ID replacement.
- Mobile Registration Units: Some NGOs deploy these in rural areas.
- Awareness Campaigns: Guidance on steps and required documents.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Individuals deported to Ghana do not automatically acquire a regular immigration status upon arrival. Their legal position is governed primarily by the Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573), which provides for appeals against deportation orders but does not guarantee socio-economic rights post-deportation. Deportees may seek judicial remedies such as Habeas Corpus or injunctions through the Human Rights Division of the High Court, as guaranteed under Articles 12–33 of the 1992 Constitution. These constitutional provisions protect fundamental rights, including personal liberty and administrative justice.

Access to legal representation is theoretically available under the Legal Aid Commission Act, but in practice, capacity constraints and lack of awareness limit its effectiveness. A recent development, the Deportee Reception and Protection Act (Act 1123), reportedly mandates legal access within 48 hours of detention, though implementation remains inconsistent.

Case Example:
Oliver Barker-Vormawor & 11 West Africans v. Attorney General & Others (2025) tested enforcement of Articles 14 and 23 but was struck out because deportees were removed before ruling, highlighting weak interim relief enforcement.

In summary: Deportees have limited procedural safeguards and no guaranteed socio-economic rights post-deportation. While judicial and administrative remedies exist, enforcement is weak and often inaccessible.

Sources:

visaverge.com; ghanasentinel.com

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. Diaspora Affairs Ghana (DAGh) (https://diasporaadvocacygh.org/in-country-help/)

Mission:
To foster a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship between Ghana and its diaspora community for socio-economic development.

Services & Resources Provided:

- Pre-arrival support: Visa assistance, cultural orientation, airport transportation.
- Relocation assistance: Help with housing, schools, jobs, and financial advice.
- Transitional support: Counseling, support groups, and resource connections.
- Residency support: Guidance on obtaining legal residency and understanding rights.
- Cultural integration: Language learning, adoption into Ghanaian families, heritage tours. (objective, unclear on results)

Impact:

- Facilitated successful reintegration of numerous diasporans.
- Created a comprehensive database of resources for returnees.
- Partnered with businesses to provide employment and training.

2. SEWA Foundation (in collaboration with Ghana Immigration Service) ** this seems like a good place to look into, but could not find a main website for them** **may have religious affiliation**

Mission:
To promote safe migration and support deported individuals through reintegration programs.

Services & Resources Provided:

- Migration Information Centre for Returnees at Kotoka International Airport.
- Support during deportation arrival: Counseling, documentation, and orientation.
- Advocacy for safe migration practices.

Impact:

- Assisted over 12,646 deported Ghanaians from 2020 to 2024.
- Organized events to raise awareness and promote safe migration.
- Provided gender-specific support (e.g., 8,186 males and 4,459 females deported).

Partnerships:

- Ghana Airports Company Limited
- Ghana Immigration Service
- Other civil society organizations

https://www.facebook.com/sewafoundationghana/

https://gna.org.gh/2024/12/over-12000-ghanaian-deported-globally-since-2020/

Legal Aid Commission, Ghana (privacy setting would not allow me to access their main website, so have limited data, below is Facebook link) https://www.facebook.com/lacghana/

There are several entities that look more like travel-related places, but may have helpful information, such as: African Diaspora Resource Centre Ghana (https://ghana.africandiasporagroup.com/about/)

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

There does not seem to be specific legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Eligibility Under Ghanaian Law:

Ghana's Refugee Law, 1992 (PNDCL 305D) incorporates the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. It provides that anyone who claims refugee status-even if they entered illegally or were transferred from another country-must be protected while their claim is assessed.

- Section 1 enshrines the principle of non-refoulement, prohibiting Ghana from expelling or returning a refugee to a territory where their life or freedom would be threatened.
- Section 2 states that a person claiming to be a refugee who enters or is present illegally shall not be detained or penalized merely for illegal entry while their claim is pending. [visaverge.com]

This means deportees arriving in Ghana can seek asylum if they fear persecution in their country of origin.

Case Law Illustrating This:

- *Margaret Banful & Henry Nana Boakye v. Attorney General (Supreme Court)*: The Court held that international agreements, including those governing deportations, require parliamentary ratification under Article 75 of the 1992 Constitution. This reinforces that executive agreements cannot override refugee protections. [heconsulting.us]
- Recent Litigation (2025): Ghanaian lawyer Oliver Barker-Vormawor challenged the onward deportation of 11 West African asylum-seekers transferred from the U.S. to Ghana. Eight had active U.S. court orders protecting them from return due to risk of torture. Ghana deported them anyway, raising allegations of non-refoulement violations. U.S. Judge Tanya Chutkan noted Ghana's actions appeared to breach international treaties on torture and refugee protection, though she lacked jurisdiction to stop Ghana. [3.127.218.51], [ugspace.ug.edu.gh]

These cases show that while Ghanaian law allows deportees to claim asylum, enforcement has been inconsistent, especially under third-country deportation deals.

Comparison with UNHCR Standards:

The UNHCR Handbook and Guidelines affirm that:

- Any person outside their country of origin who fears persecution qualifies for refugee status, regardless of how they arrived, including deportation.

- States must uphold non-refoulement, even for deportees or those transferred under bilateral agreements.
- Fair and efficient asylum procedures, access to legal counsel, and protection from arbitrary detention are essential.

Key Difference: Ghana's law aligns with UNHCR standards on paper, but recent onward removals of asylum-seekers under U.S.-Ghana agreements have violated these principles, creating tension between domestic law, international obligations, and actual practice. [diasporaad...cacygh.org]

Deported individuals are legally eligible for asylum in Ghana, and Ghana's statutes mirror UNHCR standards. However, recent cases reveal gaps between law and practice, with onward deportations breaching non-refoulement and UNHCR guidelines.

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, there are legal education and rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals in Ghana, though they are mostly NGO-driven with some government collaboration.

Here's a compiled list of active legal education and rights-awareness programs for deported individuals in Ghana, including contact details and participation steps:

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM Ghana)

- Program: Reintegration Orientation Sessions
- Focus: Rights awareness, ID recovery steps, access to social services.
  - How to Participate: Register through IOM Ghana offices or partner NGOs.
  - Contact: Website: https://ghana.iom.int
  - Phone: +233 (0)302 742 930
  - Email: iomaccra@iom.int

2. Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC)

- Program: Community Legal Education Workshops
- Focus: Constitutional rights, legal aid access, protection against unlawful detention.
  - How to Participate: Attend scheduled sessions in Accra or regional hubs.
  - Contact: Website: https://hracghana.org
  - Phone: +233 (0)302 740 701

3. Migrants Rights Network Ghana

- Program: Rights Awareness Campaigns
- Focus: Reintegration support, ID recovery guidance, social service access.
  - How to Participate: Follow social media updates or contact local offices for event schedules.
  - Contact: Facebook: Migrants Rights Network Ghana
  - Email: info@migrantsrightsgh.org

4. Ghana Legal Aid Commission

- Program: Public Education Outreach
- Focus: Legal aid eligibility, filing affidavits, rights enforcement.
  - How to Participate: Visit Legal Aid offices or attend outreach events.
  - Contact: Website: https://legalaid.gov.gh
  - Phone: +233 (0)302 662 691

Delivery Channels

- In-person workshops at reintegration centers.
- Radio and social media campaigns targeting rural communities.
- Printed guides distributed during reintegration programs.

Effectiveness of these legal education and rights-awareness programs for deported individuals in Ghana varies, and here's what research and NGO reports indicate:

1. Positive Outcomes

- Improved Awareness: Participants report better understanding of constitutional rights and ID recovery steps.
- Higher Uptake of Legal Aid: Programs linked to NGOs like IOM and HRAC have increased applications for legal aid and affidavits.
- Faster Reintegration: Orientation sessions often reduce delays in accessing social services and ID renewal.

2. Limitations

- Coverage Gaps: Programs are concentrated in urban areas (Accra, Kumasi), leaving rural returnees underserved.
- Funding Constraints: Many initiatives depend on donor support, making them inconsistent.
- Language Barriers: Limited translation into local languages reduces impact for non-English speakers.

3. NGO Evaluations

- IOM Ghana reports moderate success in reintegration when legal education is combined with economic support.
- HRAC notes low participation rates in rural areas due to lack of outreach and transportation costs.

4. Recommendations for Improvement

- Scale up mobile outreach units for rural communities.
- Integrate rights education into official reintegration packages.
- Provide materials in local languages and use radio for wider reach.

These programs are funded through a mix of international donors, NGOs, and limited government support:

1. International Sponsors

- IOM Ghana Programs: Funded primarily by European Union (EU), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
- Often tied to Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) projects.

2. NGO Funding

- Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC): Receives grants from Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and other human rights donors.
- Migrants Rights Network Ghana: Supported by regional migration advocacy funds and small-scale donor contributions.

3. Government Contribution

- Ghana Legal Aid Commission: State-funded but with limited budget, so outreach programs rely heavily on NGO partnerships.
- Ghana Immigration Service: Provides logistical support for awareness sessions at entry points, but not direct funding for reintegration education.

4. Delivery Partnerships

- Many programs operate under public-private partnerships, where NGOs handle implementation and donors provide financial backing.

Most of these programs are not consistently available in multiple languages, which is one of the major gaps NGOs have identified.

Current Language Coverage

- IOM Ghana: Provides materials mainly in English, with occasional translations into Twi and Ewe for community outreach.
- HRAC and Migrants Rights Network: Some workshops use interpreters for local languages, but printed guides are mostly in English.
- Legal Aid Commission: Public education sessions are usually in English; regional offices may use local dialects informally.

Challenges

- Limited Translation: Few programs offer structured multilingual content.
- Impact on Rural Returnees: Non-English speakers often miss critical legal information.
    - NGO Recommendations: Expand translations into major Ghanaian languages (Twi, Ewe, Ga, Dagbani).

Use radio broadcasts in local languages for wider reach.

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

No Formal U.S.-Ghana Program for Belongings

Currently, there is no official bilateral program between the U.S. and Ghana specifically designed to help deported individuals reclaim personal belongings left behind. Deportation does not legally strip property rights, but practical challenges make recovery difficult.

NGO and Advocacy Support

- No More Deaths / No Más Muertes: Provides guidance and sometimes logistical help for recovering detained money and belongings. Their best practices include mailing property or safeguarding it until delivery is possible
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) & National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC): Offer legal advice and advocacy for deported individuals, including property recovery strategies.

Confiscation During Detention:
Reports show that up to 66.5% of deported individuals had belongings retained by authorities, and many never recovered all items.

Sources:

Best Practices.docx

Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation?

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

The legal framework for deported individuals from the United States who return to Ghana is limited when it comes to recovering property, wages, or financial assets. While bilateral agreements exist between the U.S. and Ghana, they primarily address deportation logistics rather than financial restitution.

Bilateral Agreements:
In 2025, the U.S. and Ghana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the repatriation and temporary hosting of West African nationals. This agreement allows Ghana to accept deportees, including non-Ghanaian West Africans, under exceptional circumstances. However, the MoU was not ratified by Ghana's Parliament, making it politically binding but not enforceable under Ghanaian law. Importantly, these agreements do not include provisions for property or asset recovery; they focus solely on deportation procedures and compliance with ECOWAS free movement protocols (source: GhanaWeb, CitiNewsRoom). [legalclarity.org], [enpareja.com]

Success Rates:
Recovering property or wages after deportation is legally possible under U.S. law, as deportation does not revoke ownership rights. However, practical challenges are significant. Studies show that approximately 66.5% of deported individuals lose access to belongings during deportation, and many face barriers to managing assets remotely without prior arrangements such as granting Power of Attorney (source: Migration Policy Institute). For unpaid wages, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) protects all workers regardless of immigration status, meaning deported individuals can file claims through the U.S. Department of Labor or civil courts. Nonetheless, success rates are low without legal representation, and there is no official data on recovery outcomes (source: U.S. Department of Labor guidance). [freedomfor...grants.org]

Legal Aid Provided:
Legal assistance is available primarily through non-profit organizations and pro bono networks. Before deportation, individuals can access free legal services listed by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). After deportation, groups such as the Legal Aid Society and Freedom for Immigrants offer remote support for wage claims and asset recovery. These organizations often help with filing claims, granting Power of Attorney, and connecting deportees to U.S.-based attorneys. However, most programs focus on immigration defense before removal rather than post-deportation financial recovery, making access from Ghana limited and dependent on remote arrangements (source: EOIR, Freedom for Immigrants). [afriktimes.info], [saharareporters.com], [justice.gov]

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

Memorandum of Understanding on Repatriation and Temporary Hosting of West African Nationals (2025)

- Parties: Government of Ghana and Government of the United States.
- Purpose: Ghana agrees to:
  - Accept deportees from the U.S.
  - Temporarily host certain West African nationals deported from the U.S., even if they are not Ghanaian citizens.
- Scope: Includes individuals from other ECOWAS countries (e.g., Nigeria, Gambia) who cannot be returned directly to their home countries.
  - Legal Status: The MoU was signed by the Executive but not ratified by Ghana's Parliament, raising constitutional concerns under Article 75 of Ghana's 1992 Constitution, which requires parliamentary approval for international agreements.
- Humanitarian Basis: Ghana's Foreign Minister stated the agreement was based on pan-African solidarity and humanitarian principles, not financial compensation

Key Provisions of the MoU

- Reception and Hosting: Ghana undertakes to receive deportees and provide temporary accommodation.
- Transit and Resettlement: Ghana may facilitate onward travel for non-Ghanaian nationals to their home countries.
- No Financial Incentives: Ghana explicitly denies receiving monetary benefits for participation.
- Compliance with ECOWAS Protocols: Ghana cites obligations under the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol to justify hosting West African nationals for up to 90 days.

Controversies and Legal Challenges

- Constitutional Challenge: Critics argue the MoU violates Article 75 because it was not ratified by Parliament, making it unenforceable under Ghanaian law.
- Human Rights Concerns: Reports indicate deportees were later transferred to neighboring countries (e.g., Togo, Nigeria), raising questions about due process and protection against persecution.

Ghana.GOV | The Judicial Service of Ghana (judicial page not found)

Centro de Información sobre la Migración se inaugura en la región de Brong Ahafo de Ghana | International Organization for Migration

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Core International and Regional Instruments Ghana Has Ratified

Ghana is legally bound by several treaties and protocols that govern the treatment of migrants and deportees:

- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) - Ratified in 2000. Requires humane treatment and protection of rights during return and reintegration.
- Convention Against Torture (CAT) - Ratified in 2000. Prohibits returning individuals to countries where they risk torture or inhumane treatment (principle of non-refoulement)
- UN Refugee Convention - Upholds non-refoulement and protection against persecution
- ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol - Guarantees regional mobility and obliges Ghana to respect rights of West African nationals during repatriation.
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) - Ghana is a champion country, committing to safe, dignified, and rights-based migration governance.

Domestic Constitutional Alignment

- Article 75 of Ghana's 1992 Constitution requires parliamentary ratification of any international agreement imposing obligations on Ghana. Failure to do so (as in the recent U.S.-Ghana MoU) raises constitutional and human rights concerns

Sources:

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

CHRAJ calls for 'humane and dignified' approach in repatriation of undocumented migrants | GhHeadlines Total News Total Information

A_HRC_WG.6_42_GHA_2_Ghana_Annex.pdf

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Ghana's consulates in the U.S. play a critical but limited role in supporting deported nationals both before removal and after arrival. Ghana's consulates in the U.S. do not provide direct legal aid to deported nationals. Their role is primarily administrative and diplomatic, not legal representation. Based on internal guidance and official protocols:

1. Pre-Removal Support

- Identity Verification:
  Consulates confirm citizenship status and issue Emergency Travel Certificates when deportees lack valid passports.
- Consular Assistance: Provide information on rights and deportation procedures.
- Liaise with U.S. immigration authorities to ensure humane treatment during detention and transport.
- Legal Aid: Consulates generally do not provide direct legal representation, but they may refer individuals to NGOs or legal aid organizations.

2. Post-Removal Support

- Repatriation Coordination: Consulates coordinate with Ghana Immigration Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure smooth reintegration.
- Family Notification: They assist in notifying families and arranging communication prior to arrival.
- Referral to Reintegration Programs: Some consulates work with IOM Ghana and local NGOs to connect deportees to housing, mental health, and ID recovery services.

Sources:

- https://home.gis.gov.gh
- https://mfa.gov.gh
- https://ghana.iom.int

Alternative Support

- NGO Partnerships: Consulates often refer deportees to IOM Ghana or HRAC for legal aid and reintegration support.
- Legal Aid Commission: Offers free or subsidized legal services for Ghanaian citizens, including deported individuals.

Families of deported nationals receive some support, but it is limited and mostly facilitated through NGOs and informal consular assistance rather than structured government programs.

1. Consular Role

- Notification & Communication:
  Ghana's consulates in the U.S. often help notify families about deportation and arrange communication before removal.
- No Direct Financial Aid:
  Consulates do not provide financial assistance to families.

2. NGO Support

- International Organization for Migration (IOM Ghana): Offers reintegration packages that sometimes include family counseling and livelihood support.
- Local NGOs (e.g., HRAC, Migrants Rights Network): Provide psychosocial support and legal education for families affected by deportation.

3. Government Programs

- Limited Formal Assistance:
  Ghana does not have a dedicated state program for family support during deportation.
- Indirect Support:
  Families may benefit from reintegration

programs if the deported individual is enrolled.

4. Gaps Identified

- Lack of structured family counseling and financial assistance.
- NGOs recommend integrating family support into official reintegration packages.

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

Between January and August 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) deported 312 Ghanaians. However, some of these individuals may have been deported to other countries than Ghana.

In June 2025, Government of Ghana has confirmed that 188 of its nationals have been earmarked for deportation by the United States. Out of these 188, 56 individuals have already been returned to Ghana, as follows: (i) 14 individuals were deported in September 2025 and 42 were deported in October 2025.

Sources:

188 Ghanaians to be deported from U.S., Government confirms*

Deportees sent to Ghana by Trump administration dispute release claims | AP News

Return to Nowhere: African Migrants and U.S. Deportation to Ghana

Deportees' Abuse Claims Tarnishing Ghana's Image - The Ghanaian Chronicle

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

The most likely primary entry point is Kotoka International Airport (Accra), as it is Ghana's main international hub.

Secondary airports (e.g., Kumasi International Airport) might be involved, but this typically depends on government agreements and logistical capacity.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

- Accra - The capital city and main hub for international arrivals, including deportation flights.
- Kumasi - A major urban center in the Ashanti Region, often involved in reintegration programs.
- Takoradi/Sekondi - Key cities in the Western Region with economic opportunities.
- Tamale - Northern Ghana's largest city, sometimes included in government or NGO reintegration efforts.

These cities are commonly referenced in reintegration and support programs because they have infrastructure, job markets, and NGO presence.

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

14 and 42 individuals were deported in September 2025 and October 2025, respectively. None of them were citizens of Ghana and it has been reported that they have since been sent back to their respective home country. It was reported that the deportees were Nigerians, Liberians, Togolese, Gambians, and Malians.

Sources:

What to know about the US deportations to non-citizen African countries | AP News

Immigrants deported from US to Ghana are sent home, where lawyers say some could face torture | CNN Politics

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

The main legal and administrative grounds for deportation to Ghana are outlined in the Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573) and related regulations, as well as recent enforcement practices.

1. Immigration Violations

- Visa Overstay: Non-citizens who remain in Ghana beyond the permitted duration of their visa are subject to deportation. This is one of the most common grounds for removal. [generisonline.com]
- Unlawful Entry: Entering Ghana without proper documentation or authorization can lead to immediate deportation. [generisonline.com]

2. Criminal Convictions

- Individuals convicted of crimes-especially serious offenses-are at high risk of deportation. Recent U.S. deportations to Ghana have prioritized those with criminal records, including drug-related and violent crimes. [visaverge.com]
- Ghana may also refuse entry or deport individuals with certain criminal histories under its immigration regulations. [stateregstoday.com]

3. National Security or Public Safety Concerns

- Persons deemed threats to national security or public order can be deported under Ghanaian law. This includes suspected involvement in terrorism or organized crime. [gis.gov.gh]

4. Administrative Detention and Border Enforcement

- Ghana does not have dedicated immigration detention centers but uses military camps and prisons for holding migrants prior to deportation. Detention often occurs when individuals are awaiting removal or have been summarily expelled across borders. [globaldete...roject.org]

5. International Deportation Agreements

- Deportations from other countries (e.g., the U.S.) to Ghana often cite visa overstays and criminal convictions as primary reasons. These removals are governed by bilateral agreements, though some have raised constitutional concerns under Ghana's 1992 Constitution. [visaverge.com], [myjoyonline.com]

The U.S. and Ghana approach deportations from very different perspectives-legal, political, and humanitarian.

1. U.S. Perspective

- Enforcement-Driven: U.S. deportations prioritize immigration law compliance, focusing on visa overstays, undocumented status, and criminal convictions. Recent policies (e.g., the *Global Enforcement Initiative*) have increased removals of individuals with criminal records and those flagged as security risks. [visaverge.com]
- Deterrence Strategy: Deportation is seen as a tool to deter illegal immigration and maintain border security. The U.S. has also expanded third-country deportations, sending non-Ghanaian nationals to Ghana under informal arrangements, which critics call a workaround to asylum protections. [dctransparency.com]
- Executive Authority: Decisions often rely on executive orders and DHS priorities, with limited judicial oversight. Courts have raised concerns about compliance with international conventions (e.g., Refugee Convention, Convention Against Torture). [dctransparency.com]

2. Ghana's Perspective

- Constitutional & Sovereignty Concerns: Ghana's 1992 Constitution requires parliamentary ratification for international agreements. The U.S.-Ghana deportation MoU bypassed this, sparking legal challenges and claims of constitutional violations. [jurist.org], [dw.com]
- Humanitarian Framing: Ghana publicly frames its acceptance of deportees as Pan-African solidarity, not endorsement of U.S. immigration policy. Officials argue they are helping fellow Africans, but critics see this as diplomatic compromise under U.S. pressure. [dw.com]

Capacity & Rights Issues: Ghana struggles with reintegration and rights protection. Reports cite

prolonged detention, poor conditions in military camps, and even secondary deportations to neighboring countries-raising human rights concerns. [visaverge.com], [faf.ae]

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Ghana does not have a law that explicitly requires the government to publish or publicly report deportation data. Here's what the legal framework says:

1. Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573)

- This is the primary legislation governing deportation in Ghana. It outlines:
  - Grounds for deportation (e.g., illegal entry, overstaying, criminal activity).
  - Procedures for issuing deportation orders and appeals.

However, Act 573 does not mandate public disclosure of deportation statistics or agreements. It focuses on operational and enforcement aspects rather than transparency requirements. [ghalii.org]

2. Immigration Service Act, 2016 (Act 908)

- Gives the Ghana Immigration Service authority to manage migration and advise on international cooperation.
- It does not impose obligations for publishing deportation figures. [ghanaweb.com]

3. Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989)

- Citizens can request access to government-held information, including deportation data, but this is on-demand disclosure, not proactive publication. [dataprotec...ion.org.gh]

4. Practice and Reality

- Deportation numbers are sometimes shared in press releases or at public events (e.g., International Migrants Day), but this is policy-driven, not legally required. For example, the Ghana Immigration Service disclosed that over 12,000 Ghanaians were deported globally since 2020 during a public event. [gna.org.gh]
- Recent controversies (e.g., Ghana-US deportation agreement) show that transparency often depends on court rulings or civil society pressure rather than statutory obligations. [dennislawnews.com]

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Based on Ghana's legal and institutional framework, the following agencies are responsible for collecting and, in some cases, publishing deportation data:

1. Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)

- Legal Basis: Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573) and Immigration Service Act, 2016 (Act 908).
- Role: GIS is the primary agency mandated to enforce immigration laws, including deportation orders. It collects all operational data on deportations and removals.
- Reporting: GIS occasionally publishes deportation figures during official events (e.g., International Migrants Day) or through press releases. For example, GIS disclosed that over 12,000 Ghanaians were deported globally since 2020. [gna.org.gh], [en.wikipedia.org]
- Strategic Plan: GIS has a communication and reporting plan in its 2023-2029 Strategic Plan, but this is policy-driven, not a statutory obligation for public disclosure. [gis.gov.gh]

2. Ministry of the Interior

- Legal Basis: Supervises GIS and oversees national security and immigration enforcement.
- Role: Handles policy coordination and sometimes issues statements on deportation operations. It is legally responsible for oversight but not explicitly required to publish deportation statistics. [superlawgh.com]

3. Migration Information Centre (Kotoka International Airport)

- Role: Operates under GIS and manages data on returnees and deportees arriving in Ghana. It provides figures during public events but does not have a statutory mandate for proactive publication. [gna.org.gh]

4. Data Protection Commission (DPC)

- Legal Basis: Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843).
- Role: Regulates how personal data (including deportation records) is collected and processed. It does not publish deportation statistics but ensures compliance with privacy standards. [dataprotec...ion.org.gh]

5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration

- Role: Involved in bilateral deportation agreements and diplomatic coordination. It may release information on deportation arrangements but is not legally mandated to publish statistics. [myjoyonline.com]

Summary:

- Primary collector: Ghana Immigration Service (GIS).
- Oversight: Ministry of the Interior.
- Data compliance: Data Protection Commission.
- Occasional disclosure: Migration Information Centre and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (policy-driven, not legally required).

Ghana's agencies do coordinate on migration and deportation data, but the coordination is policy-driven rather than mandated by law, and it is often supported by international partners. Here's how it works:

1. Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and Ministry of the Interior

- GIS operates under the Ministry of the Interior, which provides oversight and policy direction. The Comptroller-General of Immigration reports directly to the Minister of the Interior, ensuring alignment on enforcement and data management. [mint.gov.gh], [en.wikipedia.org]
- The GIS Strategic Plan (2023-2029) includes a Communication and Reporting Plan and emphasizes inter-agency collaboration for migration governance. [gis.gov.gh]

2. National Migration Data Management Strategy

- Ghana adopted this strategy in 2017 to improve data sharing among agencies. It aims to create a centralized migration database and involves multiple stakeholders, including GIS, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ghana Statistical Service. [ghana.iom.int], [statsghana.gov.gh]

3. Integrated Border Management (IBM) Approach

- Projects like Strengthening Border and Migration Management in Ghana (SMMIG), supported by ICMPD and Denmark, promote intra- and inter-agency cooperation. This includes coordination between GIS, law enforcement, and ministries for data collection and reporting. [icmpd.org]

4. Role of International Partners

- IOM Ghana and ICMPD provide technical assistance to reinforce coordination and ethical data management practices. [ghana.iom.int], [icmpd.org]

Summary:

- Coordination exists through policy frameworks (e.g., National Migration Data Management Strategy, GIS Strategic Plan) and projects (SMMIG), but no law explicitly mandates inter-agency data sharing or joint publication of deportation statistics.
- Key actors in coordination: GIS, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ghana Statistical Service, and international partners.

Ghana does not have a fixed schedule for publishing deportation data. Instead, the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and related agencies release figures occasionally, usually tied to events or press briefings rather than regular reporting.

Ghana's deportation data is not independently audited in a systematic way. Here's what the evidence shows:

1. No Formal External Audit of Deportation Statistics

- The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) collects and reports deportation figures, but these numbers are internally compiled and disclosed at events or through press releases. There is no legal requirement for independent verification or auditing of these figures. [gna.org.gh]

2. Ghana Audit Service

- The Ghana Audit Service audits public accounts and government agencies broadly, but there is no indication that deportation data is part of its routine audits. Its mandate covers

financial and performance audits, not migration-specific data accuracy. [audit.gov.gh]

3. International Oversight and Technical Support

- International partners like IOM and ICMPD assist Ghana in improving migration data management and ethical standards, but this is capacity-building, not independent auditing of published deportation figures. [ghana.iom.int], [gis.gov.gh]

4. Human Rights Monitoring

- Reports from organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Global Detention Project highlight concerns about deportation practices and transparency, but these are advocacy and monitoring efforts, not formal audits of statistical accuracy. [globaldete...roject.org], [visaverge.com]

Summary:

- No statutory or institutional mechanism exists for independent auditing of deportation data in Ghana.

Verification relies on internal GIS processes, occasional civil society scrutiny, and international technical support, but not on external audits mandated by law.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, deportation data can be requested under Ghana's Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), but with some important caveats:

1. Legal Right to Access

- The RTI Act grants any person the right to request information held by a public institution, including ministries, departments, and agencies such as the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Ministry of the Interior. [ghalii.org], [mwhwr.gov.gh]
- Requests can be made without giving a reason, and the institution must respond within 14 days (or 48 hours for urgent matters involving life or liberty). [mwhwr.gov.gh]

2. Applicability to Deportation Data

- Deportation statistics are considered factual or statistical information, which is not exempt under the Act. This means you can legally request aggregated deportation figures or related operational data. [mofaq.gov.gh]
- However, personal details of deportees or information that affects national security, law enforcement operations, or international relations may be exempt under Sections 5-17 of the Act. [mfwa.org]

3. Process

- Submit a written or oral request to the Information Officer of the relevant agency (e.g., GIS or Ministry of the Interior).
- If denied, you can appeal internally and then escalate to the Right to Information Commission, which oversees compliance. [mwhwr.gov.gh], [rtic.gov.gh]

4. Practical Challenges

- While the law allows access, studies show bureaucratic delays and low awareness often hinder timely disclosure. Civil society groups and journalists frequently assist applicants in navigating the process.

Here's the official process for requesting information under Ghana's Right to Information Act (Act 989), including deportation data from agencies like the Ghana Immigration Service:

Step 1: Identify the Public Institution

- Determine which agency holds the information (e.g., Ghana Immigration Service for deportation statistics).
- Locate the designated Information Officer for that institution. Each ministry or agency has one. [mwhwr.gov.gh]

Step 2: Prepare Your Request

- Requests can be written or oral, but written is recommended for tracking.
- Include:
  - Your full name and contact details (email, postal address, phone).
  - Description of the information (be specific: e.g., "aggregate deportation statistics for 2020-2024").

- Preferred form of access (hard copy, electronic copy, inspection). [rti.gov.gh], [nia.gov.gh]

- Attach a valid ID (National ID, Passport, Voter's ID, or Driver's License). [rti.gov.gh]

Step 3: Submit the Request

- Options:
  - Online: RTI Portal (fill out the electronic form).
  - In person: At the agency's RTI desk or Information Unit.
  - By mail/email: Contact details are in each institution's RTI Manual. [rtic.gov.gh]

Step 4: Response Timeline

- Standard requests: Decision within 14 days.
- Urgent requests (life or liberty): Decision within 48 hours.
- The Information Officer may defer for up to 7 days if consultations are needed. [mwhwr.gov.gh]

Step 5: Fees

- Access is generally free, but fees apply for:
  - Translation into another language.
  - Physical copies (printing costs).
- Parliament approves fee schedules under Section 75 of the Act. [mofaq.gov.gh]

Step 6: Appeals

- If denied:
  - First appeal to the head of the institution.
  - Then escalate to the Right to Information Commission.
  - Further appeal possible in court under Sections 31-39 of the Act.

Yes, RTI requests for deportation data in Ghana have been denied, and this is mainly due to exemptions and implementation challenges under the Right to Information Act (Act 989). Here's what the evidence shows:

Reasons for Denial

1. Exempt Information Clauses

- Requests are often refused when they involve:
  - National security or law enforcement operations (Sections 5-17 of Act 989).
  - Personal data of deportees, which is protected under privacy laws.
- Agencies like the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) may argue that detailed deportation records fall under these exemptions. [mwhwr.gov.gh], [rti-rating.org]

2. Information Not Available or Poorly Organized

- Some denials occur because the requested data is not compiled in the requested format or is claimed to be unavailable. [lettersamples.org]

3. Administrative Delays and Bureaucratic Blockages

- Studies show that even non-sensitive requests face delays or refusals due to lack of trained information officers and entrenched administrative culture. [scielo.org.za], [modernghana.com]

Appeal Process

- Applicants can appeal internally and then escalate to the RTI Commission, which has the mandate to enforce compliance.
- If still denied, judicial review in the High Court is possible under Sections 31-39 of the Act. [gbcghanaonline.com]

Practical Reality

- Journalists and civil society groups report that requests for migration and deportation statistics are among the most frequently delayed or denied, especially when they seek granular details (e.g., nationality breakdown, reasons for deportation). [scielo.org.za]

Summary:
Yes, denials happen-mostly due to security/privacy exemptions, data unavailability, and implementation gaps. Aggregate deportation figures are easier to obtain than detailed records.

appeals are possible under Ghana's Right to Information Act (Act 989) if your request for deportation data (or any other information) is denied. Here's how the appeal process works:

Appeal Steps

1. Internal Review

- First, appeal to the head of the institution that denied your request (e.g., Comptroller-General of Immigration for GIS).
- This must be done within 21 days of receiving the denial.

2. Right to Information Commission

- If the internal review fails, escalate to the RTI Commission, which has the authority to:
- Order disclosure of information.
- Impose penalties for non-compliance.
- The Commission must decide within 30 days.

3. Judicial Review

- If still dissatisfied, you can file an appeal in the High Court for enforcement under Sections 31-39 of the Act.

Grounds for Appeal

- Unjustified denial.
- Excessive delay beyond the statutory timeline.

Improper application of exemptions (e.g., claiming "national security" without basis).

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Guatemala

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Guatemala

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Pre-deportation process in the U.S.

Immigration detention: Many Guatemalans are detained by the Border Patrol or ICE, either for irregular entry or for immigration violations.

Immigration hearing: Some may have access to a hearing before an immigration judge to request asylum. In cases like Lesbia Yojary Reyes, although they managed to access hearing from a judge, but they are still denied asylum and are barred from entering for several years.

Detention center: They stay for weeks or months in centers such as those in Louisiana, Texas or Arizona, in conditions that vary depending on the case.

[Guatemala: What happens to the migrants deported by Trump? -Link]

Arrival in Guatemala

Deportation flights: Deportees arrive by air at the Air Force Base in Guatemala City. In 2025, Guatemala has received more than 23,000 people deported from the U.S.

[Guatemalan Deportations from the United States: Key Facts - Centroamérica360]

Official reception: The Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) coordinates the reception. They are provided:

- Food and hygiene kits.
- Medical and psychological care.
- Transportation to their communities.
- Temporary accommodation in some cases.

Special cases: Children and adolescents. In 2025, 126 unaccompanied minors have been registered among those deported.

These children require differentiated care, and the government has stated that it is prepared to receive them, although resources are limited.

[In 2025, they have deported almost 3,300 Guatemalan migrants from the US and Mexico. What will happen to them? | CNN]

Reintegration in Guatemala Return Home Plan: Includes phases of consular attention, reception and reintegration.

Support Programs:

- Labor certification (INTECAP).
- Labor insertion (OportuGuate).
- Psychosocial support (Casa del Migrante, ARG).
- Many deportees face stigmatization, unemployment and family breakdowns, especially those who lived more than 10 years in the U.S.

[Guatemala: What happens to the migrants deported by Trump? -Link]

New migration agreements

Guatemala has signed agreements with the U.S. to increase deportation flights by 40%. It also accepts deportees of other nationalities, acting as an intermediate country for their repatriation with U.S. funds.

[These are the details of the new agreement to speed up the deportation of illegal migrants to Guatemala - LA NACION; Guatemala Signs Agreement with U.S. to Receive Deportees of Any Nationality | Euronews]

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

People deported to Guatemala have access to a variety of resources and supports, both offered by states, international and local organizations. These services seek to ensure dignified repatriation and facilitate social, economic and emotional reintegration.

[Nuevo centro de atención para migrantes en Guatemala]

[Guatemalan government opens space to serve migrants deported from the U.S. and Mexico, offering labor and psychosocial care]

[Project Launched to Strengthen Assistance and Services for Guatemalan Returnees - Agencia Guatemalteca de Noticias]

[The "Casa del Migrante", a place of hope for migrants in Guatemala - CARE Guatemala]

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Despite the efforts of the Guatemalan government and international organizations, people deported to Guatemala face significant limitations in accessing resources and support

Reception and reintegration services are concentrated in Guatemala City, especially at the Air Force Base and the Attention and Registration Center (CAR). In departments such as Huehuetenango, Chiquimula or Izabal, where there is high migration, resources are scarce or non-existent.

[Data & Resources | IOM Guatemala]

In the absence of a comprehensive reintegration system, t re is no articulated national model that coordinates health, employment, education, housing and legal assistance for returnees.

Care depends on isolated or temporary projects, such as those funded by IOM or foreign governments.

[2016,deportados_guatemala.pdf]

Limited Legal Assistance: As reflected from Guatemala's asylum system, its limited legal framework only allows high level officials to approve claims. This leads to massive bottlenecks in the system. For example, at the end of March 2020, there was a backlog of 713 cases, including every one of the few asylum applicants among transferees from the US-Guatemala Asylum Cooperative Agreement. The interministerial committee that decides on the asylum cases had not met from mid-March 2020 to late April.

[An Approach to Policies for Attention to Deportees in the Northern Triangle Countries of Central America. Guatemala - Asies]

[Deportation with a Layover: Failure of Protection under the US-Guatemala Asylum Cooperative Agreement | HRW]

Insufficient infrastructure: These are the supports provided by the Government of Guatemala for immigrants deported from the United States | Univision 62 Austin KAKW | Univision

Lack of Public Data and Transparency: List of Deportees to Guatemala | ProceduresGuate

Stigmatization and social exclusion: Boletin-Economia-al-dia-nro.-1-enero-2025.pdf

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Guatemala has implemented a wide range of recent initiatives to support the reintegration of deportees, combining immediate assistance through centers, such as the Service and Registration center ("CAR") and the "Return Home" plan, economic support (voucher and DPI), future infrastructure (center in Tecún Umán), specific protocols for minors, and international agreements that seek to order and facilitate these returns.

1. Service and Registration Center (CAR) in Guatemala City

In June 2025, the Guatemalan government inaugurated a new CAR in downtown Guatemala City, under the direction of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration. Details about this center are as follows:

- It serves up to 150 people deported from the U.S. and Mexico.
- It offers free psychosocial care, job opportunities, social programs and primary health services. In addition, it is the third CAR operating in the capital.

2. "Return Home" Plan in Parque de la Industria

At the end of January 2025, the government launched the "Return Home" plan, which includes:

- A registration and assistance centre in the Parc de la Industria.
- Medical care services, psychological support, linkage with employment or training programs.
- Temporary accommodation (up to 72 hours) and data collection for individualized follow-up.

3. Single bonus and exemption from the DPI for deportees In February 2025, a bloc of deputies (UNE) presented a bill to:

- Grant a one-time bonus of Q2,000 to approximately 100,000 deportees.
- Deliver the Personal Identification Document (DPI) free of charge to returnees.

[Guatemala abre nuevo centro de recepción de atención a migrantes deportados – Chicago Tribune]

[PRESENTAN INICIATIVA QUE AUTORIZA BONO A DEPORTADOS]

4. New center in Tecún Umán with USAID support

At the beginning of March 2025, the construction of a new care center for deportees on the border with Mexico (Tecún Umán) was announced:

- It is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and overseen by IOM.
- Estimated capacity for 250 people.
- Scheduled to come into operation by mid-2026.

5. Bilateral agreement with the U.S. to increase flights and repatriations

In February 2025, Guatemala agreed the followings with the U.S., represented by Secretary of State Marco Rubio:

- Increase the flights of deportees by 40%, both Guatemalans and other nationalities, for managing repatriation.
- The deportee is not considered a “safe third country” status;
- The only aim is to expedite returns and facilitate their final repatriation.

6. Care for repatriated minors and family reintegration protocols

Specific protocols for the repatriation of unaccompanied minors were recently activated:

- Guatemala is preparing to receive up to 150 minors per week.
- The protocols for psychosocial evaluation, legal accompaniment and family reunification were strengthened.

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Guatemala has specific laws, regulations, and public policies governing the reception and reintegration of deportees, although their implementation faces challenges.

[https://igm.gob.gt/gobierno-de-guatemala-anuncia-plan-de-integracion-y-reintegracion-retorno-al-hogar-para-personas-guatemaltecas-retornadas/]

Return Home Plan Public policy has been active since 2024, which is coordinated by the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM). It has three phases: Humanitarian reception: food, hygiene kits, medical and psychological care, temporary accommodation. Registration and orientation: at the Care and Registration Center (CAR), located in zone 13 of Guatemala City.

Reintegration efforts include access to employment programs, education, health, training and psychosocial support. It prioritizes vulnerable groups such as migrant children, victims of trafficking, family units, people at risk.

[https://igm.gob.gt/gobierno-de-guatemala-anuncia-plan-de-integracion-y-reintegracion-retorno-al-hogar-para-personas-guatemaltecas-retornadas/]

[https://dca.gob.gt/noticias-guatemala-diario-centro-america/guatemala-abre-nuevas-puertas-para-el-retorno-digno-y-la-integracion-de-las-personas-migrantes/]

Inter-institutional body that coordinates the implementation of migration policies

There are coordinated actions between more than 11 State institutions, including:

- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Secretariat of Social Welfare
- Council for Care and Protection (CAP).

[https://dca.gob.gt/noticias-guatemala-diario-centro-america/guatemala-abre-nuevas-puertas-para-el-retorno-digno-y-la-integracion-de-las-personas-migrantes/]

Complementary regulations

Migration Law (Decree 95-98) establishes the rights and duties of migrants, including returned Guatemalans. Law on the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (Decree 27-2003) regulates the care of deported minors. Ratified international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers are also relevant.

Identified limitations

The limitations include: the lack of sufficient infrastructure outside the capital; territorial inequality in access to services; the need for greater community articulation for effective reintegration; and scarce publication of official data on the impact of these policies.

[https://kmhub.iom.int/sites/default/files/publicaciones/estudioreintegracion_informe_guatemala_completo.pdf]

[https://www.url.edu.gt/publicacionesurl/FileCS.ashx?Id=126509]

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Guatemala does not have a specific law that guarantees comprehensive legal protections for deported people, but there are government programs and legislative proposals that seek to facilitate their social and economic reintegration.

Current legal situation

- There is no national law that institutionalizes specific rights for deportees in terms of health, housing, employment or education.
- Attention to deportees is carried out through specific programs, without a consolidated legal system or an exclusive governing body. [(ttps://www.deguate.com/artman/publish/migrantes_actualidad/servicios-de-atencion-a-deportados-en-guatemala.shtml]

Existing programmes and measures

Return to Home Plan Implemented by the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM). This plan includes:

- Medical, psychological, and legal care.
- Registration and documentation.
- Hygiene, food and clothing kits.
- Transportation to communities of origin.
- Access to employment, education, health and training programmes

[https://www.univision.com/local/austin-kakw/gobierno-guatemala-plan-retorno-al-hogar-inmigrantes-deportados-eeuu)
[3](https://www.alianzaamericas.org/es/tool/what-is-the-return-home-plan-implemented-in-guatemala]

1. Grants and scholarships

The government has announced:

- Subsidies for the purchase or improvement of housing.
- Scholarships for job training through the Technical Institute of Training and Productivity (INTECAP).
- Certification of skills acquired in the USA to facilitate access to local employment

[https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunitario/becas-y-subsidios-para-vivienda-se-puede-cumplir-lo-que-ofrece-el-gobierno-para-los-deportados/]

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Individuals deported from the United States to Guatemala do not automatically face detention or legal investigation upon arrival in the country, unless they have a valid arrest warrant.

[https://www.univision.com/local/austin-kakw/gobierno-guatemala-plan-retorno-al-hogar-inmigrantes-deportados-eeuu]]

If a deportee has a valid arrest warrant in Guatemala, a legal protocol is activated. The National Civil Police (PNC) would wait at the reception center, identify the deportee and immediately detain such deportee. He or she is placed at the disposal of the corresponding court, which initiates the judicial process.

[https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/migrantes/el-0-8-de-migrantes-retornados-tiene-orden-de-captura-cuales-son-los-principales-delitos%5d]

In 2025, it was reported that 0.8% of deportees had an arrest warrant, for crimes such as: rape, homicide, murder, and failure to pay alimony.

[https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/migrantes/el-0-8-de-migrantes-retornados-tiene-orden-de-captura-cuales-son-los-principales-delitos/]

Unaccompanied minors will be cared for by the Ministry of Social Welfare (SBS). They are provided with special protection, accommodation and psychological follow-up.

[FISCALIZA ATENCIÓN A DEPORTADOS EN EL CENTRO DE RECEPCIÓN DE RETORNADOS EN LA FAG]

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

In Guatemala, deportees can recover or renew their national identity documents through legal mechanisms established by the State, although there are operational and coverage limitations.

[https://ofnogua.org/DPI.aspx]

Complementary legal mechanisms

According to the Migration Data Portal, there is a migration data portal. Guatemala recognizes the right to legal identity as a basis for access to rights.

There are three management systems:

- Civil Registry and National Identity Management.
- Identity of immigrants.
- Identity of Guatemalans abroad.

Limitations

- Limited coverage in rural areas and indigenous communities.
- Lack of inter-institutional coordination to facilitate procedures for deportees.
- Absence of a comprehensive system for undocumented returnees.

[https://www.deguate.com/artman/publish/migrantes_actualidad/servicios-de-atencion-a-deportados-en-guatemala.shtml]

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

By being deported from the United States, Guatemalans do not face judicial or administrative sanctioning procedures in Guatemala. However, they are subject to a protocol of reception and humanitarian assistance coordinated by the government. This includes the following:

- Legal status upon arrival in Guatemala
- They are not charged with any crime for having migrated irregularly.
- No judicial or administrative file is opened against him. They are considered returned citizens, with full rights to reintegrate into society.
- Univision Reception Protocol

The Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) implements the plan for homecoming. This includes:

- Check-in.
- Health control.
- Delivery of hygiene kits, food and clothing.
- Access to phone calls and cell phone recharges.
- Psychosocial support and guidance on reintegration into work and education.
- Temporary lodging at the Deportation Care Center, located in the Parque de la Industria, Guatemala City.

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide

- Data on the number of individuals helped
- Other organizations they partner with

Association of Guatemalan Returnees

The mission of the association is to represent Guatemalan returnees at the national and international levels, defending their human rights and facilitating their social and economic reintegration. It is collaborated with National Protection Network in Guatemala and Corridors for Justice and Migration.

Services that are provided include the following:

- Psychological and psychosocial support.
- Comprehensive care and guidance at transport terminals.
- Referral to other institutions for additional support.

Population served include deportees and returnees.

[https://gtpm.mx/organizaciones/asociacion-de-retornados-guatemaltecos-ong/]

New Opportunities

The mission is to facilitate the productive reintegration of returned migrants through training, entrepreneurship and labor linkage. The Swisscontact Guatemala collaborates with private sector, educational and technical institutions.

Services include:

- Certification of technical skills.
- Financial education and soft skills.
- Seed capital for entrepreneurship.
- Job placement and business awareness.

Population served include migrants returned from the U.S. and Mexico.

[https://www.swisscontact.org/es/noticias/las-personas-migrantes-retornadas-tiene-oportunidades-de-reintegracion-en-guatemala]

Casa del Migrante (Guatemala City and Tecún Umán)

The mission is to provide humanitarian, emotional, and legal care to migrants in transit, deportees, and asylum seekers. It is collaborated between CARE Guatemalam, religious and community organizations.

- Services include:
- Temporary accommodation.
- Food, medical and psychosocial care.

Legal advice and guidance on international protection.

People served include more than 50,000 people since 2018.

https://care.org.gt/la-casa-del-migrante-un-lugar-de-esperanza-para-los-migrantes-en-guatemala/

Guatemalan Migration Institute – Return Home Plan

Mission: To facilitate the dignified reintegration of deported Guatemalans through comprehensive care.

Services:

Food, clothing, hygiene kits.

Medical and psychological care. Labor and educational intermediation.

Temporary accommodation in hostels.

People served: More than 13,000 people in 2025.

[https://www.lared1061.com/nacionales/eres-retornado-o-conoces-a-alguien-que-lo-sea-estos-son-los-servicios-que-puedes-solicitar-en-guatemala/]

International Organization for Migration (IOM Guatemala)

The mission is to strengthen post-return assistance and promote sustainable reintegration. It is a collaboration between Guatemalan Institute of Migration, Government of Korea, private sector and community leaders.

Services include:

- Emergency kits and medical care.
- Training for economic reintegration.
- Awareness and community participation campaigns.

Coverage of service includes Guatemala City, Quetzaltenango and Retalhuleu.

[Iom]

Center for Attention and Registration for Guatemalan Returned Migrants (CAR)

This is a space of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) and other institutions of the State and private sector that provides support to Guatemalans returned after their migratory registration in the country.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DOH3-5ZDZ3_/]

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Yes, Guatemala recognizes the right to free legal aid, although its application for deportees is limited and fragmented. Below I explain the legal framework, the institutions involved and the current limitations:

Legal and ethical framework

The Code of Professional Ethics of the Association of Lawyers and Notaries of Guatemala establishes that lawyers have the ethical obligation to provide free defense to poor people who request it or when they are assigned a defense ex officio.

Institute of Public Criminal Defense (IDPP) provides free legal assistance in criminal matters to people with limited resources, including returned migrants who are facing judicial processes.

There has been a proposal for constitutional reform. Guatemalan universities have proposed expanding the right to receive free legal assistance in all areas of law, not just criminal law.

Institutions that provide free legal assistance

Popular Law Firm of the University of San Carlos de Guatemala: Assistance in civil, criminal and family matters.

Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH): Defense of fundamental rights.

Public Prosecutor's Office: Attention to victims of crime.

Office of the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women: Specialized assistance.

Myrna Mack Foundation: Legal and psychosocial support.

CAS Guatemala: Free legal advice on human rights, especially for LGBTIQ+ people and people with HIV.

Current limitations

Guatemala does not have a specific law that guarantees free legal assistance for deported persons in the following matters:

- Administrative immigration or civil proceedings
- Divorce
- Criminal or domestic violence cases.

Migration institutions are fragmented and weak, without a comprehensive system of legal assistance for returned migrants.

https://casgt.org/asesoria-juridica/

victimaDelito_guatemala

https://www.deguate.com/artman/publish/migrantes_actualidad/servicios-de-atencion-a-deportados-en-guatemala.shtml

https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/content/asistencia-legal-gratuita

https://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/21.FolletoVictimaDelito_Guatemala-DPS-Web.pdf

https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/content/asistencia-legal-gratuita

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes, Guatemala has incorporated international human rights and refugee law into its legal framework, and these standards also apply — albeit indirectly — to deportees or returnees.

Constitutional incorporation

Article 46 of the Political Constitution of Guatemala establishes that, in the field of human rights, international treaties and conventions ratified by the country have precedence over domestic law.

This means that the principles of International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and International Refugee Law are binding and operative in the Guatemalan legal system.

International instruments ratified by Guatemala

Guatemala has ratified the main treaties that protect migrants, refugees and returnees:

- 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
- UNHCR
- Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (1984).
- American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José).
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

https://mail.vicepresidencia.gob.gt/politica-migratoria/marco-juridico-internacional

http://historico.juridicas.unam.mx/publica/librev/rev/dconstla/cont/2001/pr/pr17.pdf

https://igm.gob.gt/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ACUERDO-2-2019-Reglamento-Refugiado-1.pdf

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, Guatemala has several legal education and human rights awareness programs aimed at deportees or returned migrants, promoted by state institutions, NGOs and international organizations.

1. Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP)Program

This is a scholarship program for returnees. The objective is to facilitate the reintegration of returned migrants into the labor market through technical training and certification of skills. Services include:

- Face-to-face and virtual courses.
- Labor certification.
- Training in labor rights and soft skills.

This is available nationally, in all INTECAP centers.

https://soymigrante.com/revista/becas-de-apoyo-y-certificacion-a-migrantes-retornados-brinda-el-intecap/

2. Return Home Plan by Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM)

Educational Phase is safeguarding and training. The objective is to promote knowledge of rights and avoid stigmatization. Services include:

- Workshops for journalists and communicators on respectful language.
- Legal and psychosocial guidance for returnees.
- Human rights information and available services.

More than 13,000 people has been served in 2025.

https://www.lared1061.com/nacionales/eres-retornado-o-conoces-a-alguien-que-lo-sea-estos-son-los-servicios-que-puedes-solicitar-en-guatemala/

3. Platform OportuGuate – Ministry of Labor (Mintrab)

The objective is to connect returned migrants with job and educational opportunities. Services include:

- Training for employment.
- Certification of competencies.
- Creation of job profiles.
- Business awareness of labour rights.

https://www.centroamerica360.com/region/guatemala-la-plataforma-oportuguate-y-nueva-unidad-del-mintrab-buscan-reducir-migracion-irregular/

4. Association of Guatemalan Returnees (ARG)

The mission is to defend the human rights of returnees and facilitate their reintegration. It is a collaboration between National Protection Network, and Corridors for Justice and Migration. Services include:

- Psychosocial accompaniment.
- Community awareness.
- Referral to legal and social services.

https://gtpm.mx/organizaciones/asociacion-de-retornados-guatemaltecos-ong/

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Recovering belongings after deportation from the U.S. (Guatemala)

When a Guatemalan is deported from the U.S., they may face difficulties in retrieving their belongings.

Steps to Recover Personal Belongings

1. ICE Inventory: At the time of arrest, ICE searches personal belongings. It is essential to request a copy of this inventory.
2. Authorized representative: Someone in the U.S. can be appointed by means of a power of attorney to recover belongings.
3. Pre-deportation application: If possible, request that belongings be sent to a U.S. address before leaving.
4. Guatemalan consular support: Guatemalan consulates can help manage the recovery of belongings held by ICE.

Guatemalan Consulates in the United States

Guatemala has more than 20 consulates in the U.S. that offer assistance to deported citizens or those in vulnerable immigration status. Some of the main ones are:

- Embassy in Washington, DC Address: 2220 R St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202) 745-4953 Mail: infoembaguateeuu@minex.gob.gt Official Site: [embaguateusa.gob.gt](https://www.embaguateusa.gob.gt/)
- Consulates General in: Nueva York, Los Ángeles, Houston, Chicago, Miami, San Francisco, Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Phoenix, Seattle, Tucson, San Bernardino, Providence, Nashville, Omaha, Philadelphia, Lake Worth, Columbus, Oklahoma, Riverhead, Maryland
- Mobile consulates: They visit cities without a fixed consular headquarters to offer services such as document issuance, legal guidance, and humanitarian assistance.

Important Legal Issues

Legal ownership of property is not lost after deportation. A power of attorney can be used for someone to manage property, bank accounts, or recover belongings. Some programs like Project Homecoming offer free flights for voluntary departures, but they can involve penalties if conditions are not met.

Organizations who providing support

Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Pangea Legal Services, Immigrant Justice Corps, Legal Services of New Jersey, Centro Legal Transgénero, La Raza Community Resource Center

Resources in Guatemala

Migrant Houses (Guatemala City and Tecún Umán), Pastoral Care of Human Mobility Office of the Ombudsman for the Uprooted and Migrant Population (PDH), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINEX) CONAMIGUA

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

Yes, there are formal legal mechanisms that allow people deported from the United States to recover property, wages, and financial assets.

Property and personal property

- The U.S. Constitution protects the right to property, regardless of immigration status. This means that a deported person does not automatically lose their assets such as houses, vehicles, or bank accounts

  [https://www.colombia.com/colombianos/estados-unidos/la-constitucion-de-eeuu-protege-los-bienes-de-los-migrantes-deportados-505054

- The Fourth Amendment guarantees that property cannot be confiscated without due process of law

  [https://www.unotv.com/internacional/que-pasa-con-mis-bienes-si-me-deportan-de-ee-uu-por-ser-indocumentado/]

Legal mechanisms for managing assets from Guatemala

1. Power of Attorney allows a trusted person in the U.S. to manage property, bank accounts, businesses, pay taxes, or sell assets on behalf of the deportee

   [https://www.colombia.com/colombianos/estados-unidos/la-constitucion-de-eeuu-protege-los-bienes-de-los-migrantes-deportados-505054]

a) Trust. It is a legal agreement that transfers the administration of assets to a third party to protect and manage them for the benefit of the deported owner.

2. Transfer of property. It can be done to family or friends, but requires legal advice to avoid tax problems or loss of rights

   [https://www.colombia.com/colombianos/estados-unidos/la-constitucion-de-eeuu-protege-los-bienes-de-los-migrantes-deportados-505054

3. Adding co-owners to bank accounts. This allows someone else to have legal access to the funds in the event of deportation

   [https://www.telemundochicago.com/noticias/local/consejos-proteccion-bienes-patrimonios-inmigrantes-indocumentados-si-son-deportados-estados-unidos/2521702/]

Wages and Labor Rights

- The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to pay for work performed, regardless of the employee's immigration status

  [https://www.informe21.com/post/bienes-y-derechos-laborales-de-inmigrantes-deportados

- If a person is deported before receiving their wages, they can:
  - File a labor lawsuit from Guatemala.
  - Hire a lawyer in the U.S. to claim payment.
  - Document all work done (contracts, receipts, communications) to support the claim

    [https://www.elpreg.org/comunidad/qu%C3%A9-ocurre-con-los-bienes-y-derechos-de-un-inmigrante-durante-un-proceso-de-deportaci%C3%B3n

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

Yes, there are bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding between Guatemala and the United States on repatriation, migration, and border security.

1. Bilateral Repatriation Agreement (February 2025)

Signed by: President Bernardo Arevalo and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio

- Guatemala accepts to receive deportees of multiple nationalities, not just Guatemalans.
- The foreign migrants will be repatriated to their home countries from Guatemala, with funds provided by the U.S.
- The number of deportation flights increases by 40%.
- Guatemala becomes a regional logistical point for repatriation, without being formally considered a "safe third country"

  [https://www.mundiario.com/articulo/internacional/guatemala-firma-acuerdo-ee-uu-recibir-deportados-cualquier-nacionalidad/20250205232943333018.html

2. Agreement for exchange of notes (June-July 2025)

Published by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala (Minex)

- It establishes the commitment of both parties to guarantee the dignified, safe and timely transfer of deported people.
- Guatemala undertakes to consider requests for refuge or temporary protection from Central American migrants.
- The agreement does not require automatic disbursements and may be terminated with 30 days' notice

  [Publican acuerdo migratorio entre Guatemala y EE. UU.]

3. Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Security (June 2025)

Signed by: U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Guatemalan Ministry of the Interior

- Allows the presence of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents at La Aurora Airport.
- Objective: to improve border security, detect threats, share information and train Guatemalan personnel.
- The memorandum is not legally binding, but it provides for technical and operational cooperation.
- It may be modified or terminated with six months' notice

[https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/justicia/gobernacion-autorizara-presencia-de-agentes-de-ee-uu-en-aeropuerto-la-aurora-de-guatemala-como-parte-de-nuevo-acuerdo-migratorio/]

[https://crnnoticias.com/firman-acuerdo-guatemala-y-ee-uu-para-aumentar-controles-fronterizos-y-compartir-datos/]

[https://es-us.noticias.yahoo.com/guatemala-eeuu-firman-acuerdo-controles-205331216.html]

4. Binational working groups

It was agreed to create technical committees between the two governments to coordinate the implementation of the agreements, especially on logistical, humanitarian and reintegration issues.

[Publican acuerdo migratorio entre Guatemala y EE. UU.]

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Guatemala has clear international obligations to ensure that the repatriation of deported persons is carried out in a safe, dignified, orderly manner and respectful of human rights.

These treaties oblige Guatemala to:

- Protect the human rights of migrants.
- Guarantee the principle of non-refoulement in cases of risk.
- Avoid collective expulsions.
- Ensure dignified conditions of return.

[memorandum20regional20de20repatriacif3n.pdf]

Bilateral agreement with the United States (2025)

Guatemala will accept 40% more flights with deportees, both Guatemalans and other nationalities.

The country will act as an intermediate point to facilitate repatriation to countries of origin, with U.S. funding. Although it has been compared to the "safe third country" model, the Guatemalan government denies that formal classification.

[https://es.euronews.com/2025/02/05/guatemala-firma-un-acuerdo-con-estados-unidos-para-recibir-deportados-de-cualquier-naciona]

National Application: Return to Home Plan

The Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) implements this plan in three phases:

- Consular phase: Strengthening consulates in the U.S. to protect rights before deportation.
- Reception phase: Medical and psychological care, food, hygiene kits, transportation and temporary shelter upon arrival in Guatemala.
- Reintegration phase: Access to employment, education, housing and social programs.

https://www.agenciaocote.com/blog/2025/02/03/plan-retorno-al-hogar-las-3-fases-del-proyecto-de-apoyo-a-retornados/

https://www.univision.com/local/austin-kakw/gobierno-guatemala-plan-retorno-al-hogar-inmigrantes-deportados-eeuu

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Guatemalan consulates in the United States play a critical role in supporting deported Guatemalan nationals, both before and after removal, through an active consular network and specialized services.

https://consuladodeguatemalaenusa.com/

https://www.prensalibre.com/internacional/como-encontrar-consulados-de-guatemala-en-estados-unidos-lista-de-ubicaciones-y-telefonos/

https://chapinenusa.com/servicios/que-es-un-consulado-guatemalteco-en-eeuu-y-cuales-son-los-servicios-que-ofrece--202391312240

https://citaconsuladosdeguatemala.com/consulados-guatemala/

https://www.prensalibre.com/internacional/como-encontrar-consulados-de-guatemala-en-estados-unidos-lista-de-ubicaciones-y-telefonos/

Before Deportation, the Guatemalan consulates offer the following services:

a) Consular protection:

- They intervene in cases of immigration detention to verify respect for human rights. They provide basic legal assistance and guidance on the immigration process. Documentation:
- Issuance of passports, DPI, birth certificates and other documents necessary for immigration or judicial procedures consulate of Guatemala.

b) Mobile consulates:

- In states without fixed offices, temporary mobile consulates are deployed to bring services to remote communities.
- Support in cases of accidents, loss of documents, violence or detention.chapinenusa

During deportation, the consulates can:

- Verify conditions of transfer and report abuses if any.
- Coordinate with U.S. and Guatemalan immigration authorities to ensure a safe return.
- Facilitate the consular pre-check, a procedure prior to return that speeds up reception in Guatemala.

After Deportation

Although consulates do not operate directly in Guatemala, they collaborate with:

- The Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) and the Return Home Plan to ensure comprehensive care upon arrival.
- NGOs such as Casa del Migrante and Asociación de Retornados Guatemaltecos (ARG) to facilitate social and labor reintegration.

Guatemalan consular network in the U.S. Guatemala has 25 consulates general and 7 honorary consulates in the U.S., located in states with a high concentration of migrants such as:

- Texas, California, Florida, New York, Arizona (with more than one consulate per state).
- Other states like Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Colorado, North Carolina, Tennessee, etc., have at least one consulate

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

In November and December 2024, there were 7979 individuals that were deported.

In 2025, the data is current to August 31, 2025 and the total was 31,309 (including adults, accompanied children or adolescents, and unaccompanied children or adolescents).

[https://igm.gob.gt/informes-estadisticos] The source used is the website of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM), in the specific statistics section.

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

The only airport where deportation flights arrive is La Aurora International Airport and those who receive them are: Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINEX) and the General Directorate of Migration and support organizations such as IOM.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

The receiving city of people deported from the United States is only Guatemala City, since only La Aurora International Airport, located in the capital city, is used (as reported by the Guatemalan Institute of Migration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Currently, if it is from Mexico, border cities are used, mainly Tecún Umán (San Marcos) and to a lesser extent El Carmen (San Marcos) and Agua Caliente (Chiquimula), according to IOM Guatemala reports.

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

The data for 2025 are:

- Adult men, 26091;
- Adult women, 3903.
- In the category of children and adolescents:
  - Accompanied men, 483;
  - Accompanied women, 392;
  - Unaccompanied men, 318;
  - Unaccompanied women, 122.

The source is the IGM website, in its statistics section (2025 Database)

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

According to ICE reports, Irregular Entry or Unauthorized Stay (the reports were not specifically found) include:

- Entry without a visa or beyond the time allowed by the visa.
- Remain in the U.S. after the expiration of a stay permit.
- Violation of immigration laws:
- Working without authorization.
- Using false documents or providing false information to immigration authorities.
- Unauthorized border crossing:

This is the most frequent reason, accounting for the majority of deportations, even more than 70% in some ICE reports.

Criminal Grounds / Security

a) Criminal History:

- Aggravated felonies, including drug trafficking, theft, domestic violence.
- Crimes of moral turpitude, such as fraud or fraud.
- Considered a threat to national security:
- Alleged links to gangs or organized crime.

This group accounts for a smaller proportion, approximately 20–25% of deportations, according to ICE.

b) Humanitarian/Special Grounds

Rejected asylum applications:

- People who failed to demonstrate “well-founded fear” of persecution.

Unaccompanied minors:

- Guatemalan children who do not qualify for family reunification or asylum.
- They are treated in coordination with IOM and returned to Guatemala under consular supervision.

[Official sources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) → annual reports of removals by category: “immigration” vs. “criminal.”]

[Department of Homeland Security (DHS) → deportation statistics by country of origin and reason.

IOM and UNHCR → reports on children and cases of assisted returns]

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Yes, Guatemala has a legal framework that guarantees access to public information, including data related to deportations. The main regulation is the Law on Access to Public Information (Decree 57-2008), which establishes:

- Principle of maximum publicity: all information held by the authorities must be public, with limited exceptions (e.g. national security or personal data).

- Obligation of transparency: State institutions and entities that manage public resources must publish and facilitate access to information.
- Citizen right: anyone can request information without discrimination, and institutions must respond within established deadlines.
- Free and fast: access must be free of charge and with simple procedures. This means that data on deportations, being generated by public entities such as the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM), are considered public information and must be available, unless a specific legal exception is invoked

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

In Guatemala, several government agencies have legal responsibilities in the collection, management, and publication of data on deportations, under the Law on Access to Public Information (Decree 57-2008) and the National Open Data Policy.

[https://uip.mingob.gob.gt/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Inventario-de-Datos-Abiertos-Mingob-Mayo-2021.pdf]

1. Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) Responsibility

Coordinates the reception of deported persons. It manages the Care and Registration Center (CAR). It collects data on the number of deportees, demographic profiles, return routes, and care provided.

Data Release: It does not regularly publish detailed statistics on its website, but collaborates with other entities for specific reports.

2. Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB) Responsibility

Coordinates the National Open Data Policy. Supervises institutional transparency on migration, security, and governance issues.

[http://www.datos.gob.gt/]

[https://uip.mingob.gob.gt/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Inventario-de-Datos-Abiertos-Mingob-Mayo-2021.pdf]

3. Presidential Commission on Open and Electronic Government (GAE)Responsibility

Monitor compliance with transparency and open data commitments. Coordinates with MINGOB and other entities to ensure the publication of migration information.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

In Guatemala, the Law on Access to Public Information (LAIP), established by Decree 57-2008, guarantees the right of all persons to request and access public information in the possession of the authorities and subjects obliged by law. This law allows citizens to submit formal requests for data related to deportations and other immigration issues.

The Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM), as the entity in charge of migration management, is subject to the LAIP and must provide public information related to its activities, including data on deportations, as long as they are not subject to legal restrictions. The IGM has a Public Information Unit responsible for receiving, processing and issuing responses to requests for information, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

However, there are exceptions that may restrict access to certain data. The law establishes that access to public information may be limited in specific cases, such as when the disclosure of the information may affect national security, defense, foreign policy, public security, privacy of individuals, among others. These restrictions are detailed in Article 22 of the LAIP.

In summary, in Guatemala, it is possible to obtain data on deportations through formal requests based on the Law on Access to Public Information, although access to certain data may be restricted for security or privacy reasons.

[https://uip.gobernacionelprogreso.gob.gt/?solicitud=home#:~:text=En%20el%20a%C3%B1o%202020%20cuando%20surge%20del%20Organismo,con%20un%20total%20de%20setenta%20y%20dos%20art%C3%ADculos

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Haiti

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Haiti

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the U.S. to this country.

Haiti's Current Conditions

To understand the circumstances faced by deportees, it is important to understand the current economic, politic and social conditions of Haiti.

Economically, Haiti is deeply impoverished, with the majority of its population living below the poverty line and many facing acute hunger. The country relies heavily on foreign aid, remittances, and trade, but struggles with a significant trade deficit and rising public debt. Despite debt relief after the 2010 earthquake, ongoing crises such as political assassinations, natural disasters, and gang violence continue to strain Haiti's economy and development prospects.

Political Instability: Haiti's political landscape has been tumultuous, especially following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021. The country has been without a democratically elected government, leading to a power vacuum and increased violence. A transitional government was established, but it has struggled to maintain order and address corruption allegations among its members. The political situation remains unstable.

Violence and Crime: Gang violence has escalated dramatically, with criminal groups controlling approximately 85% of Port-au-Prince, the capital. These gangs are responsible for widespread killings, kidnappings, and sexual violence, contributing to a climate of fear among the population. Reports indicate that at least 2,680 people were killed in the first half of 2025 alone, with many more injured or kidnapped. The violence has extended beyond urban areas, affecting previously safe regions and leading to significant displacement of people.

Humanitarian Crisis: The humanitarian situation in Haiti is dire, with half of the population struggling to afford food, resulting in one of the highest rates of acute food insecurity globally. Access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation has been severely restricted due to the ongoing violence and instability. Many children have been forced to join gangs, facing abuse and exploitation.

What Happens After Deportation?

Returnees often face abrupt and traumatic transitions. Many are removed under expedited processes, with little time to prepare or notify family.

As explained above, returnees arrive in a country grappling with political instability, gang violence, and economic collapse. Haiti's government struggles to provide basic services, and many deportees find themselves homeless, jobless, and vulnerable to exploitation.

1. Arrival in Haiti: Often chaotic, with little government coordination or support.
2. Temporary Shelter: Some are placed in overcrowded shelters or left to fend for themselves.
3. Reintegration Struggles: Lack of ID, housing, and employment opportunities.
4. Exposure to Violence: Gangs often target deportees, especially those perceived as outsiders.
5. Mental Health Crisis: PTSD, depression, and anxiety are common among returnees

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Haitian National Office for Migration operate at key border crossings to receive deported migrants with dignity and provide essential services. Upon arrival, deportees undergo registration and vulnerability assessments to determine tailored assistance needs. They receive hot meals, hygiene kits, medical care, psychosocial support, and transportation aid to reach their intended destinations within Haiti. Priority is given to vulnerable groups including pregnant women, unaccompanied minors, and older persons. This operation is funded by donors including France, the Republic of Korea, Canada, and the European Union.

Sources:

https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/haiti

Haiti: 'I was deported to a country I never lived in' | UN News

https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development

Thousands of Caribbean nationals among 1.4 million awaiting deportation in US - CNW Network

booklet_migration_flow.pdf

IOM Assistance for Haitian Returnees

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

a) UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM Haiti)

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) works with the Support Group for the Repatriated and Refugees (*Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés, GARR*) to ensure the returnees have access to a range of services to meet their immediate needs, including psychosocial support, health referrals, for example pre-natal care, and the distribution of basic items such as clothing, hygiene products, and toiletries.

Temporary accommodation is also available for the most vulnerable, so they can rest and take stock before moving forward with their lives. For unaccompanied children, family reunifications are organised and in cases of gender-based violence, survivors are provided with specialised care.

The IOM also works with the National Office for Migration (ONM), Haiti's government agency for migration. The ONM leads the registration process, ensuring that each individual is accounted for and works with the IOM to assess vulnerabilities and provide individual assistance.

Sources:

Haiti | UNHCR US

Haiti Crisis Response Plan 2025 | Global Crisis Response Platform

IOM Assistance for Haitian Returnees

b) Support Group for Refugees and Returnees, GARR (https://garrhaiti.org)

GARR aims to promote and defend the rights of migrants with a view to establishing more just and solid relationships between peoples. In particular, it:

- Develops advocacy activities in order to change politics, practices and laws unfavourable to migrants, to help bring about decisions to improve their conditions, and to promote better relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic;
- Encourages local initiatives for the organisation of a more dignified welcome for returnees, refugees and other migrants, and to provide humanitarian and legal assistance to the victims of human rights violations; and
- Facilitates the reintegration and rehabilitation in Haiti of returnees, refugees and IDPs.

c) Haitian Bridge Alliance (The Bridge – The Haitian Bridge Alliance is a 501c(3) non-profit organization servicing migrants with humanitarian, legal, and social services.)

HBA provides legal and humanitarian assistance to Haitian immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, particularly those at the U.S.-Mexico border. They also focus on people in ICE detention centers and vulnerable immigrants in transit.

The Haitian Bridge Alliance offers immigration legal services, including help with asylum applications, deportation defense. They also provide language support, healthcare access, and advocate for policy changes that benefit Haitian migrants.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

- Legal aid is fragmented and not readily accessible.
- There is no centralized guide or infrastructure to support deportees in navigating local laws or accessing justice.
- Access to primary care is extremely limited.
- Mental health services are stigmatized and underfunded.
- Out-of-pocket costs and lack of insurance create insurmountable barriers.
- The UN reports that Haiti's humanitarian appeal is the world's least funded, with less

than 10% of the $908 million needed received. This underfunding has led to:

- Collapse of basic services like education, healthcare, and sanitation.
- 1.7 million people at risk of receiving no humanitarian assistance.
- Aid workers being attacked and humanitarian access blocked by armed groups.
- The IOM's Haiti Crisis Response Plan 2025 outlines a $84.5 million funding requirement, with only a fraction secured. Key gaps include:
- Inadequate shelter and camp management.
- Limited access to clean water and sanitation.
- Insufficient mental health and psychosocial support.
- Lack of movement assistance for safe relocation or reintegration
- Human Rights Violations: Deportees face abuse, neglect, and exploitation without legal recourse.
- Public Health Risks: Overcrowded shelters and poor sanitation increase disease outbreaks.
- Social Fragmentation: Stigma and lack of community support isolate returnees.
- Cycle of Displacement: Many deportees are re-displaced due to insecurity and lack of resources.

Sources:

'The people of Haiti are in a perfect storm of suffering,' warns UN chief | UN News

Sharing the Burden of Securing Haiti • Stimson Center

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Haiti Crisis Response Plan 2025

Led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Haitian government focusing on Migration, Shelter and Protections (84.5M required in funding)

Source:crisisresponse.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1481/files/appeal/pdf/2025_Haiti_Crisis_Response_Plan_2025.pdf

2025 Humanitarian Response Plan

Led by the UN and NGOs focusing on education, health, GBV, displacement (908M required)

Source: Haiti - Humanitarian : Launch of the 2025 Response Plan of nearly 1 billion US dollars - HaitiLibre.com : Haiti news 7/7

MSS Mission

Led by the UN, Kenya and the US focusing on security and police support (unfunded)

Source: Sharing the Burden of Securing Haiti • Stimson Center

France Contribution

In December 2024, France has decided to allocate a new voluntary contribution of €2 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This support will assist and expand IOM's critical work at the Haitian border to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Source:

https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/france-announces-eu2-million-contribution-iom-assistance-haitian-migrants-deported

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

We could not find Haitian laws or regulations specifically addressing the reception or reintegration of deportees.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) issued Crisis Response Plans that provide humanitarian assistance such as food, transportation, and emergency aid for repatriated individuals. However, these are external programmatic interventions, not grounded in Haitian legislation.

Any support comes from international or foreign programs (notably IOM or past-US sponsored initiatives), and the Haitian government remains

largely passive recipient due to limited administrative and financial capacity.

Haiti's laws regulations and policies are shaped by international treaties but lack robust domestic enforcement:

- No national reintegration law for deported migrants.
- No legal protections for deportees arriving without identity documents (37% of cases)
- No structured support for those unfamiliar with Haiti, including U.S.-born children of Haitian descent.
- No oversight mechanism to ensure humane treatment or access to services upon arrival.

Sources:

https://www.iom.int/news/iom-strengthens-humanitarian-lifeline-displaced-and-deported-haitian-border-towns

Haiti Crisis Response Plan 2022-2024 | Global Crisis Response Platform

haiti.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1091/files/documents/2025-08/booklet_migration_flow.pdf

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

No, there are no specific Haitian statues or regulations that give deported individual specific legal protections regarding health care, housing, jobs, or schooling. However, what exists are general constitutional rights for all Haitian citizens and a small government migration office that offers limited, ad-hoc help on return (the National Office for Migration (ONM)).

IOM describes protection risks for Haitian migrants and works on assistance, but these are NGO efforts. They are not legal entitlements under Haitian law.

Sources:

Haiti | Global Health & Human Rights Database

Assistance aux Migrants | IOM Haiti

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Haitian National Office for Migration (ONM) operate at key border crossings to receive deported migrants. Upon arrival, deportees undergo registration and vulnerability assessments to determine tailored assistance needs. The ONM leads the registration process, ensuring that each individual is accounted for and works with the IOM to assess vulnerabilities and provide individual assistance.

Deportees with past criminal records who are deported by the U.S. are immediately detained by police upon arrival, held in a police holding cell and/or the National Penitentiary indefinitely, and extorted for a series of bribes for release. The Haitian police is also targeting individuals without a U.S. criminal record. While gangs are terrorizing Haitian society with kidnappings for ransom on the streets, police are detaining individuals deported from the U.S. and extorting them for bribes in the prisons.

In February 2025, 21 Haitian nationals deported from the U.S. were in custody at the Haitian National Police. According to a document obtained by The Haitian Times from the police, nine of the 21 deported individuals — all men aged between 23 and 43 — had entered the U.S. illegally. The remaining 12 deportees, all men aged 30 to 54, had lived in the U.S. for a long time and were convicted of various crimes including sexual assault, battery, kidnapping, wire fraud, murder, larceny, lewd behavior and drug trafficking.

Sources:

AILA and Partners Send Letter to President Biden on Deportations to Haiti

21 deportees held in Haitian police custody over suspected gang ties and fake identities to enter U.S. - The Haitian Times

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Any Haitian national aged 18+ can apply for or renew their ID from the National Identification Office (ONI). To that end, the applicant must submit his/her original birth certificate or an extrait in order to obtain an identity card. There are no fees to be paid.

However, applying for a new identity card can turn into a bureaucratic nightmare. Reports indicate severe mismanagement and corruption as well as delays can stretch over a year. Also, a recent investigative report found that ONI agents are demanding "irregular" bribes, sometimes several thousand gourdes, to reprint or duplicate cards, even though the cards are supposed to be issued for free.

Sources:

In Haiti, Losing an ID Is the Beginning of a Bureaucratic Nightmare

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Haiti.html

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Across formal Haitian law, there is no specific legal status, mandatory administrative process, or judicial procedure designated for individuals arriving via deportation. Deportees are generally treated as returning citizens, subject to the same regime as any Haitian national.

While Haitian law does not provide structured processes for deportees, the reality they face is often shaped by ad hoc administrative measures and inconsistent practices, particularly by police or migration authorities.

Source:

Stop Deportations to Hati | School of Law | University of Miami

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

- Caritas Haiti

Caritas Haiti is a social organisation whose mission is to build a fairer and more supportive society. The National Office coordinates diocesan Caritas which operates throughout Haiti, its administrative team and around 4,000 volunteers who are members of parish Caritas.

Programmes:

- Emergency humanitarian aid: building the capacity of populations to deal with emergency situations, and development of prevention and intervention systems
- Community development: building capacity and local organisations
- Promotion of women's rights: encouraging women to participate in development activities, improvement of their education, skills development regarding representation and organisation
- Agriculture: support to agricultural organisations with a view to maximising production and income, improvement of environmental management, and construction and renovation of irrigation systems
- Financial assistance: promotion of a stable economy by developing production capacities and offering funding and microcredit plans to help the poorest get out of the poverty trap
- Healthcare: improvement of access to health services, access to high-quality medical care, and implementation of training regarding health and sanitation systems

Caritas Haiti's partners include:

Caritas Italy, Caritas Brazil, Caritas Spain, Trócaire (Caritas Ireland), Caritas Belgium, Caritas Norway, Caritas Puerto Rico, Development and Peace (Caritas Canada), Caritas Ecuador, Caritas Seoul, Caritas Internationalis, Caritas of Latin America and the Caribbean (SELACC), Caritas Germany, Caritas France, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Australia, Caritas Slovakia, Caritas Argentina, Caritas Peru, Misereor, Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Caritas England and Wales (CAFOD), Linda Vista Centre, Caritas Scotland (SCIAF), Caritas Dominican Republic.

Source:

Haiti - Caritas

- UN's International Organization for Migration

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) works with the Support Group for the Repatriated and Refugees (*Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés, GARR*) to ensure the returnees have access to a range of services to meet their immediate needs, including psychosocial support, health referrals, for example pre-natal care, and the distribution of basic items such as clothing, hygiene products, and toiletries.

Temporary accommodation is also available for the most vulnerable, so they can rest and take stock before moving forward with their lives. For unaccompanied children, family reunifications are organised and in cases of gender-based violence, survivors are provided with specialised care.

The IOM also works with the National Office for Migration (ONM), Haiti's government agency for migration. The ONM leads the registration process, ensuring that each individual is accounted for and works with the IOM to assess vulnerabilities and provide individual assistance.

The IOM partners with governments, the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, multilateral development banks, the private sector, Goodwill Ambassadors, academia, civil society, diaspora and youth.

Sources:

IOM Haiti

Haiti | UNHCR US

Haiti Crisis Response Plan 2025 | Global Crisis Response Platform

IOM Assistance for Haitian Returnees

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Haiti does not formally recognise a universal legal right to free or state-supported legal aid specifically for deported individuals. While the Haitian Constitution and its ratification of major international human-rights treaties provide for general protections such as the right to due process and legal representation, there is no explicit guarantee or dedicated national program offering free legal aid to deportees as a statutory right.

In practice, legal assistance for deported individuals is mainly provided by civil society organisations and non-governmental groups, such as the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), which offer legal support and advocacy for vulnerable populations, including returnees. Access to these services can be limited and is not uniformly available across the country.

Therefore, while some legal aid may be available through NGOs, Haiti does not guarantee free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals as a legal entitlement.

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) / Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI): Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti – IJDH.org

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Haiti has ratified key international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which establish broad protections for all individuals, including the right to due process and legal representation. These treaties are recognised within Haiti's constitutional framework, and provide a basis for general human rights protections.

However, Haiti's domestic laws do not specifically incorporate international refugee law standards—such as those set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention—or establish targeted legal protections for deported or returned individuals. While the constitution and ratified treaties offer general safeguards, there is no dedicated national legislation that directly addresses the rights or procedures for deportees or returnees in line with international refugee law.

In practice, protections and support for deported or returned individuals are mainly provided by international organisations, such as the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM), and local civil society groups, rather than through explicit domestic legal provisions. As a result, while Haiti is party to major human rights treaties, the legal framework for deported or returned individuals relies primarily on general human rights principles rather than specific refugee law standards.

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) / Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) - Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti – IJDH.org

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S.

The property is protected by the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, which "protects the right to property," meaning that "property cannot be seized without due legal process."

The belongings you have acquired during your stay in the U.S. are yours, and therefore the government does not have the authority to take them from you in the event that, due to your immigration status, you have to leave the country.

That is to say, the deportation process does not eliminate property rights, although the distance may complicate their management.

If, prior to deportation, deportees have not set up a power of attorney, a trust, or other mechanism that would allow a third party to manage the property / assets in the U.S., deportees may lose access to their assets, face financial ruin, or not be able to recover what they left behind.

Most U.S. banks will allow individuals to manage their account(s) online, including making international wire transfers. Difficulties can arise if a bank requires a U.S. residential address or phone number to maintain an account. Some banks may flag an account for foreign activity and could freeze or close it. To avoid this, the deportee can notify the bank of the change in circumstances and inquire about their policies for non-resident account holders. Submitting IRS Form W-8 BEN can help maintain accounts as a non-resident.

For physical property (house, car), one option is to sell before deportation. If the deportee has been unable to sell before the deportation, a third party can be appointed to manage or sell the property (usually done via a power of attorney).

For retirement and investment accounts, specific rules apply for withdrawal. Taking money from a retirement account before age 59 ½ triggers a 10% early withdrawal penalty from the IRS. As a non-resident alien, the distribution is also subject to a mandatory federal tax withholding. The standard withholding rate on payments from retirement plans to non-resident aliens is 30%. This amount is withheld by the plan administrator and is a tax requirement, not a penalty related to the deportation.

Sources:

What happens to the belongings of an undocumented migrant in the United States if they are deported?

Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation?

What Happens to Your Money and Property If You Get Deported? - LegalClarity

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the U.S. after returning to this country?

There are no formal legal mechanisms specifically designed for Haitian nationals deported from the U.S to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to Haiti.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the U.S. and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

We could not find bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and Haiti addressing repatriation.

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture, states (including Haiti) must ensure that returnees are not subjected to persecution, torture, or inhuman treatment upon return. This principle also applies to receiving states, requiring Haiti to provide conditions that do not expose returnees to harm.

Unfortunately, current conditions in Haiti—widespread gang violence, kidnappings, sexual violence, and lack of basic services—make it nearly impossible to guarantee safe and dignified return.

The UN and human rights experts have explicitly stated that Haiti cannot currently meet its obligations for safe repatriation due to systemic insecurity and humanitarian collapse.

Sources:

Voluntary, Safe, and Dignified Return (OAS & UN Standards)

ipcs_haiti_20_march_2024_final_0.pdf

Safe, dignified and rights-based return and reintegration | International Organization for Migration

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Haitian consulates are responsible for confirming the nationality of individuals subject to removal and issuing laissez-passer or emergency travel documents required for deportation flights.

Haitian consulates also provide immigration guidance, such as general advice on U.S. immigration processes and required documentation.

Sources:

CONSULAR REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI IN THE UNITED STATES – Embassy of Haiti

CONSULAR SERVICES – Embassy of Haiti

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to this country from November 2024 to present.

There is no up-to-date official statistics available.

Based on the Haitian Times, since January 2025, there were 4 deportation flights from the U.S. to Haiti:

- 21 deportees in February 2025;
- 46 deportees in March 2025;
- 96 deportees in July 2025;
- 132 deportees in September 2025.

As such from January to September 2025, 295 individuals have been deported from the U.S. to Haiti.

Sources:

First group of 21 deportees under Trump arrives in Haiti - The Haitian Times

Africanews | Deportation flight from U.S. arrives in Haiti with 46 passengers

96 Haitians deported from U.S., some rejoiced to return home

132 Haitians, including 6 children, arrive in Cap-Haïtien on Trump deportation flight - The Haitian Times

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

Deportation flights from the U.S. to Haiti are arriving in Port-au-Prince (Toussaint Louverture International Airport) and Cap-Haitien (Cap-Haïtien International Airport).

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S. of deported individuals to this country, if available.

In February 2025, 21 Haitian nationals were deported from the U.S. to Haiti. Out of the 21 individuals, 12 were convicted criminals from prisons and nine undocumented.

In March 2025, 46 Haitian nationals were deported from the U.S. to Haiti, 25 of whom were convicted felons.

In July 2025, 96 Haitian nationals were deported from the U.S. to Haiti. The group included 78 men and 18 women. Several deportees interviewed by The Haitian Times said they were long-time U.S. residents arrested while trying to formalize their status. One deportee reported having two children in the U.S. Another deportee, age 33, with two children remaining in the U.S., mentioned that he moved to Florida at age three with his mother and became undocumented at six after his mother's asylum case was denied following a run-in with law enforcement. Finally, another deportee, age 71, moved illegally to Florida in 1984. He gained Temporary Protected Status in 2010, but it expired in 2012. During 41 years in Florida, this deportee worked construction and as a dishwasher while supporting his family in Haiti. He fathered eight children between Haiti, Nassau and Florida.

In September 2025, 132 Haitian nationals were deported from the U.S. to Haiti, including six children between the ages of four and 11. One of the regional managers of Haiti's National Office of Migration (ONM) mentioned that the children arrived with their parents, and none of the passengers had been deported for serious crimes. He added, however, that Haitian authorities had not been given details about the specific reasons for their removal. He was unable to say whether the children were born in the U.S. or elsewhere, and how long the deported adults had lived in the country.

Sources:

First group of 21 deportees under Trump arrives in Haiti - The Haitian Times

Africanews | Deportation flight from U.S. arrives in Haiti with 46 passengers

96 Haitians deported from U.S., some rejoiced to return home

132 Haitians, including 6 children, arrive in Cap-Haïtien on Trump deportation flight - The Haitian Times

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Criminal convictions, unlawful entry or overstay, asylum denial.

Sources:

First group of 21 deportees under Trump arrives in Haiti - The Haitian Times

Africanews | Deportation flight from U.S. arrives in Haiti with 46 passengers

96 Haitians deported from U.S., some rejoiced to return home

132 Haitians, including 6 children, arrive in Cap-Haïtien on Trump deportation flight - The Haitian Times

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Haitians' general distrust of the government stems in large part from the absence of transparency

and accountability measures that are needed to reduce corruption. There are no access-to-information laws, and it is reportedly very difficult to obtain government documents and data in practice. A 2020 presidential decree that created the National Intelligence Agency (ANI) granted it total secrecy and the ability to conduct surveillance on individuals and businesses at any time, even if there is no relevant ongoing investigation.

The transitional government has made transparency a key pillar of its administration, as distrust could challenge the legitimacy of elections set to be organized in 2025. However, doubts have been cast on the transparency of the new CEP's formation. Additionally, in August, three members of the transitional presidential council were embroiled in a corruption scandal, increasing doubts about the transparency of the council's establishment.

Source:

Haiti: Freedom in the World 2025 Country Report | Freedom House

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

The Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Technology (Institut Haïtien de Statistique et d'Informatique (IHSI) - Accueil)

The National Office for Migration (onm.gouv.ht)

The Ministry of the Interior (Ministère de l'Intérieur et des Collectivités Territoriales)

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

There are no access-to-information laws, and it is reportedly very difficult to obtain government documents and data in practice.

Source:

Haiti: Freedom in the World 2025 Country Report | Freedom House

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Honduras

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Honduras

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Adults deported from the United States are treated at the Center for Attention to Returned Migrants (CAMR), located at the San Pedro Sula Airport.

At the CAMR there is food and coffee, access to medical and psychological care, as well as advice on obtaining the necessary documents. If they consider that there is danger, they are referred to an office of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

There is a bus that will take you to the central bus terminal of San Pedro de Sula.

On the other hand, minors and families traveling with children are transferred by bus to the Belén center, which is managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Directorate of Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF). According to the information available, in this center the minors receive psychological care and have the possibility of making telephone calls.

In both cases (with or without minors) there will be an interview to gather information.

The sources of information include security information and warn of a risk to people with tattoos, particularly from the gangs that control the sectors adjacent to the airport.

It is not clear why, or to whom they will have to give explanations, but sources confirm that people with tattoos should be prepared to give information related to the meaning of tattoos.

Source:

Honduras (Spanish).pdf

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

1. Program Brother, Sister, Return Home

The Honduran government announced its "Brother, Sister, Return Home" plan to assist deported nationals and those who decide to return voluntarily through government-coordinated programs. The plan includes the following key components:

Economic ($100 USD per person) and food assistance program;

Labor integration and job training;

Attention centers, providing access to hygiene kits, food, medical and psychological care, and a transportation voucher; and

Access to a $1000 seed capital to promote entrepreneurship.

The implementation of the program faces several hurdles. Some main concerns include the availability of resources to fund it, its sustainability, and the ability of the labor market to absorb returnees.

Source:

https://www.alianzaamericas.org/tool/conditions-honduran-deportees-will-return-to

https://sreci.gob.hn/node/2090

https://elmundo.hn/honduras-lanza-programa-para-apoyar-migrantes-deportado/

"*The government of President Xiomara Castro has developed an initiative that seeks to provide comprehensive support to migrants who return to the country.*

The "Sister and Brother Returns Home" program includes the delivery of solidarity vouchers to facilitate the movement of deportees to their places of origin, in addition to guaranteeing basic resources for their reintegration.

The objective is to give all the inputs to Hondurans so that they feel welcome at home and feel that they can develop again in Honduras."

2. Belén Returned Migrant Care Center – Migration

Centre that provides the following requirements to people whose only requirement is to be a returned migrant:

- Complete feeding.
- Migratory process with biometric system.
- Information on the government's social offer.
- Data capture for the registration card.
- Transportation to your places of origin.
- Medical care.
- Psychological care.
- National or international phone call.
- Costumes.
- Accommodation.
- Special attention for people displaced by violence.
- Phone: 2236-0200

3. National Reintegration Plan

This Plan is part of the policies that President Xiomara Castro has established so that Hondurans do not leave the country, in which it generates more investment in the social sector, through employment, and those who are returned can find possibilities to stay in the country, create roots and contribute to the economy and thus prevent migration

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- Access to a $1000 seed capital to promote entrepreneurship.

The implementation of the program faces several hurdles. Some main concerns include the availability of resources to fund it, its sustainability, and the ability of the labor market to absorb returnees.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Source:

Honduras begins to receive wave of returned migrants with extensive reintegration challenges

According to the sources, the biggest shortage in Honduras for migrants is the guarantee of their safety. Although there are other shortages such as attention to doctors and integral psychologists, the government's efforts to guarantee these services can be evidenced.

However, security issues are finding a significant void, as most migrants return to high-risk areas, from which they may have been previously displaced.

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Honduras has launched and considered several initiatives to assist deported individuals, focusing on reintegration, employment, and social support. Here are the main efforts:

1. Returned Migrant Reintegration Program

- Description: Managed by the National Institute of Migration (INM) and supported by the Ministry of Social Development, this program provides orientation, temporary shelter, and referral to job training for deported individuals.
  - Services Offered: Psychological and social counseling
  - Job placement assistance
  - Skills training programs

Source:

inm.gob.hn

2. Centers for the Attention of Returned Migrants (CAMR)

- Description: Operated in partnership with NGOs and international organizations (e.g., IOM), these centers offer immediate humanitarian assistance upon arrival.
  - Services Offered: Food and medical care
  - Transportation to home communities
  - Information on reintegration programs

Source:

Honduras | ONU Migración Americas

3. "Connect Employment" and Vocational Training

- Description: Initiatives coordinated with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and private sector partners to provide deported individuals with access to employment opportunities and technical training.

Source:

SETRASS - Ministry of Labor and Social Security

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Source:

Honduras reinforces policies for the identification and reintegration of returned migrants - ahn.hn

The Honduran government launched the "Sister and Brother Returns Home" program, a comprehensive initiative to support migrants deported from the United States. This plan includes solidarity bonuses for transportation, provision of basic resources for reintegration, and the implementation of a massive employment program. In addition, bilateral cooperation with the US was strengthened to ensure safe and dignified returns, and consulates in Mexico, Guatemala, and the US were instructed to provide assistance at border centers and shelters. The objective is to offer conditions that allow returnees to reintegrate into Honduran society and economy in a dignified and sustainable manner.

Through the National Registry of Persons (RNP), windows were set up in the attention centers and mobile consulates, so that deportees can obtain their National Identification Document (DNI) immediately. This is key for them to be able to access basic services, social programs and job opportunities without delays.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

The Honduran government is currently implementing a plan called "Brother, Come Home." This plan aims to:

- Solidarity Bonus
  - More than 2,000 lempiras for adult returnees.
  - An additional $100 for ages 18 and older.
  - Seed capital of $1,000 for ventures.
- Food Support
  - Two vouchers of 2,000 lempiras redeemable at BANASUPRO.
- Massive employment program
  - Integration into the national employment exchange.
  - Training through INFOP.
  - Coordination with the COEP to facilitate labor insertion.
- Centers for Attention to Returned Migrants (CAMR)
  - They provide hygiene kits, food, medical and psychological care.
  - Subsidy for transportation to the place of origin.
  - Immigration record of entry into the country.
- Training and entrepreneurship
  - Coordination with SENPRENDE in 8 phases to strengthen skills and support businesses.

https://www.wola.org/es/analysis/cronica-desde-honduras-cuatro-cosas-que-debe-saber-sobre-las-deportaciones-del-ice/

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Deported people do not automatically face detention or investigation upon arrival in Honduras. This will depend on whether they have pending judicial processes in the country, such as criminal records or open cases before the authorities.

mpi-marco-legal-institucional-migratorio-honduras.pdf

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

If a person was deported and needs to reapply for their documents in Honduras, they should contact the National Institute of Migration (INM) to verify their immigration status and learn about the available procedures.

In case the documents are in the United States, it is possible to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) through the online portal of the corresponding agency, such as USCIS or the Department of State. The request must include a detailed description of the required records, personal information (such as full name and date of birth), and, if available, the case number or receipt number. This will allow the immigration history to be reviewed and the possibility of recovering the documents to be evaluated.

Migrant Guide: Honduras (Spanish).pdf

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Processes at the “Repatriation” center

The minors and their families are transferred by bus from the airport to a center called Belén, managed by the IOM (International Organization for Migration) and DINAF (Directorate of Children, Youth and Family). In Bethlehem they are interviewed, given food, have access to a psychologist, allow them to make phone calls. Unaccompanied minors must be picked up by a parent or guardian. They are staying in Bethlehem until that happens.

Adults deported by the US are processed at the CAMR (Centro de Atención al Migrante Rereturne), a center at the San Pedro Sula airport. After getting off the plane they are transferred to the CAMR. As people enter the center, their belongings are returned to them.

Source:

Honduras (Spanish).pdf

The SIAMIR is: System of the Registry of Attention to Returned Migrants (SIAMIR), which is a subsystem of the SIRBHO, which collects information on migrants repatriated/returned to Honduras. The Returned Migrant Assistance Registration Form (FIM), an instrument applied in the official Returned Migrant Assistance Centers.

Sources:

SIAMIR – SDG Honduras | Honduran Social Development Observatory

mpi-marco-legal-institucional-migratorio-honduras.pdf

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Current Honduran law does not guarantee or provide free or state-supported legal assistance specifically for deported individuals. There is no evidence in national statutes or official policy (from agencies such as the Secretariat of Human Rights or National Institute of Migration) of a legal aid program directed at deported persons.

In Honduras, the right to a free public defender is secured mainly in criminal cases. If someone faces criminal charges and cannot afford a lawyer, the State must appoint a public defender at no cost—as established by the Criminal Procedure Code and Article 82 of the Honduran Constitution (on due process). You can review Article 82 here: https://congresonacional.hn/pdf/CONSTITUCION%20DE%20LA%20REPUBLICA%20DE%20HONDURAS%20ACTUALIZADA%202014.pdf

Outside of criminal proceedings and constitutional protection actions ('amparo'), the State does NOT guarantee free lawyer assignment for civil, administrative, or migration cases. Free legal aid is only provided in exceptional circumstances, like serious violations of fundamental rights. Usually, individuals must hire their own lawyer or seek free services from NGOs.

In constitutional amparo cases, the Law on Constitutional Justice ("Ley sobre Justicia Constitucional") specifies in Article 30 that if the affected person lacks financial resources, a public defender must be assigned free of charge. This guarantee is especially for the defense of fundamental rights through amparo actions. The official law text (Spanish) can be found here: https://honduras.justia.com/federales/leyes/decreto-244/gdoc/

Key sources:

- Honduran Constitution, Article 82: https://congresonacional.hn/pdf/CONSTITUCION%20DE%20LA%20REPUBLICA%20DE%20HONDURAS%20ACTUALIZADA%202014.pdf
- Law on Constitutional Justice, Article 30: https://honduras.justia.com/federales/leyes/decreto-244/gdoc/
- In summary: Free legal defense by the State in Honduras is restricted to criminal and constitutional (amparo) cases or when fundamental rights are gravely affected. There is no legal obligation to appoint a free lawyer in administrative or migration matters, including for deported persons.

2. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) — Honduras Office

- Mission: To protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide, supporting their transition to a dignified life. USCRI works to provide essential services to vulnerable people, including deported individuals, through direct assistance, capacity-building, and advocacy (USCRI).
- Type of service and resources they provide:
  - Case management for survivors of trafficking and vulnerable migrants;
  - Legal orientation and access to immigration documentation;
  - Referrals for psychosocial and health assistance;
  - Training and capacity-building for local partners;
  - Collaboration with national agencies for identification and aid to trafficking survivors via the Shepherd system
  - Local program: USCRI's Aspire Child & Youth Services Program offers assistance to minor survivors of trafficking, including deported migrant children
  - Technical assistance and connections between OTIP (Office on Trafficking in Persons, US HHS), Aspire, local service providers, and child welfare agencies for case-by-case support (Human Trafficking Data & Collaboration for Better Solutions)
- Data on number of individuals helped: USCRI (as an international organization) notes, for fiscal year 2024, their trafficking programs provided more than 75 trainings across all 50 states, and assisted hundreds of children through child trafficking and survivor support programs. Specific numbers for Honduras alone are not detailed, but it is documented as a location for direct field presence and activities (Human Trafficking Data & Collaboration for Better Solutions).

- Other organizations they partner with:
  - US Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP)
  - Local child welfare agencies
  - Other federal agencies and non-profits
  - International partners (Alliance with governmental and non-governmental actors in Honduras) (Human Trafficking Data & Collaboration for Better Solutions)

Source:

Human Trafficking Data & Collaboration for Better Solutions

2. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) / Honduran Red Cross

- Mission: To provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants, refugees, deported persons, and others in vulnerable situations through neutral, impartial, and independent aid (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org).
- Type of service and resources they provide:
  - Humanitarian assistance at borders, transit points, and detention centers (food, shelter, health care, legal aid, and psychosocial support)
  - Assistance to deportees and returnees, including accompaniment for immigration procedures and initial reintegration
  - Information, awareness campaigns, and navigation of available services in Honduras
  - Participation in migration research -- the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab conducted research in Honduras on migrant needs, trust, barriers to accessing aid, and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org)
- Data on number of individuals helped: Specific numbers for Honduras are not provided, but large-scale research conducted in Honduras and 14 other countries included hundreds of direct interviews with migrants, many of whom relied on Red Cross/Red Crescent for critical aid. In 2022, the Red Cross network supported thousands of individuals regionally. Barriers such as lack of trust, awareness, and eligibility were identified as significant for migrants, including deported persons (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org).
- Other organizations they partner with:
  - Honduran Red Cross (Honduran Red Cross)
  - International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
  - Government agencies
  - Local civil society and community organizations (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org)

Source:

Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org

3. Local Government Entities & Collaborators

- Mission:
  - Provide support and coordination for return, reintegration, and documentation for deported individuals
  - National and municipal authorities partner with international agencies to identify vulnerable returnees (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org)
- Type of service and resources they provide:
  - Assistance in obtaining national identification documents
  - Limited access to social programs, health and education services
  - Referral to partner NGOs and humanitarian agencies
- Data on numbers of individuals helped: While Honduran local governments and partner agencies provide dignified initial assistance to deported persons—mainly through reception centers—sustained reintegration support remains limited, especially following the closure of municipal reintegration offices. International and non-governmental organizations are pivotal in providing immediate services and technical support, but both coverage and funding are insufficient to

meet all needs (https://www.wola.org/analysis/halfway-to-us-report-honduras-migration/)(United States Department of State). Comprehensive centralized statistics on the total assisted for reintegration and long-term outcomes are presently lacking.

Web Sources

https://www.wola.org/analysis/halfway-to-us-report-honduras-migration/

WOLA

2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Honduras

- Other organizations they partner with:
  - IFRC, USCRI, and UN organizations
  - Local shelters and service providers

Barriers Identified:

- Lack of trust in humanitarian actors and legal service providers, fear of cooperation with deportation/removal authorities, and limited awareness or availability of services are widely reported among deported persons in Honduras and other countries (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org).
- 48% of surveyed deportees feared seeking support could risk detention or future deportation
- Most assistance is humanitarian; legal orientation and case management is especially limited by trust gaps and available resources

Recommendations:

- Improve communication regarding independence of NGOs/humanitarian actors from public authorities
- Expand eligibility and awareness for legal and psychosocial support
- Strengthen cross-border coordination models (Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org)

Additional Notes

- Legal aid organizations, including some faith-based and local NGOs, operate on a case-by-case basis and often collaborate with international bodies. Comprehensive lists and data are not available in these results.
- Most references confirm the integral role of humanitarian NGOs, Red Cross societies, and international agencies-sometimes in partnership with the Honduran government-in receiving and supporting deported persons, but a lack of systematic data on numbers served or annual reports is evident.

Conclusion: The most prominent organizations providing legal and non-legal assistance to deported individuals in Honduras are:

- US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (through the Honduran Red Cross)
- Local government agencies collaborating with humanitarian partners.

Each delivers a combination of case management, legal and psychosocial support, documentation, and emergency humanitarian services. There is a strong emphasis on cross-sector collaboration. However, recent, precise data on the number of deported people served by each program in Honduras specifically, as well as comprehensive lists of all local collaborators, are not detailed in the available search results (USCRI)(Article: Migrants in Need Report Barriers to Assis.. | migrationpolicy.org).

In addition, there are programs that offer free legal advice and assistance to migrant and deported workers, as well as psychosocial support and accompaniment, although the results do not specify whether these are implemented specifically by the Honduran Bar Association or by other public or private entities in Honduras (publications.iadb.org).

In the Central American context, social assistance programs have been implemented, including free health and legal services for migrants and returnees, involving collaboration among governments, NGOs, and international organizations (mirps-platform.org).

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Incorporation of International Human Rights and Refugee Law: Honduras' legal framework allows for the granting of asylum and refugee status, and

the government has formally cooperated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to refugees, returned refugees, and asylum seekers (United States Department of State 2023)(United States Department of State 2022). Honduras claims to follow national human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law standards (www.foreign.senate.gov). Official sources acknowledge that the government cooperates with humanitarian agencies, but report that government capacity remains "nascent and limited," and implementation is frequently problematic, with persistent impunity, corruption, and lack of enforcement (United States Department of State 2023).

International Treaties Ratified by Honduras: Honduras has ratified:

- The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- The 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees
- The American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR, 1969 San José Pact)
- The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (regional, 1984) (adopted by Central American states, expanding the refugee definition to include threats from generalized violence and massive violations of human rights)
- Other major human rights conventions, including the ICCPR, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, and conventions on statelessness (United States Department of State 2023) (UNHCR) (International Organization for Migration).

National Legislation Implementing These Standards: The Honduran law provides for the granting of asylum or refugee status and includes procedures that require bringing detainees before a judicial authority and provide some legal rights to detainees and asylum seekers (United States Department of State 2023). In March 2023, Honduras enacted the "Law for the Prevention, Care, and Protection of Internally Displaced People," aiming to provide a legal framework for the protection of IDPs (United States Department of State 2023). The government maintains relevant institutions, including the Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence and the Ministry of Human Rights, but their capacity is limited.

Most Influential Treaties: The most influential treaties for Honduras in this area are:

- The 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol: These set out universal standards for refugee protection, non-refoulement, and rights of refugees.
- The American Convention on Human Rights: Establishes regional human rights standards and accountability mechanisms.
- The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees: Broadens the regional definition of "refugee" to include persons fleeing violence, not just persecution.
- Universal human rights treaties (ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, etc.) supplement refugee and IDP protection (UNHCR) (International Organization for Migration).

Gaps in Compliance, Enforcement, and Implementation

Key gaps and shortcomings, as documented by official and NGO sources, are:

- Weak national capacity and implementation: Government bodies tasked with IDP and refugee protection have "relatively nascent and limited" capacity (United States Department of State 2023).
- Lack of effective law enforcement: Widespread impunity, corruption, arbitrary or unlawful detentions, lack of investigative resources, and long judicial delays undermine protection mechanisms (United States Department of State 2023).
- Persistent violence, discrimination, and lack of access to justice for marginalized groups, including ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ persons, and IDPs.
- Reports of arbitrary detention, abusive treatment, and barriers to legal remedy for returned migrants and asylum seekers (United States Department of State 2022).
- Limited national data and inability to fully monitor and report on violence-related displacement (noted for both IDPs and returned populations) (United States Department of State 2023).

Recent criticisms from NGOs and International Organizations:

- NGOs and international observers routinely document shortcomings in protection for victims of violence, deported and returned persons, and IDPs. Ethnic minority and indigenous rights leaders, international NGOs, and farmworker organizations have claimed that the government has failed to redress forced displacement caused by state and private actors (United States Department of State 2023).
- Civil society actors criticize the government for lack of transparency, weak and ineffective implementation of victim protection mechanisms, and a failure to adequately investigate and prosecute abuses (United States Department of State 2023) (Utrecht Law Review).
- NGO and UN reports highlight continuing threats and violence against human rights defenders and returned individuals, and insufficient state efforts to protect persons at risk or provide durable solutions.
- Human rights NGOs have played a central role in documenting violations, bringing legal cases before the Inter-American human rights system, and supporting victims, especially in cases where domestic remedies are ineffective, but note ongoing risks for activists and victims, including threats and retaliation. The American Convention on Human Rights gives NGOs a formal role to submit claims to the Inter-American Commission (Utrecht Law Review).

Conclusion: Honduras has formally incorporated key international refugee and human rights treaties into its legal framework, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, 1967 Protocol, American Convention on Human Rights, and Cartagena Declaration. National legislation provides for asylum, protection of IDPs, and some rights for deported or returned individuals, but persistent gaps in enforcement, institutional capacity, protection from violence, and judicial independence undermine compliance. NGOs and international organizations document shortcomings in protection, access to justice, and rule of law, while noting that Honduras' legislative progress is insufficient without stronger implementation and accountability. (United States Department of State 2023)(UNHCR)(Utrecht Law Review)(International Organization for Migration).

There is also the Protocol for Assisted Voluntary Returns funded by the Regional Conference on Migration for the assistance of vulnerable regional migrants (CRM Fund for Assisted Voluntary Returns | UN Migration Americas).

Sources:

General Human Rights/Refugee Compliance, National Legislation & Implementation:

- United States Department of State 2023 (Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Honduras): Honduras - United States Department of State
- United States Department of State 2022 (Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Honduras): Honduras - United States Department of State
- US Foreign Relations Committee Democratic Staff Report: Cruelty, Coercion, and Legal Contortions -- SFRC Democratic Staff Report.pdf

International Treaties and Norms:

- UNHCR Glossary of Terms (refers to major treaties, conventions): UNHCR master glossary of terms | UNHCR
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) Key Migration Terms: Key Migration Terms, Migration Glossary | IOM, UN Migration
- American Convention on Human Rights (text): :: Multilateral Treaties > Department of International Law > OAS ::
- 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol reference (UNHCR): The 1951 Refugee Convention | UNHCR
- Cartagena Declaration (historical overview): https://www.unhcr.org/media/cartagena-declaration-refugees-adopted-colloquium-international-protection-refugees-central

Critical Academic/NGO Analyses:

- Utrecht Law Review, "The Role of NGOs in the Inter-American Human Rights System": The Historical and Present-Day Role of Non-Governmental Organisations before the Inter-American Human Rights System in Documenting Serious Human Rights Violations and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law Through Ensuring Accountability | Utrecht Law Review

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

- The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) operates in Honduras and regionally, offering legal, social, and health services to refugees, unaccompanied children, trafficking survivors, and other migrants. Their programs often include legal education and advocacy for rights. Funding sources include the US Department of Justice, Department of Health & Human Services, Oak Foundation, and other partners.
  - Website: US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants - USCRI
- International and NGO anti-trafficking partnerships (supported by the US State Department, IOM, Winrock, Oak Foundation, UK's Foreign Office, etc.) provide rights-awareness and legal education for populations at risk, including returnees and deportees. Training and informational resources by partners like Quizrr and Issara Institute are sometimes available in up to 27 languages (including Spanish).
  - Documentation: 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report - United States Department of State
- Community-based awareness and resource mapping projects (supported by governments, NGOs, and IOs) aim to inform returnees and deportees about their rights, available legal resources, and protections against trafficking. These programs frequently use mapping and referral systems to direct people to the right services, and Spanish is commonly used, with other local languages available where needed.
- OYE (Organization for the Development of Youth in El Progreso): This is a local community nonprofit working primarily with youth and returnees in El Progreso, Yoro. They focus on education, leadership, entrepreneurship, scholarships, and support services, which includes rights-awareness and prevention of risky migration or re-migration. Website: OYE
- Honduran Red Cross: Provides basic legal orientation, humanitarian assistance, and rights-awareness to migrants and deported individuals at reception centers and local offices, often in collaboration with international Red Cross bodies. Website: https://www.ifrc.org/es/national-societies-directory/cruz-roja-hondurena
- Association for a More Just Society (ASJ): A Honduran NGO that conducts legal empowerment, anti-corruption advocacy, and citizen education-including awareness programs and resources for vulnerable groups. Migrant topics are part of their advocacy and legal support portfolio. Website: https://asjhonduras.com/webhn/home/
- Other local NGOs and church-based groups provide varying levels of legal education, migrant rights information, and orientation for returnees, but most lack formal public documentation and usually work via partnerships with international agencies like IOM, UNHCR, or USAID-supported projects.
- Effectiveness:
  - Survivor-informed program design and education is a best practice and shown to increase effectiveness and trust, but formal impact data for Honduras-specific, deportee-focused programs remains limited in publicly available sources.
  - Community resource mapping and joint awareness campaigns are cited as effective models globally, though their application in Honduras is not extensively documented.
- Language availability:
  - Major programs and digital resources (such as Quizrr trainings) are offered in up to 27 languages.
  - Most Honduran programs are available in Spanish, and larger NGOs ensure linguistic and cultural sensitivity.
- Funding sources:
  - Mix of US government, UK Foreign Office, international agencies (IOM), and private foundations (Oak Foundation).
- Gaps:
  - There is limited public documentation or evaluation of Honduras-specific, government-led legal education programs exclusively for deported individuals. Impact reports and program details are mainly available for broader anti-

trafficking and migrant rights programs run by NGOs and international organizations.

- In fact, there is no explicit evidence that Honduras offers a right for deported persons to apply for asylum upon return, or of precedent or jurisprudence protecting such claims; There is no identified Honduran case law addressing asylum claims by deportees; Honduras is bound by the Cartagena Declaration, which offers a broader definition of refugees than the 1951 Convention, but the implementation and practice of this in Honduran courts is not documented in the sources; Regional and international organizations recommend adherence to broad protection and non-refoulement standards, but actual domestic alignment with UNHCR guidance varies and seems inconsistent, especially in practice and in judicial deference (American Immigration Council) (International Organization for Migration) (Harvard Law Review).

Sources:

- USCRI (services/programs): US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants - USCRI
- US State Department, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report - United States Department of State

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Currently, there are no formal Honduran government programs specifically designed to recover personal belongings left behind in the US after deportation. It means that recovery of belongings is primarily handled through ICE procedures and consular assistance, not through Honduran domestic programs. However, deported individuals can access support through US-based and international organizations that assist with property recovery and legal guidance:

1. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - Personal Property Retrieval

- Description: ICE allows individuals to request the return of personal belongings left in detention or confiscated during deportation.
  - Process: Contact the ICE ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations) field office where detention occurred.
  - Submit a Form G-884 (Request for the Return of Original Documents) for official documents.

Source:

Detention Facilities | ICE

2. Consulate of Honduras in the US

- Description: Honduran consulates often assist deported nationals with inquiries related to belongings and documentation.
  - Services: Liaison with US authorities
  - Guidance on shipping or recovering items

Source:

https://consuladodehondurasenusa.com/en/

3. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Description: Through reintegration programs, IOM provides counseling and sometimes logistical support for deported migrants, including advice on recovering property.

Source:

Honduras | ONU Migración Americas

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

There are no specific legal mechanisms or agreements to recover property, wages, or financial assets once a person is deported from the US and returns to their home country. Assets can be claimed prior to deportation or through legal processes in the US that typically require legal assistance. Before being deported, the person may attempt to remove or sell their personal belongings, transfer money to bank accounts in their home country, and seek legal advice to understand their options. After deportation, recovering wages or assets requires legal processes in the US, which can be complex and expensive, so it is essential to have specialized legal representation. Help can also be sought through nonprofits such as RAICES, National Justice for Our Neighbors, Catholic

Charities, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and National Immigration Law Center (NILC), which offer free or low-cost legal assistance to immigrants deported or at risk of deportation. 8 Organizations Fighting and Providing Help to Immigrants Arriving in the US - La Red Hispana

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

The Government of Honduras, with the technical support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), launched the National Reintegration Plan 2024–2025, focused on providing comprehensive support to Hondurans returning to the country, especially from the United States and Mexico. Between 2019 and 2023, more than 346,000 people returned to Honduras, with the United States being one of the main countries of return. This plan seeks to offer them real opportunities for economic, social and psychosocial reintegration, in order to strengthen their roots, improve their living conditions and prevent future irregular migration. The strategy includes human rights, gender, age and non-discrimination approaches, and aligns with Goal 21 of the Global Compact on Migration, reaffirming the country's commitment to a dignified and sustainable return. Honduras Launches National Reintegration Plan to Assist Returnees | IOM (NTCA)

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

1. Respect for human rights Honduras must ensure that any return process respects the dignity, security, and fundamental rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status. This includes avoiding cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during repatriation. https://www.tsc.gob.hn/
2. The State must provide effective consular protection to its citizens abroad, including legal assistance, guidance in immigration processes, and support in cases of detention, illness, or vulnerability. https://www.tsc.gob.hn/
3. Honduras has an obligation to facilitate the return of people in special conditions, such as minors, the sick, the disabled, or the terminally ill, ensuring that the process is safe and respectful. https://www.tsc.gob.hn/
4. The country must implement policies that allow returned migrants to effectively reintegrate into their communities, with access to basic services, employment, education and psychosocial support. This is aligned with Goal 21 of the Global Compact on Migration, which promotes dignified return and sustainable reintegration Honduras, a regional benchmark on the return and reintegration of migrants - Proceso Digital Honduras must collaborate with other countries and international organizations to ensure that return processes are carried out in a coordinated manner and in accordance with international standards. including bilateral agreements on deportation, repatriation and protection of migrants https://www.tsc.gob.hn/

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Mobile consulates: In cities with a high concentration of Hondurans, mobile consulates have been installed that allow procedures such as passport renewal, civil registrations and legal advice to be carried out without the need to travel long distances. Honduras, regional benchmark on the return and reintegration of migrants - Proceso Digital

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963): Establishes that consulates have the obligation to protect the interests of their nationals, provide assistance, and represent them before courts and authorities of the receiving country.

The Undersecretariat for Consular and Migratory Affairs, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (SRECI), has the following mandate:

- Provide consular protection to Hondurans in vulnerable situations, including detainees, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, the seriously ill, and deceased migrants.
- Coordinate mobile consulates in the US to expand consular coverage.

- Permanently train consular personnel on migration and human rights issues.
- Supervise compliance with immigration laws and consular regulations. https://www.sreci.gob.hn/

Law on the Diplomatic and Consular Service of Honduras

This law states that consulates must:

- To protect the rights and interests of Honduran nationals in the receiving country.
- To represent the State and act in accordance with international treaties ratified by Honduras.
- Coordinate repatriation actions and legal assistance in cases of deportation. https://www.tsc.gob.hn/

Honduras is a precursor country of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and has established inter-institutional tables for its implementation. In the consular context, this involves:

- Strengthen consular protection in all phases of the migratory cycle.
- Promote dignified return and sustainable reintegration.
- Coordinate with international agencies such as IOM and USAID to support returned migrants. https://www.sreci.gob.hn/

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

From January to March 2023 and 2024
Total official returns to Honduras:
2023: 16,167
2024: 13,121

Divided into:
Returns from the USA to Honduras:

Adult:
2023:6,347
2024:8,793

Children & Teens:
2023:1,020
2024:1,406

from 2024 to the present:

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 20245 recorded 45,923 apprehensions of Hondurans during fiscal year 20246, which equates to an average of 3,827 people per month and 128 per day.

According to the official digital newspaper La Nación7, 538 arrests and 373 detentions were registered on the first day. By Jan. 29, the numbers had risen to 1,116 arrests and 814 detentions. In total, during the first two weeks of raids, 4,333 people were arrested in operations carried out in 10 of the 50 states of the United States.

According to the National Institute of Migration (INM), in 2024, 34,386 returnees were registered, of which 68% were forcibly repatriated. Of the total, 51% came from the United States and 33% from Guatemala.

So far in 2025 (May 15, 2025), 13,992 people have returned to Honduras, of which 59% come from the United States.

Sources:

Municipalities strengthen local response to human mobility challenges | United Nations Development Programme

18263-migration-context-impact-and-challenge-in-honduras-2025-pdf

HN_Marzo2024

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

- AIRPORTS:

1. José Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport (San Pedro Sula/La Lima Cortés)

Source:

INM National Institute of Migration
*National Institute of Migration (INM) - UNHCR Honduras

2. Soto Cano Area Base (Palmerola)

Source:

AP News
59 flights at Boeing Field and five at Yakima Airport in 2025, surpassing its 2024 total of 42. “Not all of them are deportation flights,” he said on. Many are heading to or from detention centers on of immigrants or to airports near the border. The Resistance contó 1,023 immigrants Idols to go to the detention center on of ICE in Tacoma, Washington, and 2,279 transferred away by air on, often to states on the US-Mexico border.” US Deportation Flights Hit Record Low, Airlines Try to Hide Them, Activists Say - Los Angeles Times)

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

2019: International Organization for Migration (2019). Reintegration Study: Migration and Cities. Honduras

https://migrantprotection.iom.int/es/resources/study/estudio-sobre-reintegracion-migracion-y-ciudades-informe-honduras

2024: *June 20, 2024*.- The Government of Honduras, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (SRECI), has presented the *National Reintegration Plan (2024-2025)* to state entities, aid workers, civil society organizations and the community in general, built and promoted with the technical support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In municipalities such as Choloma, San Pedro Sula, and El Progreso, where UNDP has worked together with the Municipal Units for Attention to Returned Migrants (UMAMR)

July 25, 2025 - Technical staff from mayors’ offices in six departments of the country and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON)

of the total number of returnees in 2024 and 2025 (48,308 people), 58% have been attended to by the Center for Attention to Returned Migrants (CAMR) in San Pedro Sula.

*municipal offices of the departments of Comayagua, Francisco Morazán, Cortes, Choluteca, El Paraíso, and Valle, as well as several associations

Source:

Municipalities strengthen local response to human mobility challenges | United Nations Development Programme

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

According to reports from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Migration Policy Institute (MPI), and International Organization for Migration (IOM):

- Most deportees are young adults. The majority fall between 18-35 years old, with a significant proportion in their 20s.
  - Median age: 28 years Distribution: 18-24 years: 38%; 25-34 years: 42%; 35+ years: 20% (Source: Migration Policy Institute, DHS Yearbook of Immigration Statistics - Migration Policy Institute | migrationpolicy.org)
- Over 90% are male, reflecting migration patterns where men often migrate for work.
  - Male: 91%; Female: 9% (Source: DHS Yearbook, IOM Honduras Returnee Profile - Yearbook of Immigration Statistics | OHSS)
- Many deportees report having family in the US (spouse or children), but most traveled alone. A notable share are parents separated from children in the US
  - (I) Parents with children in the US: ~30%(II) Single adults traveling alone: ~65% (Source: IOM Honduras Returnee Survey - International Organization for Migration | IOM, UN Migration)
- Education levels are generally low. Most have primary education only, some have incomplete secondary education. Very few have higher education.
  - (I) Primary education or less: 67%(II) Secondary incomplete: 25% (III) Higher education: <5% (Source: IOM Honduras Returnee Profile - International Organization for Migration | IOM, UN Migration)

- Years in the US: varies widely. Less than 1 year are often apprehended at the border and long-term residents (5-10+ years), often with established family ties.
  - (I) Less than 1 year: 45% (recent arrivals)
  - (II) 1-5 years: 30% (III) More than 5 years: 25%(Source: Migration Policy Institute analysis of DHS data - Migration Policy Institute | migrationpolicy.org)

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

The main legal and administrative grounds for deportations of Honduran nationals from the US (and other countries) typically include:

1. Immigration Status Violations

- Visa Overstay: Remaining in the US beyond the authorized period of stay.
- Entry Without Inspection: Crossing the border without proper documentation or authorization.

Source:

US Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), Sections 212(a)(6)(A) and 237(a)(1)(B). https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/legislation/immigration-and-nationality-act

2. Criminal Grounds

- Conviction of Certain Crimes: Includes aggravated felonies, drug offenses, crimes of moral turpitude.

Source:

INA Sections 237(a)(2) and 212(a)(2). Removal | ICE

3. Border Detention and Expedited Removal

- Illegal Entry or Fraud: Individuals apprehended at or near the border without valid documents or using fraudulent documents.

Source:

INA Section 235(b) - Expedited Removal Procedures. US Customs and Border Protection | US Customs and Border Protection

4. Administrative Violations

- Failure to Comply with Immigration Orders: Ignoring court hearings or removal orders.

Source:

INA Section 237(a)(3). Executive Office for Immigration Review | Executive Office for Immigration Review

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

The Law that requires the publication of public information in general is the Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information (LTAIP)

- Decree 170-2006, published in the Official *Gazette* on December 30, 2006.
- It establishes the right of any citizen to request and receive public information from State institutions.
- It creates the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) as the governing body for transparency.
- It obliges institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, and the Consular and Migratory Observatory of Honduras (CONMIGHO) to publish data on migration and deportations.

Stock footage (B-roll) of all removal flights is available on DVIDS. DHS has made videos available to the public and the media, including footage of deportation flights, a public service announcement, and testimonies from migrants who have been removed.

Source:

Archived: ICE Conducts Clearance Flights on June 30 | ICE

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

In Honduras, the agencies legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data are:

1. National Institute of Migration (INM)

- Role: The INM is the primary government body in charge of migration control, including deportations and returns. It manages official statistics on migration flows and publishes reports on deportations.
- Legal Basis: Established under the Migration and Foreigners Law, which mandates the INM to maintain records and provide official data on migration-related processes.

2. Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization

- Role: Oversees migration policy and coordinates with INM for reporting and compliance with national and international obligations.
- Legal Basis: Functions under the same law and related regulations governing migration and public administration.

3. National Police / Police Investigations Directorate (DPI)

- Role: Assists in enforcement and operational aspects of deportations, particularly for individuals involved in criminal proceedings. Data collected here often feeds into INM's official statistics.

Sources:

- Migration and Aliens Law, Decree No. 208-2003 (Honduras Migration Law)
- Official INM website: https://inm.gob.hn/
- Reports and publications from INM and Secretaría de Gobernación.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, you can obtain deportation data through Honduras' access-to-information law, unless specific confidentiality exceptions apply. The IAIP is the enforcement body, and INM is the data holder. The deportation data in Honduras can generally be requested under the country's access-to-information framework, which is governed by:

Legal Basis:

- Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information (Decree No. 170-2006)
  This law guarantees the right of any person to access public information held by state institutions, including administrative data such as migration and deportation records.

Applicability to Deportation Data

- The National Institute of Migration (INM) is a public entity, so its data falls under the scope of this law.
- Exceptions apply only if the information is classified for reasons of national security, privacy, or ongoing investigations. Aggregate deportation statistics are typically considered public and should be accessible.

How to Request

- Through the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) platform: https://portalunico.iaip.gob.hn/
- You can file a formal request citing the law and specifying the data needed (e.g., monthly deportation figures, breakdown by nationality).

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Jamaica

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Jamaica

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the U.S. to this country.

Social Impacts

- Stigma and Isolation: Deportees are frequently labeled as criminals or failures, regardless of the actual reason for their deportation. This stigma is deeply rooted in societal perceptions of migration as a path to success, making deportation appear as a personal and moral failure (The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025 - Amnesty International).
- Many deportees are referred to as "foreign rejects," and face rejection from family and community, leading to social isolation and strained relationships (The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025 - Amnesty International).
- Family Disconnection: Those deported after long periods abroad often return to estranged or unfamiliar relatives. Some are forced to live with distant family members, which can result in conflict and eventual homelessness (Jamaica: A Summary of Concerns: A Briefing for the Human Rights Committee | Refworld).
- Maintaining relationships with family abroad is also difficult due to limited access to reliable internet and the high cost of travel (Jamaica: A Summary of Concerns: A Briefing for the Human Rights Committee | Refworld).
- Community Reintegration Challenges: Deportees often struggle to reintegrate into Jamaican society due to cultural disorientation and lack of support systems. The term "deportee" itself carries a heavy negative connotation, prompting some to prefer "deported migrants" to reclaim dignity and redefine their identity (Human rights in Jamaica Amnesty International).

Economic Impacts

- Unemployment and Poverty: Many deportees face significant barriers to employment. Employers may be reluctant to hire individuals with a deportation history, especially if they were removed for criminal offenses (The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025 - Amnesty International).
- This economic exclusion can lead to poverty and, in some cases, push individuals toward informal or illegal means of survival (The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025 - Amnesty International).
- Housing Instability: A notable percentage of Jamaica's homeless population consists of deportees. Without family support or financial resources, many struggle to secure stable housing (Jamaica: A Summary of Concerns: A Briefing for the Human Rights Committee | Refworld).
- Support Initiatives: Organizations like the National Organization of Deported Migrants (NODM) provide reintegration services, including help with housing, documentation, and employment. NODM also supports small business ventures in agriculture and services to promote economic self-sufficiency (Human rights in Jamaica Amnesty International).

Psychological Impacts

- Mental Health Struggles: The trauma of deportation, coupled with stigma and isolation, often leads to depression, anxiety, and feelings of shame (The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025 - Amnesty International).
- The abrupt separation from family and familiar environments exacerbates psychological distress.
- Loss of Identity and Belonging: Deportees frequently report feeling like outsiders in their country of birth, especially those who left Jamaica as children. The cultural disconnect and lack of social ties contribute to a sense of alienation (Jamaica: A Summary of Concerns: A Briefing for the Human Rights Committee | Refworld).

- Resilience and Agency: Despite these challenges, some deportees actively seek to rebuild their lives. Participation in reintegration workshops and community initiatives reflects a desire to contribute positively and redefine their societal role (Human rights in Jamaica Amnesty International).
- Women face heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV) upon return, often exacerbated by systemic gender inequality and lack of support services. Deportation can expose them to unsafe environments, especially when legal pathways for protection are limited (Gendered Consequences of U.S. Mass Deportations | GJIA).

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Government of Jamaica Support

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT)

- Pre-deportation support via Jamaican consulates includes:
  - Issuing emergency travel documents.
  - Providing legal referrals and consular visits.
  - Facilitating contact with family and arranging funds.
  - Coordinating with NGOs for temporary shelter upon arrival

Deportation - MFAFT - Jamaica

2. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Deportation

- Managed by the Jamaica Ministry of National Security, The SOPs outline and include information on:
- Arrival protocols at airports.
- Identity verification and medical screening.
- Access to reintegration services including:
  - Temporary housing
  - Mental health and substance abuse services
  - Employment and vocational training
  - Education and skills development

Deportation Standard Operating Procedures: Jamaica

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

1. National Organization of Deported Migrants (NODM)

- Founded by deportees, NODM offers:
  - Airport reception and customs assistance.
  - Help securing ID documents (e.g., birth certificates, TRNs).
  - Temporary and long-term housing referrals.
  - Support for launching small businesses (e.g., farming cooperatives).
  - Advocacy and community engagement
  - Rebuilding Self and Country: Deportee Reintegration in Jamaica:
    - Article: Rebuilding Self and Country: Deportee Rei.. | migrationpolicy.org

2. Family Unification and Resettlement Initiative (FURI)

- Provides:
  - Temporary accommodations.
  - Mental health referrals.
  - Case management and resettlement services
  - Resources Jamaica | Endisolation

3. Open Arms Drop-In Centre (Kingston)

- Offers emergency shelter and counseling.
- Supported by the British High Commission and NGOs
- Rebuilding Self and Country: Deportee Reintegration in Jamaica: Article: Rebuilding Self and Country: Deportee Rei.. | migrationpolicy.org

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

1. Social Reintegration Challenges

Source:

General Expert Report – Deportees in Jamaica

- Family estrangement and homelessness: Many deportees return to Jamaica with little or no familial support. Those who left Jamaica as children often have no meaningful ties and face immediate homelessness. An estimated 10% of Jamaica's homeless population are deportees.
- Stigma and discrimination: Deportees are widely perceived as criminals, regardless of the reason for deportation. This stigma affects their ability to reintegrate into communities and families.
- Communication barriers: Maintaining ties with family abroad is difficult due to poor internet infrastructure and high costs of data and international travel, undermining emotional support systems.

Microsoft Word - General Expert Report – Deportees in Jamaica.docx

2. Institutional and Programmatic Gaps

Source:

UNDP Final Evaluation of the IRM Project (2021)

- Fragmented service delivery: The evaluation of the "Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Involuntary Returned Migrants" (IRM) project found inconsistencies across stakeholder feedback and project documentation, indicating weak coordination among government agencies and NGOs.
- Limited sustainability: Despite some early successes, the IRM project faced challenges in sustaining reintegration outcomes due to funding constraints and lack of long-term planning.
- Monitoring and evaluation weaknesses: The project lacked robust systems to track reintegration outcomes, making it difficult to assess long-term impact or adjust strategies effectively.

Increased Deportations to Jamaica Amid U.S. Immigration Enforcement Surge

3. Economic and Identity Reconstruction Barriers

Source:

Migration Policy Institute – Rebuilding Self and Country

- Unemployment and underemployment: Deportees often struggle to find work due to lack of local experience, stigma, and limited access to vocational training.
- Identity and self-worth: Many deportees reject the label "deportee" due to its criminal connotation. They prefer "deported migrants" to reflect their desire to contribute positively to society.
- Grassroots initiatives underfunded: Organizations like the National Organization of Deported Migrants (NODM) provide critical support—transportation, documentation, and microenterprise development—but rely heavily on external funding, such as from the British High Commission.

Cabinet approves Deportation Response Action Plan | News | Jamaica Gleaner

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

1. Deportation Response Action Plan

- Approved by Cabinet in May 2025.
- Overseen by a Multi-Agency Working Group including law enforcement, social services, and civil society.
- Focuses on:
  - Reception protocols
  - Security vetting
  - Reintegration support
  - Community liaison services.

[Government Monitoring Deportation Matter with Firm, Coordinated Response – Office of the Prime Minister]

2. National Technical Working Group

- Chaired by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).
- Coordinates reintegration services for both voluntary and involuntary returnees.
- Includes:
  - Health checks
  - Legal and social support
  - Monitoring for high-risk individuals.

[Jamaica prepares for influx of deportees with new migrant task force - CNW Network]

We also found a material with A Guide for Deportees Returning to Jamaica: Housing and Investment Options that might be useful - although this does not seem to be only related to US deportations = A Guide for Deportees Returning to Jamaica: Housing and Investment Options

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

National Policies and Frameworks

1. National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development (IMD Policy)

This White Paper outlines Jamaica's strategic approach to international migration, including the reintegration of deportees. It emphasizes:

- Human rights protection for returnees.
- Coordination among ministries for reintegration.
- Development of support services for involuntary returnees.

Primary Source:

Microsoft Word - Revised IMD Policy - April 18, 2017FINAL

Ministry of National Security Initiatives

2. Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Local Offenders and Deported Persons Programme

This program, active since 2008, aims to:

- Reduce recidivism among deportees.
- Provide emergency safety nets upon arrival.
- Support reintegration through training, counselling, and employment opportunities.

Policy Overview:

Policy Priorities | The Ministry of National Security

3. Deportee Monitoring Unit (DMU)

Under a 2013 MoU with the UK Government, Jamaica strengthened its reception and monitoring systems for deportees. The initiative includes:

- Training of personnel.
- Provision of equipment.
- Life skills and employment support for deportees.

Primary Source:

Gov't Signs $48 Million Agreement to Strengthen Monitoring of Deportees – Jamaica Information Service

Legal and Institutional Support

While there is no single statute exclusively governing deportee reintegration, the following legal and institutional frameworks are relevant:

- Customs Act (Second Schedule): Provides exemptions for returning residents, including deportees, on personal effects and tools of trade.
- Department of Correctional Services: Offers rehabilitation programs that include deportees.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT): Assists Jamaican nationals prior to deportation and coordinates with receiving agencies.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Per the Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade: The Ministry recognises that it is the right of every country to remove persons deemed undesirable to reside in their territory.

The primary reasons for deportation include criminal activities, certain types of misdemeanors, overstaying of visas or entry permits, and other practices which may be deemed unacceptable in those countries. The Government of Jamaica is obligated to accept Jamaicans who have been ordered deported. As such the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of National Security, provides assistance for Jamaican citizens prior to departure from who are ordered deported from the country in which they reside. The below link provide a list of support provided: Deportation - MFAFT - Jamaica

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

1. Deported individuals arriving in Jamaica are subject to screening and reception protocols, particularly if they have criminal backgrounds:

The Government of Jamaica (GoJ) has implemented a Deportation Response Action Plan and established a Multi-Agency Working Group to ensure an orderly, secure, and humane process for mass returns.1

- Screening includes security vetting, identity verification, and risk assessment, especially for those with serious criminal records.1
- The Deportee Monitoring Unit (DMU) is tasked with tracking and managing deportees, with support from international partners like the UK.2

2. Detention Upon Arrival

There is no blanket policy of detention for deportees upon arrival in Jamaica. However:

- Deportees with serious criminal backgrounds may be subject to monitoring and additional scrutiny by law enforcement agencies.2
- The government distinguishes between criminal deportees and those deported for immigration infractions, with different levels of oversight.1

3. Reintegration and Support Services

The Jamaican government provides limited reintegration support, including:

- Temporary shelter through NGOs for those without family support.3
- Life skills training and employment assistance for reintegration into society.2
- Consular support prior to deportation, including travel documentation and legal information.3

4. International Cooperation and Monitoring

- A Memorandum of Understanding with the UK Government funds training, equipment, and monitoring systems to reduce the risk of recidivism among deportees.2
- The National Security Council actively assesses risks and coordinates with foreign governments to manage deportation trends.1

Primary sources:

1. Government Monitoring Deportation Matter with Firm, Coordinated Response – Office of the Prime Minister
2. Gov't Signs $48 Million Agreement to Strengthen Monitoring of Deportees – Jamaica Information Service
3. Deportation - MFAFT - Jamaica

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

In Jamaica, the legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover their national identification documents primarily revolve around accessing and utilizing the existing civil registry and identification services, as well as the support infrastructure available to them. There isn't a specialized legal mechanism solely for "deported individuals" that differs fundamentally from how any other Jamaican citizen would replace lost or obtain identification documents.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade will issue a travel document to facilitate travel to Jamaica if the passport is unavailable for Jamaican citizens (Deportation - MFAFT - Jamaica).

Passport Retrieval

For those arriving with emergency travel documents or who gave their passport to immigration officials in the country from which you were deported, call or visit the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) a few

weeks after arrival to find out if they have your passport. If the passport has not been returned to PICA or has expired apply for a new one as normal from PICA, 25C Constant Spring Road, Kingston or telephone on: 754 4742 / 754-5092 3/ 754-5249/ 906-1304. Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency.

You need to state on your application that you had previously been issued with a passport. To get a birth certificate (if you no longer have original) go to Registrar General's Department.

Individuals will likely need to obtain a taxpayer registration number and apply for a national ID card once they obtain the other documents.

(Coming Home Jamaica v3.pdf)

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Individuals deported to Jamaica are subject to a structured legal and administrative framework that governs their return, reintegration, and potential restrictions. Here's a detailed overview of their legal status and the procedures involved, supported by primary sources:

1. Legal Status Upon Return

Deported individuals—referred to as Involuntary Returned Migrants (IRMs)—are accepted by the Jamaican government as a matter of international obligation. Their legal status is that of Jamaican nationals returning home, but they may face monitoring, reintegration challenges, and in some cases, restrictions.

Deportation Standard Operating Procedures: Jamaica

2. Administrative and Judicial Procedures

a) Administrative Procedures

The Deportation Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), developed by Jamaica's Ministry of National Security, outlines the following administrative steps:

Deportation Standard Operating Procedures: Jamaica

- Verification of Identity and Nationality: Before deportation, Jamaican consular officers verify the individual's citizenship.
- Issuance of Emergency Travel Documents: If the deportee lacks valid travel documents, the Jamaican government issues an Emergency Travel Document (ETD).
- Arrival Processing: Upon arrival, deportees are processed by immigration and security officials. This includes interviews, health checks, and documentation.
- Access to Reintegration Services: Some deportees are referred to NGOs or government programs for housing, employment, and counseling support.

b) Judicial Procedures

Under the Deportation (Commonwealth Citizens) Act, the Jamaican Minister of National Security may issue:

- Deportation Orders: For individuals deemed undesirable, convicted of crimes, or considered a public burden.
- Restriction Orders: Limiting movement within Jamaica (e.g., requiring regular check-ins with police).
- Security Orders: Requiring individuals to post a bond or guarantee good behavior.

Increased Deportations to Jamaica Amid U.S. Immigration Enforcement Surge

These orders are subject to:

- Judicial oversight: A judge must review and report on the case before an order is finalized.
- Right to a hearing: The individual is entitled to be notified, present evidence, and be represented by counsel.

Increased Deportations to Jamaica Amid U.S. Immigration Enforcement Surge

3. Reintegration Challenges

According to ethnographic research and expert reports, deportees often face:

- Stigma and discrimination
- Homelessness and unemployment
- Limited access to social services
- Family estrangement and psychological distress.

Microsoft Word - General Expert Report – Deportees in Jamaica.docx (from 2021)

NGOs like the National Organisation of Deported Migrants (NODM) assist with temporary housing and reintegration, but support is often fragmented and under-resourced.

4. Relevant Legal Instruments

- Immigration (Restriction) Act and Passport Act: Define grounds for deportation and removal. https://generisonline.com/understanding-deportation-and-removal-procedures-in-jamaica/
- Deportation (Commonwealth Citizens) Act: Governs deportation procedures, including judicial review and restriction/security orders. https://www.visaverge.com/schengen/increased-deportations-to-jamaica-amid-u-s-immigration-enforcement-surge/
- National Policy on Involuntary Return Migration: Aims to coordinate reintegration and protect deportees' rights. Deportation Standard Operating Procedures: Jamaica

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Name: Family Unification and Resettlement Initiative (FURI)

- Mission: The mission of FURI is to bring resources to improve the lives of those returned to their homeland, particularly those with no family or social support, by helping them achieve their potential for self-sufficiency. States reintegrate into society and rebuild their lives.
- Type of service and resources they provide:

FURI collaborates with other service agencies. Assistance may be provided through various services including:

  - Accommodations/Shelter referrals.
  - Employment/Vocational training referrals.
  - Drug/alcohol abuse rehab referrals.
  - Health care referrals.
  - Counseling
  - Reconnection with family.
  - Help in obtaining National ID, TRN, etc.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Unknown have been in existence for 20 years.
- Other Organizations They Partner With: CVA Consulting Services, Inc.

Source:

About us

Name of Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mission: Information not found
- Type of service and resources they provide:
  - Issue you a travel document to facilitate travel to Jamaica if your passport is unavailable, once you have been verified as a Jamaican citizen
  - Assist you to get information about detention or deportation arrangements
  - Provide contacts for English-speaking lawyers
  - Ensure that you are afforded due process as allowed under the laws of the country from which you are to be deported (e.g., that you get all your appeals heard)
  - Provide your family with information regarding the deportation such as legal arrangements in the country from which you will be deported
  - Assist you to maintain contact with your family and arrange for funds
  - Ensure that you are not discriminated against as a foreign citizen

- Ensure that you have a place to stay once you arrive in Jamaica (temporary shelters arranged through NGOs, if you have no relatives willing to take you in)

- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Information not found
- Other Organizations They Partner With: Ministry of National Security, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Source:

Deportation - MFAFT - Jamaica

Name of Organization: National Organisation for Deported Migrants (NODM)

- Mission: Provides a wide array of services to returned migrants
- Type of service and resources they provide:
  - Pre-arrival consultation to returnees and their families
  - Transportation from international airports
  - Assistance with family reunification and/or provision of "emergency" housing for returnees in need.
  - Re-documentation (issuing identification cards, tax payer documents, birth certificates, as well as retrieving travel documents held by foreign governments)
  - Releasing personal effects from customs, and other aspects of return.
  - Robust support network
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: 100 in 2024
- Other Organizations They Partner With: British High Commission, the Ministry of National Security and Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Organizations they partner with: Open Arms Development Centre

Source:

nationalorganizationofdeportedmigrants.wordpress.com

Name: Open Arms Development Centre

Mission: Open Arms Development Centre is a non-profit organization that provides essential services and support to the homeless population in Kingston and St. Andrew.

- Type of service and resources they provide: The centre offers a safe and welcoming environment where individuals can access resources such as meals, clothing, and hygiene products. Additionally, the centre provides counseling services, job training programs, and assistance in finding affordable housing.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Information not found
- Other Organizations They Partner With

Source:

About

Name of Organization: Ministry of Justice Legal Aid Council

- Mission: The Legal Aid Council (LAC) is a statutory entity under the Ministry of Justice. The Council's mandate is to administer an efficient and coordinated legal aid system in Jamaica.
- Type of service and resources they provide: Provide legal aid, but may be focused on criminal justice only.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Information not found
- Other Organizations They Partner With: information not found

Source:

Legal Aid Council

Name: Jamaicans for Justice

- Mission: JFJ believes in the protection of the Constitutional rights of every human being.
- Type of service and resources they provide: Does not specifically reference assistance related to deportation, but includes legal assistance to victims of human rights violations and their families, pro bono legal advice to primarily low-income and marginalized persons, and strategic litigation of human rights, social justice and state accountability matters.
- Data on Number of Individuals Helped: Information not found

- Other Organizations They Partner With: information not found

Source: About Us - Jamaicans for Justice

Name: Hibiscus Initiatives

- Mission: Hibiscus Initiatives aims to relieve the poverty and distress of women who have faced legal restrictions or have been charged with criminal offenses. They provide welfare advice, advocacy, and international resettlement support, focusing on women in prison, detention, and the community.
- Type of service and resources they provide: Offering guidance and case management services to facilitate resettlement of foreign nationals detained or imprisoned in the United Kingdom, including those to be returned to Jamaica
- Other Organizations They Partner With: information not found

Source:

Hibiscus Initiatives | Supporting Migrant Women in Justice System

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Jamaican legal aid frameworks primarily focus on criminal matters and civil cases for indigent citizens and residents within Jamaica. No clear indication of a guarantee of free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals. The Legal Aid Council | Ministry of Justice

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

There is no information on Jamaica adopting international human rights specifically for the recent US Deportations. However, Jamaica is part of several international deportation acts.

Refugee Policy Based on International Standards: Jamaica adopted a National Refugee Policy in 2009, which is explicitly based on the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. This policy outlines: Who qualifies as a refugee/ Procedures for seeking asylum / Rights afforded to refugees in Jamaica.

[Refugee Policy Good Framework for Asylum Seekers – Jamaica Information Service]

It is considered a model framework within the Caribbean region and incorporates international human rights standards.

[Jamaica refugee policy observes human rights standards - Vasciannie | News | Jamaica Gleaner]

Jamaica is a party to several key international human rights and refugee law instruments:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects against arbitrary detention and ensures due process for deportees) Jamaica: A Summary of Concerns: A Briefing for the Human Rights Committee | Refworld.

Convention Against Torture (CAT), which prohibits deportation to countries where individuals may face torture (oas.org/en/iachr/docs/pdf/Jamaica2012eng.pdf).

American Convention on Human Rights (Ratified via OAS membership). Sets standards for due process and non-refoulement. The Jamaican Constitution guarantees rights to liberty, security of the person, and protection from arbitrary detention. However, during SOEs, these rights may be temporarily suspended. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has repeatedly emphasized Jamaica's obligations under the American Convention, particularly in the context of States of Emergency (SOEs) and the need to uphold judicial guarantees even during such periods (Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH)).

Immigration Act: Governs deportation procedures. While it allows for removal of non-citizens, it must be interpreted in line with Jamaica's international obligations, including non-refoulement under CAT.

Judicial Oversight: Jamaican courts have been involved in reviewing deportation cases, especially where human rights violations are alleged. Amnesty International has documented cases where the Human Rights Committee found violations of the ICCPR in deportation-related proceedings (Jamaica: A Summary of Concerns: A Briefing for the Human Rights Committee | Refworld).

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

The United Nations Caribbean Office launched the campaign "Together for Human Rights: Caribbean Rights Out Loud!", which includes:

- Official translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) into Jamaican Patwa and Saint Lucian Kwéyòl.
- Aimed at increasing grassroots awareness of human rights, especially among marginalized populations including deported individuals

Sponsor: United Nations Caribbean Office

Source:

UN Caribbean Rights Out Loud

The IACHR published a detailed Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Jamaica, which includes:

- Recommendations for citizen security, access to justice, and police accountability.
- Observations on the treatment of deported individuals and the need for legal safeguards and reintegration support

Sponsor: Organization of American States (OAS)

Source:

IACHR Jamaica Human Rights Report

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S.

Recovery of Personal Belongings

1. Before Deportation:

- If a person is detained prior to deportation, they may be allowed to designate someone (e.g., a friend, family member, or attorney) to collect and manage their belongings.
- The National Immigration Project's Post-Deportation Guide recommends preparing a Power of Attorney and contacting legal aid to help manage property or accounts
- 2023_post-deportation-assessment-guide.pdf

2. After Deportation:

- There is no formal U.S. government program for returning personal belongings to deportees once they are outside the country.
- According to the American Immigration Council, many deportees report that their belongings are lost, destroyed, or retained by ICE or CBP during detention
- Complaints can be filed with ICE's Office of Professional Responsibility or CBP's Information Center, but success is limited and often requires legal representation.
- deported_with_no_possessions.pdf

Recovery of Financial Assets (Bank Accounts, Wages, Refunds)

1. Unclaimed Property:

- The U.S. government maintains databases for unclaimed money, including:
  - Unpaid wages: Department of Labor's Unpaid Wages Database
  - Bank accounts, insurance, pensions: USA.gov Unclaimed Money Portal
  - Tax refunds: IRS Where's My Refund Tool

2. Legal Heirs or Power of Attorney:

- Deportees can authorize someone in the U.S. to act on their behalf using a Power of Attorney to claim assets or close accounts.

3. Consular Support:

- The Jamaican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) may assist with documentation or referrals but does not recover property or assets directly.

Legal Aid and Advocacy

- Organizations such as Ready To Stay and NIPNLG offer resources and referrals for deportees seeking to recover property or re-enter the U.S. legally.
- Legal aid may be necessary to file claims, especially if property was mishandled during detention or deportation.

- How to find unclaimed money from the government | USAGov

See also:

DEPORTED WITH NO POSSESSIONS - The Mishandling of Migrants' Personal Belongings by CBP and ICE:

deported_with_no_possessions.pdf

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the U.S. after returning to this country?

There are no formal, centralized legal mechanisms specifically designed for Jamaican nationals deported from the U.S. to recover property, wages, or financial assets left behind in the United States. However, there are several pathways and support structures that deported individuals can use to pursue such claims. Here's a breakdown based on primary sources:

Consular Support (MFAFT): Limited to documentation, legal referrals, and family contact. No legal or financial recovery services. However, MFAFT explicitly states that it cannot provide legal advice, initiate court proceedings, or recover property or wages on behalf of deported individuals [MFAFT Deportation Page]

Legal Aid (U.S.): Legal organizations like NIPNLG offer guidance on motions, waivers, and rights post-deportation. While this guide does not directly address asset recovery, it emphasizes the importance of retaining legal counsel to pursue any post-deportation claims, including those related to wages or property [NIPNLG Guide]

Recovery of Personal Belongings

1. Before Deportation:

- If a person is detained prior to deportation, they may be allowed to designate someone (e.g., a friend, family member, or attorney) to collect and manage their belongings.
- The National Immigration Project's Post-Deportation Guide recommends preparing a Power of Attorney and contacting legal aid to help manage property or accounts

[Deportation and Property Ownership: What Happens to Assets? - LegalClarity]

2. After Deportation:

- There is no formal U.S. government program for returning personal belongings to deportees once they are outside the country.
- According to the American Immigration Council, many deportees report that their belongings are lost, destroyed, or retained by ICE or CBP during detention
- Complaints can be filed with ICE's Office of Professional Responsibility or CBP's Information Center, but success is limited and often requires legal representation.

[Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation?]

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the U.S. and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

There was a MOU signed in 2015, however, it appears to have been archived so I am not sure if it is still valid. The State Department website is basically useless now. Here is the link just in case this is helpful: Archived: ICE, Jamaica sign memorandum of cooperation | ICE

I am unable to find any other agreements that are more current.

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

International Obligations

1. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) – Objective 21

Jamaica is a signatory to the GCM, which outlines commitments for dignified return and sustainable reintegration:

- Prohibition of collective expulsion and refoulement (returning individuals to places where they face serious harm).
- Individual assessment and due process for each deportee.
- Consular cooperation to ensure proper documentation and support.

- Gender-responsive and child-sensitive reintegration programs.
- Access to social services, employment, and justice for returnees.
- Monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability and human rights compliance.

Read GCM Objective 21

2. OHCHR Guidelines on Human Rights in the Context of Return

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) emphasizes:

- Non-refoulement: States must not return individuals to countries where they face persecution, torture, or other irreparable harm.
- Right to family and private life: Deportation must not arbitrarily interfere with these rights.
- Best interests of the child: Must be a primary consideration in any deportation involving minors.
- Independent human rights monitoring and sustainability of return are essential.

OHCHR Key Legal Standards

Domestic Frameworks and Policies

3. Jamaica's Deportation Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

The Ministry of National Security outlines detailed procedures for accepting and reintegrating deportees:

- Verification of identity and nationality.
- Issuance of emergency travel documents.
- Flight processing and arrival protocols.
- Access to reintegration services, including housing, employment, and psychosocial support.
- Policy goals include protecting deportees' human rights and honoring international treaties.

Deportation SOP Document

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) Role

MFAFT provides consular support to Jamaicans facing deportation:

- Ensures due process in the deporting country.
- Issues travel documents.
- Facilitates communication with families.
- Coordinates temporary shelter upon arrival in Jamaica.
- Cannot refuse repatriation of verified Jamaican citizens.

MFAFT Deportation Policy

Reintegration Challenges and Civil Society Response

5. National Organization of Deported Migrants (NODM)

This NGO, led by deportees, provides:

- Airport reception and transport.
- Help with documentation and housing.
- Support for small business development, especially in agriculture.
- Advocacy for changing the stigma around deportees.

Migration Policy Institute Article

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the U.S. in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Jamaican consular services are limited. Offices are in NYC, Miami, and LA.

Each consulate provides services including passport renewal, travel documentation, and support for nationals facing deportation.

New York, NY HOME - Consulate General of Jamaica - New York

Miami, FL Home

Los Angeles, CA https://www.consulate-los-angeles.com/la/Jamaica-info-Los-Angeles

1. Pre-Removal Support in the US

Jamaican consulates in the United States typically assist deported nationals with:

- Verification of identity and nationality

- Issuance of travel documents (e.g., emergency passports)
- Liaison with U.S. immigration authorities to ensure procedural compliance

These services are consistent with international consular norms and are coordinated with U.S. agencies such as ICE and DHS.

2. Post-Removal Support in Jamaica

Returning Residents Policy

Jamaica's Customs Act includes a formal Returning Residents Policy, which provides:

- Duty exemptions for household items, tools, and equipment brought by deported nationals returning to reside permanently
- Eligibility for Jamaican nationals who lived abroad for at least three consecutive years
- Spousal entitlements if the spouse arrives within three years of the returning resident

This policy is administered by the Jamaica Customs Agency and is outlined in the Revised Returning Residents Policy 2020.

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to this country from November 2024 to present.

Per the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Enforcement and Legal Processes Monthly Tables and the 2024 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, the 2024 data is not yet published.

Data for prior years (2020-2022) shows that Jamaica consistently ranks among the top Caribbean destinations for U.S. deportations, with annual totals exceeding 2,000 individuals (Office of Immigration Statistics 2020 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics).

Yearbook 2024 | OHSS

Immigration Enforcement and Legal Processes Monthly Tables | OHSS

2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

Immigration Enforcement Actions Annual Flow Report | OHSS

Immigration Enforcement and Legal Processes Monthly Tables | OHSS

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica is the designated arrival point for deportation flights from the United States through the following official and credible sources:

Jamaica's Ministry of National Security outlines in its Standard Operating Procedures for Deportation that:

"All charter flights carrying deported persons must arrive at the Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston, Jamaica. Alternative arrangements must be approved by the Ministry of National Security…"

This document provides the formal framework for how deportation flights are processed and clearly establishes Kingston as the default arrival location.

The Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica confirmed in a June 2025 statement that the government was preparing to receive 107 deported nationals on May 29, 2025, as part of a structured repatriation plan. While the specific airport is not named in this release, it aligns with the SOPs that designate Norman Manley International Airport as the standard arrival point.

A Human Rights First report tracking ICE Air deportation routes also lists Jamaica among the countries receiving deportees in July 2025, though it does not specify the airport

Ministry of National Security

Jamaica

Deportation Standard Operating

Procedures: Jamaica

Deportation Standard Operating Procedures: Jamaica

The Deportation Data Project, which publishes anonymized U.S. government immigration enforcement datasets, confirms that deportation

flights to Jamaica were active through July 29, 2025, and are part of ongoing ICE operations. Deportation Data Project.

While the dataset does not list airport names directly, it aligns with Jamaica's official Standard Operating Procedures for Deportation, which designate Norman Manley International Airport as the default arrival point.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Information available shows that Kingston - Norman Manley International Airport is the main port of entry for deportation flights from the U.S. Kingston is also home to government ministries, NGOs, and reintegration programs such as halfway houses and shelters for deportees.

[Johnson Smith confirms 2,500 Jamaicans to be deported from US - Jamaica Observer]

[First deportees from the US to Jamaica for 2025 land in Kingston | News | Jamaica Gleaner]

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S. of deported individuals to this country, if available.

There is not current data (2024 to present) on this. There is some secondary source information here Increased Deportations to Jamaica Amid U.S. Immigration Enforcement Surge but no official data on recent deportees.

A UN 2021 study on Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Involuntary Returned Migrants Jamaica Project has useful information and is here Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Involuntary Returned Migrants Jamaica Project.

2019 demographic data of migrants can be found here jamaica.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/JEP Discussion 7.pdf and other secondary source reporting here Jamaica sees increase in deportations to the island - CNW Network

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

As described by the Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in its guidance on deportation (Deportation - MFAFT - Jamaica), the primary reasons for deportation include criminal activities, certain types of misdemeanors, overstaying of visas or entry permits, and other practices which may be deemed unacceptable in other countries. Although I cannot find 2024-25 data, a migration policy institute report dated 2016 Article: Rebuilding Self and Country: Deportee Rei.. | migrationpolicy.org noted that "Jamaica receives the highest share of individuals deported from the United States on criminal grounds, with those convicted of criminal offenses accounting for 89 percent of Jamaican deportees repatriated in 2012. Nearly 88 percent of Jamaicans returned from all countries from 2006 to 2014, however, were deported for reasons unrelated to violent crime, the most common offenses being illegal immigration and drug possession."

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

The Deportation (Commonwealth Citizens) Act https://laws.moj.gov.jm/library/statute/the-deportation-commonwealth-citizens-act governs deportation procedures. It outlines powers to issue deportation, restriction, and security orders but does not explicitly require public reporting or publication of deportation statistics.

Protocols for processing deportees and reintegration are set forth in Deportation Standard Operating Procedures: Jamaica These protocols emphasize coordination and documentation but do not mandate public disclosure of deportation data.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Transparency around deportation data is a problem in Jamaica. The Passport Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) Passport Immigration & Citizenship Agency | The Ministry of National Security is the primary agency responsible for managing deportation and repatriation of individuals not qualified to remain in Jamaica. It operates under the Ministry of National Security and is governed by laws including the Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizen) Act. Among other functions it: Verifies identity and nationality of deportees; Issues emergency travel documents; Coordinates arrival and reintegration logistics. However, PICA does not regularly publish detailed deportation statistics. According to my research, deportation data is typically shared through press releases or inter-agency reports.

The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Migration Policy - The Planning Institute of Jamaica publishes migration-related statistics, including return migration trends. It coordinates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and other agencies under the National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Deportation data should be accessible under the Access to Information Act, subject to privacy restrictions.

Microsoft Word - ATI FAQS.Jamaica.doc

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Mexico

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Mexico

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the U.S. to this country.

1. Deportation Process

   Detention Conditions: Many migrants report being handcuffed, held for days, and treated inhumanely by U.S. immigration authorities.

   Reasons for Deportation: These include expired work permits, denied asylum applications, and minor infractions such as traffic violations.

   Volume of Deportations: Between January and November 2024, there were 190,491 deportation events involving Mexican nationals. The main receiving states are:

   Sonora (34%)

   Tamaulipas (24%)

   Baja California (21%)

2. Reception in Mexico

   The National Migration Institute (INM) operates 11 repatriation modules along the northern border, offering:

   Water, food, and medical assistance.

   Issuance of official documents like CURP.

   Information on government support and job opportunities.

   Transportation to shelters or places of origin.

3. Social and Economic Reintegration

   INM collaborates with state governments and civil organizations to provide:

   Access to employment, healthcare, education, and financial services.

   Validation of academic credentials and certification of skills.

   Legal guidance, including support for unresolved issues in the U.S.

   Despite these efforts, support is often insufficient due to the high volume of deportees. Many face:

   Lack of social networks.

   Discrimination.

   Unemployment.

   Legal identity challenges.

4. Emotional and Social Impact

   Deportees often experience frustration, loss of property, and family separation.

   Some attempt to re-enter the U.S., while others try to rebuild their lives in Mexico.

   In some cases, deportees cannot return to their hometowns due to security concerns, leading to internal displacement.

1. Deportation Preparation Manual for Immigrant Families

   English: Appleseed Network Deportation Preparation Manual for Immigrant Families – Make a Plan to Protect Your Kids and Finances in the Face of Deportation

2. Guide to Rights and Services for Returned Mexican Nationals

   En Espanol: Guía de derechos y servicios para personas mexicanas retornadas 2025 - Appleseed México

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

1. “México te abraza” Strategy

   This is a comprehensive repatriation strategy coordinated by the Mexican government to ensure a humane and dignified return for Mexican nationals deported from the U.S. It includes:

   Access to social welfare programs (e.g., pensions, scholarships, employment, housing, agricultural support)
   Free transportation to their place of origin

Enrollment in the IMSS (Mexican Social Security Institute) for the deportee and their family

A one-time financial aid of 2,000 pesos via the “Bienestar Paisano” card

Assistance with identity documents (birth certificate, CURP)

Job placement support and skills certification

* Official source – Gobierno de México (PDF)

2. Dignified Repatriation Program (INM)

The National Migration Institute (INM) runs a three-phase program:

Departure: Mexican consulates in the U.S. provide legal and logistical support for voluntary return

Reception: At 11 border modules, deportees receive:

Food, water, medical care

Repatriation certificate and CURP

Free phone calls and transportation

Guidance on government programs and job opportunities

Reintegration: Includes access to:

- Medical and psychological care
- Employment and financial services
- Education revalidation and legal advice

* Official source – Dirección de Repatriación Digna | Instituto Nacional de Migración | Gobierno | gob.mx

3. Interagency Support Table for Repatriated Families

This initiative brings together over 35 federal and state institutions to coordinate 42 urgent actions for reintegration. Key services include:

Temporary CURP with photo

Free birth certificate printing

Educational reintegration (basic to higher education)

Job placement and certification of skills

Access to IMSS and Banco del Bienestar

Support for women and vulnerable groups

* Official source - Familias mexicanas migrantes en retorno y repatriadas tiene nuevas opciones de apoyo en educación, salud y desarrollo económico | Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores | Gobierno | gob.mx

4. Beta Groups for Migrant Protection (INM)

These are specialized humanitarian units of the INM that:

Provide first aid, water, food, and shelter

Conduct rescue operations in high-risk areas

Offer legal guidance and report human rights violations

Educate migrants on their rights and safety

*Official source - Grupos Beta de Protección a Migrantes | Instituto Nacional de Migración | Gobierno | gob.mx

5. Official Communication Channels

To support deported individuals and their families, the Mexican government offers:

Mexican Consular Support Line (24/7, free and confidential):

From the U.S.: 520 623 7874

From Mexico: 001 520 623 7874

Email: attrepatriadascdmx@inami.gob.mx

Mobile App: MiConsulmex for consular services

WhatsApp and local numbers for each consulate

*Official source - Apoyo Consular - Gobierno de México

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

1. Limited Access to Identity Documentation

Despite efforts to issue temporary CURP and birth certificates, many deported individuals still face delays or lack access to essential identity documents. This limits their ability to access healthcare, education, and employment services.

2. Health Coverage Gaps

   Studies show that deported migrants have significantly lower health insurance coverage compared to the general population in Mexico. This is due to administrative barriers and lack of awareness about available programs.

   *Official source – Secretaría de Gobernación (PDF)

3. Barriers to Educational Reintegration

   Children of deported migrants born abroad often face challenges in accessing education in Mexico due to documentation issues and lack of tailored support. These children are frequently grouped under the "returnee" category despite not having lived in Mexico before.

   *Official source – Secretaría de Gobernación (PDF)

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

"México te abraza"

- Mexican migrants returning to Mexico will have access to all Welfare Programs:
  - Employment.
  - Transportation.
  - They will be enrolled in IMSS (Mexican Social Security Institute) to access the five insurances provided by the Social Security Law: for Illness and Maternity; Work-Related Risks; Disability and Life; Retirement, Unemployment in Old Age, and Old Age.
  - Childcare benefits and other Social Benefits.
  - They will receive financial support of 2,000 pesos with the Bienestar Paisano Card.
- They will be given access to all social housing assistance through the Secretariat of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (Sedatu) and the National Workers' Housing Fund Institute (Infonavit); additionally, the Ministry of the Interior will coordinate actions to issue identity documents and the CURP if necessary.

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

In Mexico, the reception and reintegration of deported individuals is governed by a robust legal and policy framework that reflects the country's commitment to human rights and social justice. At the federal level, the Migration Law, the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum, and their respective regulations establish the legal basis for protecting migrants, including deportees, ensuring their rights regardless of migratory status. These laws are complemented by a wide array of state-level legislations, such as the Law of Interculturality and Human Mobility in Mexico City, and similar laws across states like Chihuahua, Michoacán, and Oaxaca, which create local institutions and programs to support migrants and their families. Social policies also play a critical role in reintegration efforts. The Strategic Migration Plan 2025–2030 outlines national goals to reduce irregular migration, promote regional development, and ensure dignified return for deportees through employment programs, educational access, and violence reduction strategies. Despite this extensive socio-legal scaffolding, challenges persist in practice, as interventions are often shaped by exclusionary narratives and systemic inequalities. Scholars emphasize the need to reframe migrants not as passive recipients of aid but as political agents and rights holders, advocating for policies rooted in equity and social justice. Together, these legal instruments and strategic plans represent Mexico's evolving approach to migration governance, aiming to transform deportation from a moment of vulnerability into an opportunity for reintegration and empowerment.

References:

Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos. Marco Normativo Migrantes. Marco Normativo Migrantes | Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos - México

Flores Martínez, R. M., Zamarripa Esparza, E. A., & Yáñez Soto, M. (2023). Human rights and social policies in migration. Nodal notes. Biolex, vol.15. Derechos humanos y políticas sociales en migración. Apuntes nodales

Menéndez Gámiz, C. R., & Barriga Peralta, I. (2025). Plan Estratégico en Materia de Migración 2025–2030. 2025-0404-Plan-Estrategico-en-Materia-de-Migracion-2025-2030.pdf

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

1. Legal Framework: Migration Law

   Mexico's Migration Law guarantees the protection of human rights for all migrants—regardless of their legal status. It explicitly includes the right to access services such as healthcare, education, and employment, and emphasizes non-discrimination and the principle of family unity.

   Migration Law – Chamber of Deputies (PDF)

2. Right to Health

   The Ministry of Health ensures that all migrants, including deported individuals, receive medical care without discrimination. This includes access to vaccinations, medications, and sanitary inspections in shelters and transit areas.

   Health Protection Measures for Migrants – Secretaría de Salud

3. Constitutional and Human Rights Protections

   According to the Mexican Constitution and the Supreme Court of Justice, all individuals in Mexico—regardless of nationality or immigration status—are entitled to fundamental rights. These include:

   Right to education

   Right to health

   Right to work

   Right to legal due process

   Human Rights of Migrants – Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

   The National Migration Institute (INM) has established a Repatriation Liaison Office in every Mexican state. These offices are responsible for:

   Facilitating the reintegration of deported Mexican nationals into their communities of origin

   Providing guidance on available government programs

   Offering support with documentation, transportation, and access to services

   Directory of Repatriation Liaison Offices – INM

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Mexican authorities do not typically detain deportees in a punitive way upon arrival. Instead, deported individuals – especially Mexican nationals – go through a brief screening process at designated reception facilities and are offered support services. Key steps include identity verification, basic health checks, and assistance with travel or reintegration. This process differs based on the person's nationality: Mexican citizens are processed and released with support, while non-Mexican nationals (accepted under certain agreements) are handled on a humanitarian basis, often with arrangements to return them to their countries of origin or allow them to seek asylum in Mexico. Recent policy changes as of 2025 have expanded Mexico's capacity to receive deportees, emphasizing humanitarian care over detention.

When a Mexican citizen is deported across the U.S.–Mexico border, they are received by officials of Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM). By law, Mexican nationals cannot be refused entry into their own country, so the process focuses on registering and assisting them rather than enforcing any penalty. Key features of the reception procedure for Mexican deportees include:

- Identity Verification: Upon arrival at the border (or airport if flown in), INM officers confirm the person's Mexican nationality and identity through a short interview and documentation check. Once confirmed, a "Constancia de Repatriación" (Repatriation Certificate) is issued – an official document with the deportee's photo and details of the deportation. This certificate serves as initial ID in Mexico and helps the individual access services.

- No Immigration Detention: Mexican returnees are not placed in immigration detention centers upon their return so long as they are confirmed citizens. The handover from U.S. to Mexican authorities is smooth – after the brief intake interview, individuals remain at a reception facility for only the time needed to process paperwork and receive aid, usually just a matter of hours. They are free to depart once processing is complete. There is security present at reception sites (e.g. police or National Guard to maintain order), but returnees are not treated as prisoners.
- Health Screening and Immediate Aid: At the reception centers (often called Repatriation Modules or shelters), deportees undergo basic health screenings (and even vaccinations if needed) to ensure their well-being. They typically receive a hot meal, water, and hygiene kits on arrival. Medical staff are on hand for any urgent health needs. Organizations report that mental health support is also crucial, as many arrive in a state of **"extreme anxiety" or trauma after their ordeal in U.S. detention and removal.
- Documentation & Consular Assistance: Government agencies assist returnees in obtaining copies of birth certificates and official ID numbers (CURP) if they lack them. Since many Mexican deportees have lived abroad for years or decades, they might not have current Mexican ID. As part of the "México Te Abraza" program (launched January 2025), officials from multiple departments help deportees quickly secure identification and enroll in social programs. Consular staff (from Mexican consulates in the U.S.) often coordinate with INM to ensure deportees' documents are in order and even alert families of their return.
- Financial and Logistical Support: Rather than detention, Mexico provides logistical help to its returning citizens. At the border reception centers, deportees are given a stipend (around 2,000 pesos, roughly $100 USD, via a prepaid "Bienestar Paisano" card) to cover immediate needs. They also get a free phone call to contact family. Crucially, the government arranges transportation onward into Mexico: fleets of buses are on standby to take people from the border to their home states or at least to a central hub.
- Shelter and Social Services: If someone has nowhere to go immediately, temporary shelters (often repurposed facilities near the border) are available. In Tijuana, for instance, a large reception shelter known as "Flamingo's" can house deportees overnight; it primarily functions as a processing station where people obtain documents and guidance. Staff and volunteers (from NGOs like Próxima, New Comienzos, and others) offer counseling on finding work, housing, and reconnecting with family. The emphasis is on reintegration, not confinement.

Handling of non-Mexican deportees:

- Initial Reception and Custody: When U.S. authorities expel or deport a non-Mexican migrant to Mexican soil, Mexican immigration (INM) takes charge. These individuals do not have an automatic right to enter Mexico, so they are usually kept in temporary custody upon arrival. In practice, many are quickly directed to migrant shelters or INM facilities for short stays rather than standard prisons. Detention in this context is usually brief and administrative – just long enough to determine what comes next for the person.
- Screening and Options: Non-Mexican returnees are screened by INM to record their identity and nationality. Mexican authorities then typically offer three options (as identified by migration experts):
  - Apply for Refugee Status in Mexico: The individual may seek asylum (refugio) in Mexico if they fear returning to their home country. Mexico is a signatory to international refugee conventions and must process such claims. However, the asylum process (handled by Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance COMAR) can be lengthy, and during that time claimants are usually not in detention but free to stay in shelters or on their own recognizance in Mexico.
  - Voluntary Return to Home Country: If asylum in Mexico is not requested, the person can choose to be repatriated to their country of origin. Mexico will coordinate with their home country's consulate or with organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate travel documents and transportation.
  - Transfer to Southern Border for Exit: A common practice has been for INM to escort or transport non-Mexican migrants to Mexico's southern border (e.g. into Guatemala) and release them there, essentially passing them onward. This is sometimes called "chain deportation." In

2023–2024, under both the Biden and Trump administrations, Mexico regularly put Central American deportees on buses from northern border cities down to Tapachula or other ports in Chiapas, so they could then cross into Guatemala or proceed south. By 2025, this approach continued: if individuals did not claim asylum and simply wanted to go home or leave, Mexico would provide or require transit to the Guatemala border. This means the person spends some time in official custody during transport, but often in a relatively short time they are out of Mexico.

- Use of Shelters for Non-Mexicans: Recognizing the need for humanitarian care, Mexico indicated it would open dedicated shelters for non-Mexican deportees. Here, they receive basic humanitarian support (food, medical aid) similar to Mexican returnees. However, the ultimate aim is to repatriate them onward.
- No Long-Term Detention: Mexico's immigration holding centers (estaciones migratorias) can house migrants for short periods, but there is no indication of mass long-term detention of U.S.-deported foreigners in 2025.

It's worth noting that not all non-Mexican migrants removed from the U.S. end up staying in Mexico at all. For instance, U.S. authorities may deport some directly to their home countries via flights. Mexico typically receives those from neighboring nations or certain agreed-upon groups (e.g., at one point, Mexico agreed to accept limited numbers of deportees from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela who were expelled at the U.S. border under health orders or other arrangements). In those cases, Mexico often serves as a transit point rather than a final destination.

Guía de derechos y servicios para personas mexicanas retornadas 2025 - Appleseed México

What Happens When You Get Deported to Mexico? - LegalClarity

Under New Strategy, US Flies Deportees to Southern Tip of Mexico | Pulitzer Center

Reporte 1 Circunstancia de deportación

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Deported Mexican nationals can obtain their certified birth certificate online through the official portal:

Acta de Nacimiento | Trámites | gob.mx

- Requirements:

Have your CURP or personal details (full name, date and place of birth) ready.

Make the payment online or generate a payment reference to pay at a bank or convenience store.

Download the document in PDF format, legally valid if printed on a letter-size white sheet.

It can be consulted and downloaded for free from:

Acta de Nacimiento | Trámites | gob.mx

If there are errors or the record does not appear, you must go to a CURP module of the National Population Registry (RENAPO) with:

- Birth certificate
- Official photo ID

For deported individuals without documents, the process can be started with witnesses or using the repatriation sheet issued by the National Migration Institute (INM), which serves as temporary identity support.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Upon deportation to Mexico, individuals—whether Mexican nationals repatriated from abroad or foreign nationals expelled from the country—are subject to administrative procedures governed by the Migration Law and overseen by the National Migration Institute (INM). Deportation itself is not considered a criminal offense under Mexican law; rather, it is treated as an administrative matter. Upon arrival, deported persons may undergo a formal notification process, followed by an administrative hearing where they can present evidence or arguments regarding their case. They

are entitled to legal safeguards such as access to consular assistance, communication with family, interpretation services if they do not speak Spanish, and legal counsel. In some cases, they may request assisted voluntary return. While the process is primarily administrative, individuals who believe their rights have been violated may pursue judicial remedies, such as filing an amparo (constitutional protection claim) before Mexican courts. Additionally, when minors are involved, a specialized protocol is activated to ensure the protection and restitution of their rights, coordinated with child protection authorities. The legal framework emphasizes the principle of non-discrimination, due process, and respect for human dignity, although in practice, challenges such as lack of access to legal representation and systemic delays can hinder the full realization of these rights. Mexico's approach reflects a balance between migration control and human rights obligations, but experts continue to advocate for stronger institutional mechanisms to ensure fair treatment and reintegration of deported individuals.

Guía de derechos y servicios para personas mexicanas retornadas 2025 - Appleseed México

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Reporte 1 Circunstancia de deportación

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Instituto Nacional de Migración – "Somos Mexicanos"

- Mission: Government repatriation program to "re-embrace" Mexican nationals.
- Services:
  - Reception centers with identity screening.
  - Immediate aid: meals, water, medical checkups, hygiene kits.
  - Documentation support: Repatriation Certificates, birth certificates, IDs.
  - Free transportation to home states (100+ buses mobilized in 2025).
  - Cash stipends (~MXN $2,000).
  - Referrals to job training, housing, and health services.
- Individuals Helped: Over 80,000 Mexican citizens in 2024.
- Partners: Mexican Consulates (USA), State Migrant Offices, IOM, UNHCR.

Casa del Migrante – Tijuana (Scalabrini Order)

- Mission: Faith-based shelter offering humanitarian aid and reintegration help.
- Services:
  - Emergency shelter (150+ beds), hot meals, clothing.
  - Counseling and spiritual guidance.
  - On-site medical clinic and mental health referrals.
  - Job assistance: skills workshops, job bank, employer referrals.
  - Family reunification support through "El Buen Samaritano" project.
- Individuals Helped: Over 30,000 annually in Tijuana; additional shelters in Ciudad Juárez, Mexicali, Nogales.
- Partners: INM Grupo Beta, Red Cross Mexico, City of Tijuana.

New Comienzos A.C. (New Beginnings) – Mexico City

- Mission: NGO founded by returned "Dreamers" to aid deportees' integration.
- Services:
  - Employment fairs and job placement.
  - "Mi Nueva Vida" mentorship program.

- Education support and Spanish classes.
- Legal clinics for documentation and U.S. benefits recovery.

- Individuals Helped: Over 3,000 since 2015; ~60% secured jobs or education.
- Partners: Mexico City Government (SEDEREC), U.S. Embassy, Otros Dreams en Acción.

Otros Dreams en Acción (ODA) – Mexico City

- Mission: Grassroots network supporting youth deported from the U.S. ("Dreamers").
- Services:
  - Community center for English-speaking returnees.
  - "Tu Identidad" workshops: cultural orientation, Spanish literacy, resume writing.
  - Advocacy for policy changes.
  - Scholarship fund for university access.
- Individuals Helped: 200+ supported; 50+ university enrollments.
- Partners: UNHCR Mexico, UNAM/IPN, IMUMI.

Redodem (Network of Migrant Shelters) – Nationwide

- Mission: Coalition of 23 shelters (mostly faith-based) aiding migrants and deportees.
- Services:
  - Short-term shelter and meals.
  - Basic services: showers, clothing, phone calls.
  - Orientation on jobs, housing, and health clinics.
  - Case tracking for repeat deportees.
- Individuals Helped: Over 100,000 annually; ~30% Mexican deportees.
- Partners: IOM, Catholic Relief Services, National Human Rights Commission (CNDH).

Legal Aid Clinics (e.g., Sin Fronteras IAP, ENCES)

- Mission: Nonprofits offering legal assistance to migrants and returnees.
- Services:
  - Legal advice on migration and family law.
  - Casework for U.S. property/wage recovery.
  - Advocacy on deportation-related issues.
  - Referrals to U.S. pro bono lawyers.
- Individuals Helped: Sin Fronteras – 250 cases (2024); ENCES – 90+ cases.
- Partners: American Immigration Lawyers Association, Mexican Foreign Ministry (SRE), Ready to Stay (USA).

1. Instituto Nacional de Migración – "Somos Mexicanos" Program
   - INM Official Website: Instituto Nacional de Migración | Gobierno | gob.mx
   - Program Overview: Instituto Nacional de Migración
2. Casa del Migrante (Scalabrini Order)
   - Tijuana Shelter: Inicio - Casa del Migrante Tijuana
   - Scalabrinian Network: Scalabrinians, Saint John The Baptist Province
3. New Comienzos A.C.
   - Official Website: https://www.nuevoscomienzos.org/
   - Facebook Page: New Comienzos | Las Vegas NV | Facebook
4. Otros Dreams en Acción (ODA)
   - Official Website: https://otrosdreamsenaccion.org/
   - Programs and Resources: https://otrosdreamsenaccion.org/programs/
5. Redodem (Red de Documentación de las Organizaciones Defensoras de Migrantes)
   - Official Website: Inicio - Redodem
   - Annual Reports and Shelter Network: Informes - Redodem
6. Sin Fronteras IAP
   - Official Website: Sin Fronteras IAP "Por un mundo Sin Fronteras" - Sin Fronteras IAP "Por un mundo Sin Fronteras"

7. ENCES (Enlace Comunicación y Capacitación A.C.)
    - Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/EnlaceComunicacionyCapacitacion/
8. International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Mexico
    - IOM Mexico: OIM México
9. UNHCR Mexico (ACNUR)
    - UNHCR Mexico: México | ACNUR
10. American Immigration Council – Deportation & Property Loss Reports
    - American Immigration Council

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Mexico recognizes and actively provides for a right to free, state-supported legal aid for deported individuals, though that right is woven into broader legal guarantees rather than a standalone rule for "deportees." All persons on Mexican soil, regardless of nationality or migratory status, have the right to due process and an attorney, as upheld by the Constitution and reaffirmed by the Supreme Court

Legal and Policy Framework

1. Constitutional and Statutory Basis: The foundation lies in Mexico's strong legal commitments to due process and equality:
    - Constitution of Mexico: Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees that legal justice will be administered promptly and free of charge ("la justicia... se impartirá de manera pronta, completa, imparcial y gratuita"), prohibiting court fees that would bar access. Additionally, Article 1 incorporates international human rights treaties and forbids discrimination, ensuring that migrants and repatriated persons enjoy the same procedural rights as citizens. For accused persons, Article 20(B) explicitly provides the right to counsel of choice or a court-appointed lawyer if they cannot afford one, reflecting a general principle that lack of money shall not leave someone without a defense.
    - Federal Public Defender Law: Under the Organic Law of the Federal Judicial Power, the Instituto Federal de Defensoría Pública (IFDP) is tasked with providing free legal services in federal matters to people who cannot afford private counsel. Historically focused on criminal defense, in recent years the IFDP's mandate has expanded (through internal reforms and budget increases) to cover civil, labor, and administrative cases for vulnerable populations. This includes matters of migration.
    - Migration Law (Ley de Migración): Mexico's Migration Law, last reformed in 2024, affirms due process rights for migrants. Notably, Article 70 states that "every migrant has the right to be legally assisted or represented by a person of their choice during the immigration administrative procedure". It directs the INM to facilitate cooperation with civil society so migrants in detention can receive legal advice and representation. While the law did not originally mandate a government-appointed attorney, it created space for NGOs and others to step in. The 2023 Supreme Court ruling built on Article 70's spirit and constitutional principles to require that a defensor de oficio must be assigned if the migrant has no lawyer, effectively plugging the gap by imposing on the State the duty to ensure representation, not just to allow it.
    - Supreme Court Jurisprudence (2023): The First Chamber of Mexico's Supreme Court issued a binding precedent in March 2023 acknowledging migrants' right to counsel. The Court held that migrants in immigration proceedings have an inalienable right to an adequate defense as part of due process, and that the State must provide a public defender to fulfill this right. This decision interprets constitutional due process guarantees (and Article 8 of the American Convention on Human Rights, likely) to apply to administrative detention and deportation contexts. It also declared unconstitutional the Migration Law's allowance of holding migrants up to 60 working days in detention (reducing it to 36 hours), recognizing long detention without judicial oversight as a harm to legal rights. The net effect is that from 2023 onward, any deported individual who is not immediately released in Mexico but put into a procedure (e.g., a Salvadoran

awaiting removal from Mexico, or an asylum seeker) must promptly be given access to a lawyer provided by the government. Failing to do so would violate their constitutional rights.

- Laws on Refugees and Children: For certain categories of deported individuals, Mexican law provides additional legal support guarantees. The Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Asylum allows asylum seekers to be accompanied by legal representatives or persons of trust in their refugee status proceedings (though it stops short of guaranteeing a free attorney, many receive help from UNHCR-funded programs). In the case of unaccompanied migrant children (who might be deported from the U.S. and enter Mexico), the General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents mandates that a child protection officer (Procuraduría de Protección de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes) intervene to ensure the child's best interest, which includes appointing a guardian and ensuring legal assistance in any proceedings. Practically, such minors are usually placed under DIF (family services) custody and assigned legal advocates who work with immigration authorities and IFDP or NGOs to present the child's case (for example, many unaccompanied minors seek asylum in Mexico; they are legally guaranteed representation in those processes, often through partnerships between the government and NGOs like Kids in Need of Defense).
- A Mexican national returning by deportation who encounters legal challenges can avail themselves of government-funded legal assistance (through public defenders or dedicated programs) just as any other citizen in need.
- A foreign national deported to Mexico is now guaranteed a public defender in any immigration proceedings in Mexico, ensuring they can pursue remedies like asylum or appeal a deportation from Mexico with professional legal help.
- Special vulnerable groups – children, victims, refugees – have tailored protections that include free legal guidance or representation, often with government coordination.

Mexico's government agencies, notably the IFDP and SRE, in partnership with NGOs and international organizations, operationalize this right by making lawyers and legal resources readily available to deported individuals. The trend as of 2025 is toward greater formalization and awareness: deported persons are informed of their rights and connected to legal aid more systematically than before.

- Mexican Constitution (Articles 1, 17, 20)
  - Full text (Diario Oficial de la Federación): https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/1_010223.pdf
- Ley de Migración (Migration Law)
  - Full text (latest reform May 2024): https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LMigra.pdf
  - See especially Article 70 (right to legal representation during immigration proceedings)
- Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) – Press Release on SCJN Compliance
  - INM Official Site: Responde INM a determinación de SCJN para que migrantes alojados en Estaciones Migratorias cuenten con defensor de oficio | Instituto Nacional de Migración | Gobierno | gob.mx
- Instituto Federal de Defensoría Pública (IFDP)
  - Overview of services: El Instituto Federal de Defensoría Pública ofrece asesoría gratuita a migrantes y sus familias
- Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH) – Migrant Rights
  - CNDH Migrant Rights Portal: Derechos de las personas migrantes | Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos - México
  - Legal Aid Guide (PDF): 10_ProcedimientoMigra
- PALE – Programa de Asistencia Jurídica a Mexicanos en EE.UU.
  - SRE Program Page: https://www.gob.mx/sre/acciones-y-programas/programa-de-asistencia-juridica-a-mexicanos-a-traves-de-asesorias-legales-externas-en-los-estados-unidos-de-america-pale

- Acción Migrante Platform (UNAM + SRE)
  - News coverage (La Opinión): Gobierno de México y UNAM presentan plataforma para asistencia jurídica y psicológica a inmigrantes - La Opinión
  - Platform website: Inicio - UNAM, Acción Migrante

3. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

- Civil Society Organizations: Migrants (including deportees) can receive free legal counsel from various NGOs, such as Sin Fronteras A.C., Asylum Access México, Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova, FM4 Paso Libre, and others. These organizations often partner with the government – for instance, INM's Article 70 encourages formal agreements, and indeed INM has MOUs with some shelters and NGOs to allow their lawyers access to detained migrants. In practice, when planeloads of deportees arrive in southern Mexico, groups like Médecins Sans Frontières and Institute for Women in Migration (IMUMI) are on site not only for humanitarian aid but also to spot urgent legal cases (e.g., a refugee family mistakenly deported). They flag these to COMAR or IFDP. NGOs also run strategic litigation. The government often welcomes this, as it helps bring Mexican practice in line with human rights standards.
- UN Agencies: UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) is heavily involved in Mexico and funds several legal aid projects for migrants and deportees. It sponsors "legal orientation sessions" at migrant shelters and supports a network of 40+ attorneys across Mexico who provide free legal representation to asylum seekers. UNHCR also works with IFDP by training public defenders on refugee law and, in some cases, seconding personnel. IOM (International Organization for Migration) supports capacity-building too; it has helped develop guidelines for assisting returnees and runs info campaigns (often in coordination with IFDP and SRE) to ensure deportees know their rights to services, including legal aid. UNICEF and Save the Children assist with child migrants' legal needs, ensuring minors' cases get pro bono lawyers through partnerships.
- Academia (Law Clinics): The collaboration between Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE) and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) on Acción Migrante (described below) is an example of leveraging academic resources. UNAM's legal research institute and its law school clinics provide free advice to migrants facing deportation or who have been deported. This includes cross-border legal issues (UNAM's U.S. satellite campuses involved law students to consult on U.S. immigration queries) and Mexican domestic issues. Other universities (ITAM, CIDE, etc.) have similar clinics focusing on migrant rights, often working quietly with government referrals. Such partnerships expand outreach – many deported individuals might trust an NGO or university clinic more than a government office, so having multiple entry points ensures more people exercise their right.
- "Acción Migrante" Platform (2025): Launched in February 2025 by Foreign Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente and UNAM's rector, this online platform is a new tool providing remote legal guidance to Mexican migrants and deportees. It acknowledges that many migrants might not know where to turn upon deportation. Through Acción Migrante, deported persons can access orientation legal (legal guidance) – not full representation, but crucial initial advice – on both U.S. and Mexican law issues with one interface. This initiative effectively creates a binational advice service, reflecting policy acknowledgment that deportees' legal needs span borders (property left in the U.S., re-establishing rights in Mexico, etc.). It's notable that the government partnered with academia rather than doing it entirely in-house, which helps with trust and expertise.
- Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH) – Migrant Rights
  - CNDH Migrant Rights Portal: Derechos de las personas migrantes | Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos - México
  - Legal Aid Guide (PDF): 10_ProcedimientoMigra
- PALE – Programa de Asistencia Jurídica a Mexicanos en EE.UU.
  - SRE Program Page: https://www.gob.mx/sre/acciones-y-programas/programa-de-asistencia-juridica-a-mexicanos-a-traves-de-

asesorias-legales-externas-en-los-estados-unidos-de-america-pale

- Acción Migrante Platform (UNAM + SRE)
  - Platform website: Inicio - UNAM, Acción Migrante

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S.

- Bilateral Protocols for Property Return: In February 2016, the U.S. and Mexico updated their repatriation arrangements to include specific clauses on returning belongings. All nine Local Repatriation Arrangements signed that year state that U.S. authorities "should take all feasible steps to ensure that property, valuables, and money retained, are available for return to the rightful owner at the time of initial release from DHS custody". By policy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) documents and stores detainees' property and holds it for at least 30 days if not returned immediately, during which a migrant can arrange retrieval. Crucially, CBP's standards allow a detainee to designate a third party, such as their consulate, to retrieve property on their behalf. Mexican consulates regularly act on these permissions, picking up secure document envelopes or personal valuables from ICE/CBP to deliver to the deportee.
- Mexican Consular Assistance: Mexican consulates in the U.S. serve as a vital resource for recovering belongings. They operate Protection Departments that handle detainee issues, including property. If a Mexican national is deported without receiving all their effects, they can contact the nearest Mexican consulate (even from Mexico) to seek help. Consular officials can file inquiries with U.S. agencies, track lost items, and sometimes arrange shipment of personal property. For example, if a migrant was removed without an ID or money left in U.S. custody, the consulate can coordinate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to send those documents or funds to Mexico. Consulates also advise deportees on filing the necessary forms (in some cases a Form G-711 for property claim or a letter to the ICE field office).
- NBC San Diego: "What happens to people's belongings when they're deported?" https://www.nbcsandiego.com/nbc-7-responds-2/what-happens-to-peoples-belongings-when-theyre-deported/3737261/
- VisaVerge: "Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation?" Do You Lose Ownership of US Property After Deportation?
- American Immigration Council: "Deported with No Possessions" Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council
- Border Report: "Mexico offering free legal clinics in US" Mexico offering free legal clinics in US | Border Report

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the U.S. after returning to this country?

Wages and Labor Claims: If a deported person was owed wages by a U.S. employer or had a pending workers' compensation or discrimination case, U.S. labor laws still apply despite their absence. The key challenge is pursuing the claim from abroad. Here, a significant mechanism is the partnership between Mexican consulates and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Mexican consulates host Labor Rights Weeks and maintain Memoranda of Understanding with DOL to assist Mexican workers. In practice:

- The DOL's Wage and Hour Division has a system to collect back wages from employers and hold them for workers. It doesn't matter if the worker no longer lives in the U.S. The DOL even has an online tool to search for uncollected back wages. Mexican consulates help deportees use this tool or file new claims.
- Consulates often act as intermediaries. For example, in a 2024 case, the DOL recovered $1.4 million for 36 Mexican engineers in California who had been underpaid; the DOL explicitly noted it "works closely with the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego" to ensure workers know their rights and get their due. If those engineers had returned to Mexico, the DOL and consulate would coordinate to get the money to them (via check or consular payment).

- Mexico also has an NGO called Global Workers Justice Alliance that partners with consular networks. They operate a cross-border attorney network so that if, say, a Mexican farmworker is deported but had a wage theft claim, a U.S. lawyer and a Mexico-based "defender" will work together to continue the case and communicate with the worker. This is informal but effective in some instances.

Additionally, under U.S. law (18 U.S.C. §1596), if the deportee was a victim of human trafficking or certain crimes, they can still pursue civil damages against perpetrators in U.S. courts from abroad. Mexico's Foreign Ministry and NGOs often facilitate such cases by connecting deportees with U.S. pro bono attorneys. Similarly, deportees eligible for U.S. victim compensation funds or settlements (e.g., from a class action labor lawsuit) can claim their share – consulates help by providing mailing addresses, notarizing documents, and even using their trust accounts to forward payments.

- The Mexican Foreign Ministry's PALE (Programa de Asistencia Legal a Mexicanos en el Exterior), while primarily for legal defense, also extends to post-deportation civil matters. Through PALE, consulates sometimes hire U.S. lawyers for indigent nationals to, for instance, finalize a divorce or collect unpaid wages after the person is removed.
- Each Mexican consulate has a Department of Community Affairs which, working with hometown associations, can help coordinate transporting belongings. For example, if a migrant left household goods in the U.S., sometimes community networks will assist in sending them back or selling them and sending proceeds.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM): In voluntary return cases (where migrants elect to go back with IOM help), IOM provides a luggage allowance or ships personal effects. For forced deportations, IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programs in Mexico don't automatically cover asset recovery, but could provide advice or referrals, especially in cases of highly vulnerable returnees who need to retrieve assets to avoid destitution.
- U.S. Department of Labor: Recovery of $1.4M for Mexican engineers
  US Department of Labor recovers over $1.4M in back wages, damages for 36 Mexican engineers employed by General Dynamics subsidiary in San Diego | U.S. Department of Labor
- SSA: U.S.-Mexico Social Security Agreement
  https://www.ssa.gov/international/Agreement_Pamphlets/mexico.html
- LegalClarity: "Can You Collect Social Security After Deportation?"
  Can You Collect Social Security After Deportation? - LegalClarity
- IRS: Totalization Agreements
  Totalization agreements | Internal Revenue Service

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the U.S. and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

The United States and Mexico have established several formal agreements governing the repatriation of Mexican nationals. These agreements aim to ensure that deportations (also called repatriations) are conducted in a safe, orderly, and humane manner, and they outline responsibilities for both countries. Key bilateral frameworks include:

- Local Repatriation Arrangements (2016): The most comprehensive update came in February 2016 when Department of Health and Safety and Mexico's government signed nine localized agreements, one for each major border region (California/Baja California, Arizona/Sonora, etc.). These arrangements, negotiated under the Repatriation Strategy and Policy Executive Coordination Team (RESPECT) mechanism, standardized repatriation practices. Core provisions found across these arrangements:
  - Humane Scheduling: No night-time deportations. All nine agreements stipulate that routine repatriations will not occur between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM, a significant change from prior years when nearly 20% of removals happened in the late night/early morning hours. Stopping late-night drop-offs reduces the risk to migrants, who used to be left in border cities in the middle of the night when shelters were closed and crime risk was high. Exceptions require special coordination (for example, if an emergency removal must occur, Mexican

authorities must be alerted and agree to receive the person).

- Designated Ports and Times: The agreements specify exactly which ports of entry will be used for repatriation and during what hours. Both sides agreed to 12 official repatriation locations (11 on the land border and the Mexico City airport for certain flights). By fixing locations, Mexico can staff those places with reception personnel (INM, Grupo Beta, Red Cross) at expected times, and prevent the U.S. practice of "lateral repatriation" (moving migrants to far-off border sectors) unless coordinated.
- Advance Notification: U.S. authorities (CBP/ICE) must provide advance lists of people to be repatriated each day to Mexican immigration officials, including details on any medical needs or minors, so Mexico can prepare. Consular officials are notified of vulnerable cases.
- Property Return: As discussed above, each arrangement contains language that DHS should return all personal property to the migrant at the time of release. This includes money and valuables (with a feasible method if direct handover isn't possible).
- Special Measures for Vulnerable Populations: Unaccompanied minors, persons with serious medical conditions, and others require extra steps. For example, unaccompanied Mexican children must be repatriated through specific ports in daytime and only after Mexican child welfare authorities are present to receive them, ensuring they aren't handed off to criminal elements. Both governments also agreed to improved screening to make sure Mexican children who might have protection needs aren't inadvertently treated as simple deportees. Similarly, migrants with mental health issues or injuries are to be transferred along with their medical records and directly to Mexican health officials or shelters that can care for them.
- Family Unity: Whenever possible, family members being deported at the same time should be kept together during processing and returned together at the same location. This intended to stop the previous practice of splitting family units (like sending a father to one city and mother/children to another).
- Consular Access: The arrangements reinforce obligations under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations that Mexican consular officials can communicate with and assist nationals in U.S. custody prior to repatriation. In some border sectors, Mexican consulates have the right to physically be present at removal points or to interview their nationals just before deportation to verify any issues.

- Interior Repatriation Programs (2004, 2012, 2019): In addition to border agreements, the U.S. and Mexico have deals for interior repatriation, meaning flying deportees into Mexico's interior to avoid border congestion and immediate re-crossings. One early example was the 2004 Arizona Safe Repatriation Program, a summer program of voluntary flights to Mexico City for Mexican migrants who agreed to be flown home rather than just bused to Nogales. This evolved into the Mexican Interior Repatriation Program (MIRP). An MOU in 2012 made MIRP a regular joint operation: ICE would fly certain deportees (especially those from central/southern Mexico, or repeat crossers) from the U.S. interior to an interior airport in Mexico, with Mexico's Secretariat of Governance (Interior Ministry) receiving them. After a hiatus, the program resumed in 2019 under a new arrangement between ICE and Mexico's INM. Under the current understanding:
  - Mexico agrees to accept aircraft charters of deportees at designated southern airports (recently, Guadalajara and Mexico City; in late 2025, also Tapachula for certain flights).
  - The U.S. pays for the flights; Mexico handles onward transportation within Mexico. This cooperation is not a treaty per se but an operational agreement; ICE issues press releases with the Ministry of Interior acknowledging the partnership.
  - The spirit is humanitarian: flying migrants closer to home communities, and also a security aspect: reducing the strain on border cities. These flights are coordinated through diplomatic notes rather than a public treaty, but they are an important part of bilateral repatriation policy.

- Historic Framework (2004 MOU): In 2004, under the Fox and Bush administrations, the two countries signed a "Safe, Orderly, Dignified Repatriation" agreement, which was a precursor to RESPECT. It established a Joint Repatriation Committee that met regularly to set broad principles: that Mexico would always receive its nationals, that both sides would work to avoid loss of documents and money, and that deportations of vulnerable people (women, children) would preferably be in daylight and at safer ports. Much of this was reaffirmed and made explicit in 2016, but the 2004 accord was the first to officially use terms like "dignified repatriation." That agreement also started the practice of biannual meetings which later became the RESPECT annual meeting.
- Other Bilateral MOUs:
  - There are local-level agreements, such as arrangements between specific Mexican consulates and U.S. Border Patrol sectors. For instance, the Mexican Consulate in El Paso and the Border Patrol have a local protocol (Appendix to the main arrangement) on how quickly consular officials are notified of apprehensions of Mexican minors, and how they coordinate repatriation at the local bridge. Similar side-agreements exist in San Diego/Tijuana (covering coordination for persons with disabilities, etc.). These are essentially implementing details under the national umbrella.
  - Information-sharing MOUs: Mexico and the U.S. exchange biometric data of deportees under arrangements to combat human smuggling and track repeat offenders. While not directly about repatriation logistics, these agreements (between ICE/CBP and INM) ensure that both sides confirm the identity and nationality of individuals to prevent wrongful or unsafe removals (e.g., not sending a non-Mexican to Mexico by mistake, or identifying criminals).
- American Immigration Council: "New U.S.-Mexico Repatriation Agreements"
  New U.S.-Mexico Repatriation Agreements Seek to Protect Returning Migrants - American Immigration Council
- DHS Fact Sheet: RESPECT Coordination Team
  Repatriation Strategy and Policy Executive Coordination Team Fact Sheet
- ICE: Interior Repatriation Initiative
  US and Mexico resume interior repatriation initiative | ICE

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Mexico's treatment of deported individuals is not only guided by domestic policy and bilateral accords, but also by international law and commitments. Several international obligations shape Mexico's duty to ensure that repatriation is conducted safely, dignifiedly, and with respect for human rights:

- Right to Return and Non-Refoulement: Under international human rights law, every country must accept the return of its own nationals. This is reflected in Article 12(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country." Mexico upholds this by enshrining in its Constitution that no Mexican can be refused entry. This means Mexico has an obligation to receive deported Mexicans without delay and cannot legally banish or exile them. Additionally, while the right to return covers citizens, Mexico also has obligations regarding non-nationals who are deported to its territory. As a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1984 Convention Against Torture, Mexico must adhere to non-refoulement – not sending anyone (Mexican or foreign) to a place where they face persecution or torture. In repatriation context, this mainly applies if Mexico receives third-country nationals from the U.S.: Mexico cannot then deport those individuals onward to their home countries if they have a valid fear (they must be given a chance to seek asylum in Mexico). For Mexican nationals, non-refoulement doesn't directly apply (since Mexico is home), but the principle underscores Mexico's duty to treat returnees humanely and not push them into danger (for example, ensuring that if indigenous Mexican deportees are sent to unfamiliar border areas, they are helped to safely reach their own communities, thereby not abandoning them to peril).
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW): Mexico ratified this UN convention in 1999. It explicitly

addresses return and reintegration. Article 67 obliges States Parties to cooperate in facilitating the orderly return of migrant workers to their state of origin and, for those in a regular status, to promote conditions for "durable social and cultural reintegration". In practical terms, this means Mexico has committed to work with host countries (like the U.S.) to make sure returns are not chaotic or abrupt without preparation. The cooperation seen in the bilateral arrangements (advance notice, no night deportations, etc.) fulfills this to some extent. Article 67(2) especially guides Mexico's efforts to provide programs (training, employment help) to returning migrants to facilitate reintegration – an obligation Mexico reflects in initiatives such as "Somos Mexicanos" and "México Te Abraza" that provide jobs links, education, and healthcare to deportees (these programs can be seen as implementing the "promoting adequate economic conditions" clause of Article 67). The convention also emphasizes that migrant workers should not lose their acquired rights due to expulsion – e.g., Article 22 ensures that expelled migrants maintain rights to wages or social security (hence Mexico must allow deportees to claim U.S. pensions or benefits, and not tax or confiscate them unfairly). Overall, the ICRMW sets a legal expectation that Mexico treat returning migrants with dignity equal to citizens and address vulnerabilities – it's a key reason Mexico frames its deportee assistance as a rights obligation, not charity.

- UN Smuggling of Migrants Protocol (2000) and Trafficking in Persons Protocol (2000): Mexico is party to both protocols supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. These protocols contain provisions about the return of victims and smuggled migrants:
  - The Trafficking Protocol (Art. 8) requires that States facilitate and accept the return of their trafficked nationals with due regard for their safety. It also urges states to offer travel documents and to prefer voluntary return for victims. For Mexico, this means if a Mexican national was trafficked abroad and is being returned (deported or repatriated), Mexican authorities must cooperate and ensure that person isn't put in harm's way upon return (e.g., taken straight to a shelter or given protection from traffickers). In the broader sense, it reinforces the idea of "safe and dignified" repatriation, since trafficking victims are especially vulnerable.
  - The Smuggling Protocol (Art. 18) similarly obligates States to accept their nationals without undue delay and ensure the return is orderly and with respect for the person's rights and dignity. Art. 18(5) explicitly says returns should be carried out "in an orderly manner and with due regard for the safety and dignity of the person". Mexico's acceptance of its deported citizens from the U.S. aligns with this: it promptly readmits them, and the bilateral process is intended to be orderly. The "dignity" aspect is broad but gives international legal backing to Mexico's grievance if, say, U.S. deportations were conducted in a degrading way. Mexico could cite this in diplomatic protests if needed (e.g., if migrants were shackled excessively or dropped in life-threatening situations, violating their dignity or safety).
  - These protocols also highlight Mexico's obligation to provide consular assistance (trafficking protocol encourages it) and ensure travel documents are provided. Mexico indeed issues emergency passports or laissez-passer for any national being deported if they lack a passport, fulfilling a technical obligation to facilitate return.
- Treaties on Consular Relations and Human Rights: The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR) 1963 gives consulates the right to help their nationals. Mexico's proactive consular protection in deportation cases (ensuring due process, connecting with deportees to prepare them) is partly an exercise of its VCCR rights. Also, general human rights treaties – e.g., the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), which Mexico has ratified – require humane treatment and respect for human dignity (ACHR Art. 5). Although primarily constraints on government in how they treat people within their jurisdiction, when Mexico receives deportees, it must uphold those rights: for instance, providing medical care to a sick deportee is in line with the right to humane treatment. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in cases like Vélez Loor vs. Panama (2010), has concretely said that migrants (even if undocumented) must be treated with dignity and that mass expulsions without due process violate human rights. Mexico aligns with this by, for example, not

jailing deported persons simply for having been undocumented abroad and by giving them information on their rights and available remedies.

- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018): Although not legally binding, Mexico was a leading proponent and the first signatory of this UN compact. Objective 21 of the GCM is directly about return and reintegration, committing states to "cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return…and ensure that our nationals are duly received… in full respect for the human right to return to one's own country" and to create conditions for sustainable reintegration. Mexico's current policies mirror these commitments: "México Te Abraza" (launched 2025) is explicitly about comprehensive reintegration (jobs, health, education), fulfilling the GCM's call for post-return support. Additionally, Mexico's insistence on individual case assessment and not accepting collective expulsions (e.g., it refused to receive large groups without prior coordination during the end of Title 42) aligns with the Compact's stance against collective expulsion and for due process. While the compact isn't enforceable law, Mexico treats it as guiding principles.

- Inter-American Human Rights System: Mexico is subject to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Commission and Court. The Inter-American Principles on the Human Rights of All Migrants (2019) emphasize dignified return. The OAS has a Working Group on Protection of Migrants which has guidelines similar to the UN's. By following those, Mexico avoids international criticism. For example, one obligation is to ensure deported persons can exercise their civil rights (like registering their U.S.-born children in Mexico, or being able to access justice for any crimes against them during migration). Mexico has accordingly adjusted its laws to make civil registry easier for children of deportees and set up mechanisms to report any abuse by U.S. authorities (via CNDH agreements with U.S. counterparts).

- Protection of Children: Mexico is party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). CRC Article 3 requires the child's best interests to be a primary consideration in all actions concerning them. For repatriation, this means any Mexican child being deported should be handled in a way that prioritizes their welfare. Mexico, through agreements and practice, has child welfare officials present at repatriation and provides special shelters for unaccompanied minors rather than treating them like adult deportees. This fulfills its international obligation to provide care and not subject children to risk. The Inter-American Court's Advisory Opinion OC-21/14 (which Mexico requested) on migrant children's rights clarified that States must ensure special protection during repatriation of children, and it frowned on detention of child migrants. Mexico has largely complied by not detaining child returnees and instead immediately handing them to family or DIF (child services).

- UN OHCHR: Migrant Workers Convention (Article 67)
  International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | OHCHR

- UNODC: Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants
  Migrant Smuggling

- UN Migration Network: Global Compact for Migration – Objective 21
  GCM Objective 21 - Dignified return and reintegration | United Nations Network on Migration

- Mexico's Foreign Ministry: Migration Policy and GCM
  GCM Objective 21 - Dignified return and reintegration | United Nations Network on Migration

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the U.S. in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Mexico's consular network in the United States (the largest consular presence any nation has, with 50 consulates across the U.S.) plays a pivotal role in protecting and assisting Mexican nationals at every stage of the deportation process. Essentially, the consulates are the first responders for Mexicans facing removal and a continuing source of support even after they've been removed. Their involvement can be broken down into phases:

Pre-deportation (While in the U.S., including detention):

- Legal Assistance and Advice: As soon as a Mexican national is detained by ICE or Border Patrol, they have the right to contact their

consulate. Mexican consulates run a 24/7 protection hotline (CIAM) and respond to thousands of calls from detainees or their families. Consular officers ensure detainees know their rights and often connect them with immigration attorneys or nonprofits. Through the PALE program, consulates fund legal representation for Mexicans in certain cases (especially those with strong humanitarian claims or facing wrongful removal). For example, if a long-time Mexican resident with no criminal history is picked up, the consulate might pay for a lawyer to fight their case or to seek bond. Consulates also send "observations" or letters to immigration courts attesting to a person's ties or requesting consideration, and sometimes serve as intermediaries in U visa or T visa applications for victims of crime/trafficking, which can halt a deportation.

- Document Provision: Many Mexicans in the U.S. lack identity documents, which can complicate their immigration case or later removal. Consulates provide or replace passports, consular ID cards (Matricula Consular), and birth certificates on request. Notably, during immigration court proceedings, having identification can help with bond or humanitarian release. Moreover, if someone agrees to voluntary departure, having a passport ready speeds their return. Consulates regularly visit detention centers to hold "document fairs". As part of a 2019 joint initiative, Mexico streamlined issuing birth certificates in U.S. consulates free of charge for nationals in removal proceedings.

- Monitoring Treatment and Conditions: Mexican consular staff periodically visit immigration detention centers to check on the welfare of Mexican nationals. They interview detainees about conditions, any abuse, medical needs, etc. If problems are found, consuls advocate with facility management or ICE. For instance, if a Mexican detainee is not receiving needed medication, the consulate will press ICE to provide it. Consulates also protest if a national's due process is violated (e.g. if someone wasn't given consular notification or access – though U.S. compliance on consular notification has improved, consulates stay vigilant).

- Preventative Outreach: Consulates engage in community outreach (the Ventanilla de Salud program and "Know Your Rights" workshops). They encourage migrants to have an emergency plan (power of attorney, dual nationality for U.S.-born kids, etc.) in case of deportation. By doing so, consulates indirectly mitigate the hardships of deportation beforehand. Additionally, Mexico launched mobile apps like "MiConsulmex" and in 2025 "ConsulApp Contigo", which migrants can use to quickly notify their consulate if they are detained by ICE. This ensures consulates can intervene early in the process.

- Advocacy and Negotiation: Mexico's consulates often negotiate with U.S. authorities regarding the timing or manner of specific deportations. For example, if a Mexican national is the parent of young U.S. citizen children, a consulate might request a short deferment to allow arrangements for the kids. They might also advocate for alternatives to detention for health cases. While the U.S. isn't obliged to comply, ICE frequently does coordinate – a testament to the working relationships consulates have built (e.g., a consulate might arrange to pick up an elderly sick national directly from an ICE facility rather than have them transported in shackles).

During Deportation (Removal Day):

- Consular Presence and Reception: According to the 2016 agreements, Mexican consular officials can be present at repatriation points for vulnerable cases. In practice, consulates often send a representative to ports of entry when large groups are being removed or if there's a special case (like a high-profile deportee or someone who expressed fear about return – in which case the consulate double-checks they were given asylum screening). This presence helps ensure U.S. officers follow protocols (consuls have, for instance, intervened if a deportee was about to be sent without their belongings or if family members were separated in vehicles).

- Emergency Support: If a deportee has an acute issue at the moment of removal – e.g., a medical emergency or a sudden legal development – consular officials can raise it. There have been cases where, moments before deportation, a court granted a stay; consuls coordinate with ICE to halt the removal literally at the gate. Or if someone arrives at the border handcuffed and the U.S. intends to remove them in restraints, consular staff might insist those be removed before the person crosses into Mexico, to avoid the appearance (and psychological impact) of delivering a person as if a criminal.

- Logistics Coordination: Consulates confirm that Mexican immigration (INM) is ready to

receive their nationals. If a deportation convoy is running late or early, the consulate communicates that to Mexican authorities at the border. Essentially, they are like air-traffic controllers for removals, making sure the "landing" in Mexico is smooth.

Post-deportation (After Arrival in Mexico):

- Continuity of Assistance: The moment a deportee is back in Mexico, the local INM/Seguro Migratorio offices take primary charge, but consulates don't simply drop the matter. They often follow up on individual cases, especially if children or legal matters remain in the U.S. For instance, consider a deported mother who left behind children in foster care in the U.S.; the Mexican consulate (in the U.S.) and Mexico's DIF (in Mexico) will work together to either have the children sent to Mexico or otherwise ensure the mother can participate in custody proceedings from abroad. Consulates act as liaisons between the deportee now in Mexico and any ongoing processes in the U.S. (courts, property sales, etc.).

- Document Recovery and Transmittal: If any personal documents or records couldn't be given to the migrant before departure (say the migrant's belongings were in an ICE storage in another state), the consulate will often receive those items and then send them to the person in Mexico. Many consulates, upon completing a deportation, prepare packets of the person's case file (e.g., their criminal record, custody documents, etc.) to give to the Mexican government or the individual, to help with their reintegration or any legal follow-ups.

- Family Reunification and Welfare Checks: Mexican consulates in the U.S. sometimes help the families of deportees who stayed in the U.S. – for example, if U.S.-born children remain, the consulate can help arrange travel documents for the kids to join the parent in Mexico (including registering them as Mexican citizens). Conversely, if a deportee had no family in Mexico, the consulate (through Mexico's network) might ensure a NGO or migrant shelter in Mexico follows up to assist that person. There is an emerging practice that consulates "refer" especially vulnerable deportees (like those with mental illness or those who lived decades in the U.S.) to specific civil society groups in Mexico for mentoring. This is informal but growing.

- Policy Feedback: Consulates observe trends and report back to Mexico's federal government. If they see systemic issues with how deportations are affecting nationals (e.g., a surge of deported veterans or a pattern of Mexicans with significant medical issues being removed without coordination), they compile reports that can lead to policy adjustments or diplomatic engagement. A real example: Mexican consulates documented cases of Mexican deportees who were U.S. military veterans with PTSD who needed medical attention. This prompted the Mexican government to create a program for deported veterans in 2018 (with support lines and expedited services).

Consular Partnerships and Initiatives:

- Ventanillas (Windows) in Consulates: These are service desks within consulates for health, financial education, and legal matters. Of relevance, many consulates have a "Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa" where Mexicans approaching deportation (or planning return) can get info on transferring educational credentials to Mexico or enrolling in Mexican schools. There's also a "Ventanilla de Retorno" pilot in some consulates specifically dedicated to those who want to return or are being returned, linking them with Mexican state migrant assistance offices.

- Collaboration with U.S. Authorities: Over years, Mexican consulates have built formal channels with DHS/ICE. For example, ICE field offices have "Consulate Liaison" officers who meet regularly with consular staff. Through these channels, consulates are informed of upcoming large removal operations and can prepare. Consulates in areas with high Mexican populations (e.g., Los Angeles, Houston) even set up rapid response teams during large-scale enforcement, working with local lawyers to ensure detained Mexicans get help – which indirectly affects deportation outcomes and ensures those ultimately deported have had due process.

- Post-Removal Legal Aid: If a Mexican national believes their deportation was wrongful or wants to appeal it from Mexico (perhaps via a motion to reopen), the consulates will often connect them with U.S. attorneys and convey documents. This was seen in the high-profile case of Juan Manuel Montes, a DACA recipient deported in 2017: the Mexican consulate in Calexico contacted him and his family, offered assistance, and monitored the litigation filed on his behalf in the U.S.. The consulate's support lent weight

to his claims and ensured he had access to counsel.

- WTTW Chicago: “Mexican Government Launches App to Help People Facing Deportation”
  Mexican Government Launches App to Help People Facing Deportation | Chicago News | WTTW
- Border Report: “Mexico offering free legal clinics in US”
  Mexico offering free legal clinics in US | Border Report
- American Immigration Council: “Deported with No Possessions”
  Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council
- Mexico’s Foreign Ministry: Consular Protection Examples
  The Mexican Government Supports Its Deported Citizens | Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores | Gobierno | gob.mx

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to this country from November 2024 to present.

Base de datos - datos.gob.mx

Unidad de Política Migratoria

Total Removed since Nov2024 to September 2025 112,260

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

The majority of Mexican nationals were returned via the traditional land border crossing points in Tamaulipas, Sonora, Baja California, Chihuahua, and Coahuila. For example, in the first four months of 2025, Mexican records show Tamaulipas received about 12,043 repatriated persons (roughly 28% of the total), Sonora ~7,238 (17%), Baja California ~6,874 (16%), Chihuahua ~5,290 (12%), and Coahuila ~2,609 (6%).

Interior Flights (PRIM Program): To avoid overwhelming border cities and to return people closer to their hometowns, the U.S. and Mexico operate the Interior Repatriation Program (PRIM). Under PRIM, many deportees – especially those from southern Mexico or those caught repeatedly at the border – are flown to airports in southern or central Mexico. Key reception points from November 2024 through 2025 included:

- Tapachula, Chiapas: Received flights from south Texas or Arizona dispersing migrants to Mexico’s southern border. (Chiapas accounted for ~4,215 returns in Jan–Apr 2025, ~10% of the total).
- Villahermosa, Tabasco: Another southern city used for repatriation flights (~2,817 returns in Jan–Apr 2025, ~7%).
- AICM/Benito Juárez (Mexico City) and AIFA (State of Mexico): Mexico City’s international airport and the newer Felipe Ángeles Airport together received several thousand deportees (AIFA alone handled ~2,193 in Jan–Apr 2025, ~5%). These flights typically carried migrants who were detained in the U.S. interior or who had multiple border crossing attempts.

Unidad de Política Migratoria

Sintesis_2025.pdf

ICE Flight Monitor: August 2025 Report - Human Rights First

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Tamaulipas 16 349

Sonora 9 141

Baja California 8 126

Chihuahua 7 325

Chiapas - 5 204

Tabasco 4 969

Coahuila 3 782

México 2 193

Base de datos - datos.gob.mx

Unidad de Política MigratoriaSintesis_2025.pdfMexico to open 25 shelters for deported migrants | Border Report

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S. of deported individuals to this country, if available.

	Subtotal		Total
	Men	Woman	
	100 840	11 420	112 260
Aguascalientes	1 268	107	1 375
Baja California	1 754	363	2 117
Baja California Sur	88	11	99
Campeche	390	43	433
Chiapas	8 929	841	9 770
Chihuahua	4 404	407	4 811
Coahuila	2 087	173	2 260
Colima	279	24	303
Ciudad de México	2 287	308	2 595
Durango	2 203	160	2 363
México	5 339	670	6 009
Guanajuato	8 342	561	8 903
Guerrero	7 288	1 190	8 478
Hidalgo	2 920	266	3 186
Jalisco	3 483	337	3 820
Michoacán	6 242	784	7 026
Morelos	1 191	175	1 366
Nayarit	1 303	109	1 412
Nuevo León	1 112	161	1 273
Oaxaca	6 104	1 007	7 111
Puebla	5 906	1 007	6 913
Querétaro	2 044	75	2 119
Quintana Roo	164	29	193
San Luis Potosí	3 790	234	4 024
Sinaloa	3 683	364	4 047
Sonora	2 216	253	2 469
Tabasco	996	109	1 105
Tamaulipas	4 952	484	5 436
Tlaxcala	648	97	745
Veracruz	6 334	814	7 148
Yucatán	220	35	255
Zacatecas	2 873	222	3 095

Unidad de Política Migratoria

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

The main legal grounds for U.S. deportations to Mexico are: (1) entering or living in the U.S. without lawful permission, (2) violating immigration laws (like overstaying or fraud), and (3) committing deportable crimes.

Removal Ground (INA Section)Approx.

Entered without inspection or no valid visa (INA §212(a)(6)(A), §212(a)(7))~180,000≈60% (majority)

Criminal conviction(s) – Deportable crimes (INA §237(a)(2))~100,000≈33% (about one-third)

Visa overstay / status violation – Overstayed or violated terms of legal visa (INA §237(a)(1)(B),(C))~30,000≈10% (small minority)

Other grounds – Fraud, false claims, security risks, etc.< 5,000< 2% (very limited)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Removals

removal_without_recourse.pdf

Immigration Removals Statistics 2025 | ICE Deportation, Criminal Arrests – The Global Statistics

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

- Article 6 of the Constitution: Guarantees the right of access to public information and the principle of maximum disclosure. The 2024 amendment tweaked oversight mechanisms but did not eliminate the right itself. It actually broadened it by stating that all digital data

held by authorities is public, barring valid exceptions.

- Constitutional Reform (Dec 2024): This reform dissolved INAI and several other autonomous agencies. It reassigned transparency and data protection functions to the federal executive (specifically, to the newly formed SABG). It mandated the creation of internal bodies to ensure compliance in each branch of government and established that unresolved transparency matters could be taken to court.
- General Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information (March 20, 2025): This new federal transparency law replaced the 2015 law. It reaffirms that every authority (executive, legislative, judicial, and autonomous entities) is an "obligated subject" that must respond to information requests. Key provisions:
  - Procedures: Agencies have 20 business days to reply to requests (extendable by 10), the same timeline as before. Responses should preferably be given in the format requested (e.g., providing data in Excel if asked).
  - Oversight: Instead of INAI, oversight lies with SABG's Transparency Unit and the internal transparency committees of each agency. The law created a coordinating office called "Transparencia para el Pueblo" under SABG to issue guidelines and aggregate reports.
  - Appeals: The formal "recurso de revisión" (appeal) to an autonomous body was eliminated. In its place, if an applicant disagrees with an agency's reply, they may first seek a reconsideration by the agency or SABG, but ultimately the remedy is a judicial review (amparo) before specialized FOI judges. The reform called for setting up special court sections to handle these cases swiftly, given the increased burden on the judiciary.
  - Proactive Transparency: Obligations for agencies to proactively publish information (such as budgets, organizational info, and statistics) remain largely in force. The new law emphasizes that datasets held by government entities should be published in open formats and updated (for instance, UPM's migration datasets). The intention is to make much information accessible without requiring a request.
- Personal Data Protection Laws (March 2025): Alongside the transparency law, new general laws on personal data (for public and private sectors) were passed. These replace INAI's data protection regulations. For FOI, they mean that requesters cannot obtain personal data about identifiable individuals unless it's their own data. In context, one can't get a list of names of deported persons (that would be classified as confidential personal data), but one can get anonymized or aggregated figures.

Transparencia | Instituto Nacional de Migracion

Atribuciones - Secretaría de Gobernación

https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGTAIP.pdf

Unidad de Política Migratoria

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Several government bodies collaborate to fulfill these legal requirements:

- Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM): The INM is the agency that actually carries out deportations (of foreign nationals from Mexico) and manages the repatriation of Mexican nationals returned from abroad. It operates the Sistema Integral de Operación Migratoria (SIOM), a database logging all migrant detentions, deportations, and repatriations. By law and practice, INM must collect detailed data for each "deportation event" – typically recording the person's nationality, age/sex, date of deportation, and the state or port of entry/exit involved. Internally, INM generates reports from SIOM for oversight and planning. While the INM itself does not always directly publish all raw data, it routinely provides data to the Migration Policy Unit for publication. The INM also publishes some data on its own website and in press releases. For example, INM's transparency portal provides quarterly updates on its operations, and sometimes the Commissioner of the INM will announce current deportation figures in press conferences or interviews (especially when there are spikes or changes in U.S. policy). However, the central conduit for

comprehensive data is the Migration Policy Unit's reports.

- Migration Policy Unit (Unidad de Política Migratoria, UPM): This unit, part of SEGOB's Subsecretariat of Population and Migration, is explicitly tasked with publishing migration statistics, as noted above. In compliance with its Article 21 mandate, the UPM regularly releases the "Boletín Estadístico de Movilidad y Migración Internacional", a statistical bulletin that includes deportation data. Historically, the UPM published an annual statistical yearbook; in recent years it has shifted to more frequent reporting:
  - Monthly Statistical Reports: The UPM posts monthly updates on key indicators, including the number of foreigners "presentados" (apprehended) and "deportados" (devoluciones) by INM, and the number of Mexican nationals "repatriated" from the U.S. These are often available on SEGOB's website (PoliticaMigratoria.gob.mx) under an open data format (Excel tables or CSV). For instance, the Boletín Mensual de Estadística Migratoria 2021 was published and made public; the Auditoría Superior de la Federación later examined it for consistency. The monthly bulletins break down deportations by nationality of the deportee, gender, and state of reception or expulsion, providing a detailed public record.
  - Annual Summary and Data Portal: The UPM also compiles an annual summary of migration statistics. Additionally, Mexico's government open data portal (datos.gob.mx) hosts datasets on migration. As of 2025, one can find datasets titled "Eventos de repatriación de mexicanos desde EE. UU." and "Eventos de deportación de extranjeros por INM" which contain historical data by year. These datasets are a direct result of the transparency policy; they are updated regularly and can be downloaded by the public.
  - Policy Reports: In addition to raw data, the UPM occasionally issues analytical reports or infographics (for example, profiles of repatriated Mexicans, or quarterly migration trend reports) which interpret the data for public consumption. These are part of fulfilling the duty to "disseminate information relevant about the migratory phenomenon", effectively making the data not only open but understandable.
- Other Entities:
  - The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), through its consular network, sometimes reports figures on Mexican nationals repatriated (particularly in press releases about joint repatriation programs with the U.S.). However, these are usually drawn from INM/UPM data.
  - INEGI may include a section on international migration in its annual statistical abstracts, ensuring the data are accounted as official national statistics.

Transparencia | Instituto Nacional de Migracion

Atribuciones - Secretaría de Gobernación

https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGTAIP.pdf

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Mexico's Constitution guarantees the public's right to access government information, including deportation statistics. However, a December 2024 constitutional reform abolished the Instituto Nacional de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos Personales (INAI), the independent transparency agency, and shifted oversight of transparency laws to the federal Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Ministry (SABG). In March 2025, new legislation took effect replacing INAI with a government-run system – meaning requests for deportation data are still legally allowed, but are now handled and reviewed within the executive branch rather than by an autonomous body.

The process for obtaining deportation data remains largely the same for the public. One can file an access-to-information request through the Plataforma Nacional de Transparencia (PNT), Mexico's online FOI portal. Agencies like the Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) – which holds records on deportations and repatriations – still have Transparency Units that receive these requests and must respond, typically within 20 working days (with a possible 10-day extension, as under prior law). For example, a request can be made for the number of persons deported from the U.S. to Mexico by year, or for datasets on

repatriated Mexican nationals. The INM (under the Interior Ministry) remains a “sujeto obligado” (obligated entity) under the new General Transparency Law of 2025, so it must release statistical data upon request, barring any legitimate exemption. Importantly, Mexico’s Unit of Migration Policy (UPM) still proactively publishes many aggregate statistics – such as monthly and annual totals of repatriations – on its website and the government open-data portal, providing much deportation data without even needing a request.

With INAI gone, a new General Law of Transparency and Public Information Access took effect on March 20, 2025. This law continues to guarantee the public’s right to information and applies to a broader range of authorities (now explicitly including agencies across all branches of government). It created a department called “Transparencia para el Pueblo” (“Transparency for the People”) as a decentralized body under the SABG to handle information access matters. Unlike INAI, this new body lacks constitutional autonomy – its leadership is appointed within the government (the reform replaced INAI’s former seven independent commissioners with an internal commissioner or committee under the ministry). Every federal entity, including the INM, now has an internal “transparency authority” (in total 18 across the federal executive, legislative, judicial branches and other sectors) responsible for ensuring compliance with FOI obligations. In practical terms, when you request deportation data from INM today, the agency’s own Transparency Unit processes the request and its parent ministry’s oversight office (rather than INAI) would handle any review of that response.

Ley General de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública

Following INAI’s closure: Changes in Transparency and Access to Information in Mexico – Directorio Legislativo

Constitutional reform dissolving the autonomous constitutional body – INAI | Press Release | Chambers and Partners

Las nuevas leyes de transparencia y protección de datos personales: retrocesos y oportunidades perdidas | R3D: Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales

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Nicaragua

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Nicaragua

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

After a removal order (or expedited removal), most Nicaraguans are held in ICE detention centers for weeks or months while their case is processed. Example: Reuters describes a man, Erlinton Ortiz, who spent about five months in US immigration detention before being deported to Nicaragua in January 2020, after a brief hearing where he had no lawyer and did not understand why he was being deported.

Deportees are placed on charter flights contracted by ICE ("ICE Air"), often routed through Alexandria, Louisiana or Texas. An investigation by Confidencial identified charter flights operated by Global X Airlines carrying Nicaraguan deportees from US ICE hubs (primarily Alexandria and Houston) to Managua.

On these flights, people are typically handcuffed and shackled (hands, waist, ankles), escorted by guards, and have little or no information about what will happen on arrival (this pattern is well documented in ICE deportation practices generally, including for other destinations, even when not Nicaragua-specific).

Once the plane lands in Managua, flights with deportees are taken to a remote runway used for private flights, away from the main terminal and other travelers. According to Confidencial, the National Police (Airport Security Directorate) and the Army's Airport Protection Detachment take charge of the arrival, along with immigration officials.

The regime has stopped publishing details about what is done with them. Even weekly Interior Ministry bulletins that used to mention "steps taken" with returnees were discontinued, and recent flights have been received "in absolute silence."

A Nicaraguan opposition coalition, Concertación Democrática Nicaragüense (CDN), has collated accounts of what happens next to deportees and self-returnees: Their June 2025 newsletter states there are "increasing reports of deportees and self-deportees that upon arrival at the airport in Managua are transferred to prison." Some are allowed to go home after one or two days of incarceration, but during that time they and their families are threatened.

Example case: Reuters reports the case of Erlinton Ortiz, deported from the US back to Nicaragua in January 2020: After landing, he says he was taken to an interrogation room, where Nicaraguan police told him he would be charged with terrorism and that he should wait for a police appointment at his parents' home. Fearing arrest and torture, he instead fled to a safe house and eventually left Nicaragua again to seek asylum.

For those who are released instead of kept in long-term detention: CDN reports that once released, deportees are "subjected to permanent surveillance that prevents them from leading a normal life," and they end up exposed to discrimination and harassment like other opposition figures. The same newsletter stresses there is a "credible and reasonable fear that the life and integrity of the returnees is at risk," given the regime's documented use of torture, imprisonment, and other abuses against perceived opponents.

Sources:

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2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

There is no robust, government-run reintegration system in Nicaragua. Most deported/returned Nicaraguans rely on a patchwork of: (i) faith-

based organizations (especially Caritas and its migration ministry), (ii) limited UN migration (IOM) return/reintegration programmes, (iii) basic public health services and a few humanitarian projects, and (iv) family and informal networks. The Nicaraguan state does not provide protective reintegration services; in many cases it is the source of risk.

1. Church-based support (Caritas & Pastoral de Movilidad Humana)

Caritas Nicaragua and the Catholic Church's Pastoral de Movilidad Humana (PMH) are the closest thing to a "re-entry support system" within the country: (i) PMH is a department of the Nicaraguan Bishops' Conference, attached to Caritas. Its mandate is to "watch over, protect, assist and defend the rights of migrants and refugees in the national territory and in destination countries," promoting solidarity and rights protection. (ii) Caritas Nicaragua and its diocesan branches run social-assistance and livelihood projects (food, basic health support, small livelihood grants, rights-education, etc.), sometimes with funding from Caritas Spain, IOM and other church networks. These services are limited, uneven geographically, and under pressure from the regime, which has harassed and shut many NGOs.

2. IOM (UN Migration) return and reintegration programmes

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) does not generally control forced deportations from the US, but it does run Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVR) programs that touch Nicaragua: (i) AVR programs in Central America aim to provide "dignified, safe, regular and orderly return," including travel, documentation, and reintegration support (small cash, counseling, and referrals). Monitoring reports show Nicaraguan returnees assisted under AVR (for example, stranded migrants returning from El Salvador to Nicaragua with IOM help). IOM media materials highlight an AVR case of a Nicaraguan man returning from Mexico to his home community in Mulukukú, where IOM staff conduct post-return surveys and provide follow-up support. AVR is mainly for people who choose to return from transit countries (Mexico, El Salvador, etc.). US deportees placed on ICE removal flights to Managua usually do not pass through AVR pipelines, so they won't automatically get IOM reintegration assistance.

3. Health and psychosocial support

There is no special health system for deportees, but a few actors are relevant: Public hospitals and clinics are formally open to everyone, including deportees, though quality and access can be poor and politicized.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) once provided medical and mental-health care in Nicaragua to people affected by political and social violence, including those traumatized while detained.

Within the Catholic network, Caritas and related congregations (e.g., Sisters of the Good Shepherd) run projects funded by Caritas and partners that include: (i) emergency assistance to vulnerable families, (ii) some mental-health and psycho-social activities, and (iii) rights-based work on migration, trafficking and violence.

4. Legal & human-rights support

Independent human-rights organizations inside Nicaragua have been heavily repressed, but there are still some channels: (i) The Pastoral de Movilidad Humana / Caritas network explicitly includes rights defense for migrants as part of its mission, including in Nicaragua itself. (ii) The opposition platform Concertación Democrática Nicaragüense (CDN), now operating largely from exile, documents abuses against returnees and advocates internationally for a "right to safe return" and for states not to send people back to face repression.

Most legal-rights support therefore comes before deportation (lawyers in the US), or from exile organizations advocating from abroad, rather than from robust on-the-ground mechanisms once someone is back in Nicaragua. Therefore, there are some resources - mostly church-based and IOM-linked - but they are limited, patchy, and operate within a context where the government can persecute returnees rather than support them.

Sources:

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https://www.hrw.org/es/world-report/2025/country-chapters/nicaragua

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

1. No state reintegration system – the state is often the main risk: Nicaragua has no government program devoted to helping deportees with housing, jobs, counseling, or documentation on return. Opposition groups like Concertación Democrática Nicaragüense (CDN) explicitly say exiles cannot safely return because there are no guarantees of safe return, given the systematic repression.
2. No guaranteed protection from persecution on return: CDN and other civil-society actors report cases where returnees (including deportees) are taken from the airport to prison, threatened for 1–2 days, and then placed under continuing surveillance. The UN Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua (GHREN) describes a “machinery of persecution” that follows citizens abroad and punishes them through denial of documents, entry bans, and intimidation of relatives. That same machinery can also be used against people who do manage to re-enter.
3. Shrinking NGO / church-based safety net: Caritas Nicaragua and church-linked initiatives are the main actors that try to help migrants and returnees, but they are small and unevenly distributed. Since 2018 the government has shut down thousands of NGOs, including humanitarian, medical and Catholic charities that once provided health, social and livelihood support. This leaves Caritas and a shrinking circle of tolerated groups trying to cover a national problem with very limited resources and under political pressure.
4. Very limited economic & livelihood support: There is no evidence of state-run job placement, cash-assistance, microcredit, or vocational training programs targeted at deportees. The UN migration agency IOM runs Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) in the region, but these programs are for voluntary returns from other countries (e.g., Mexico or Central America), with small-scale assistance (transport + a modest reintegration package).
5. Legal aid and access-to-justice gaps: Human Rights Watch and other observers describe Nicaragua’s justice system as co-opted, with arbitrary prosecutions and no effective domestic remedies for victims of state abuse. Independent human-rights NGOs and legal-aid groups have been deregistered or forced into exile, drastically reducing in-country legal support for deportees who are detained, threatened, or stripped of property.
6. Health & psychosocial support gaps: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) confirms it closed its last projects inside Nicaragua in 2019; its current work with Nicaraguans is mainly outside the country or along migration routes.
7. Information and coordination gaps: There is no transparent, public protocol for how deportees are processed or what services they can access.
8. Withdrawal from international protection systems: Recent reporting notes that, as of 2025, Nicaragua has withdrawn from multiple UN bodies, including the UN Human Rights Council and other UN agencies, and has severely limited cooperation with international mechanisms.

Sources:

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4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

There is no evidence of any new, substantial Nicaraguan government program specifically aimed at helping deported/returned individuals. The trend is actually in the opposite direction: (i) No current reintegration plan is being reported. Recent regional coverage notes that, unlike other Central American countries that publicly discuss reinsertion of returnees, Nicaragua provides no data and has not outlined any reintegration policy for deportees, even as deportation flights from the US hit record levels. (ii) Past small-scale collaboration with IOM existed but is not "new." IOM previously worked with the Nicaraguan government on job-creation and economic reintegration projects for vulnerable people and returned migrants, as part of a regional initiative, but these were pilot-type programs from earlier years, not newly launched efforts. (iii) The government is actually pulling away from international support mechanisms. In 2025, Nicaragua announced its withdrawal from several UN agencies, including IOM and UNHCR (Acnur), cutting off exactly the institutions that typically support reintegration and protection for migrants and returnees.

So, beyond limited, older IOM-linked projects and ad hoc church/NGO help, there are no credible, recently launched or currently developing Nicaraguan state initiatives specifically designed to assist deported individuals.

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5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

There is no dedicated Nicaraguan law or national policy that comprehensively governs the social/economic reintegration of deported individuals. Below is what currently exists in Nicaragua in terms of laws / regulations / policies that touch reception and (to a lesser extent) reintegration of people returning, including those deported from the US:

1. Ley No. 761 – Ley General de Migración y Extranjería (2011, as later reformed). What it is: Nicaragua's core migration law. It regulates entry and exit of nationals and foreigners, stay of foreigners, and creates the Consejo Nacional de Migración y Extranjería and the Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME). Reception of returnees / deportees: Article 1 says the law covers "el ingreso de las personas nacionales y extranjeras al territorio… y el regreso de él" – i.e., it formally governs return of Nicaraguans as well as admission of foreigners. The National Council is tasked with recommending actions and programs that promote the link with the country and the "inserción de los nicaragüenses residentes en el exterior" (insertion / (re)integration of Nicaraguans living abroad). DGME's functions include organizing all migration services, guaranteeing rights of migrants, and coordinating with other institutions, which is the legal basis for how deported nationals are processed on arrival. (iv) There is a specific mandate to facilitate the return of child victims of trafficking, including fee waivers for

indigent victims, which is a narrow, protection-oriented reception rule. However: Ley 761 does not create a structured reintegration program for deported adults (e.g., jobs, housing, psychosocial support). It is mainly about border control, status, and institutional powers.

2. Ley No. 1228 (2024) – Ley de Reforma y Adiciones a la Ley No. 761 + Penal Code changes. What it is: A 2024 reform that significantly amends Ley 761 and adds penalties to the Penal Code. It explicitly empowers the DGME to deny entry to people considered a threat. Key rule affecting deported individuals: The reform gives DGME authority to "denegar el ingreso al país de personas que puedan menoscabar la soberanía nacional o representen un riesgo social" ("deny entry to persons who may undermine national sovereignty or represent a social risk"). Media and human-rights coverage note that this has been used to block Nicaraguans from re-entering, effectively legalizing destierro (banishment) and refusals of entry for critics and other targeted groups. For deported Nicaraguans, this reform is now a central legal filter: (i) some will be cleared to re-enter under Ley 761, while (ii) others may be refused boarding or admission if DGME labels them a "social risk" or threat, despite their nationality.

3. Ley No. 535 – Ley Especial de Incentivos Migratorios para los Nicaragüenses Residentes en el Extranjero (2005) + its implementing Normativa. What it is: A special law designed to "promover la repatriación de ciudadanos nicaragüenses residentes en el exterior" (promote repatriation of Nicaraguans abroad) by granting tax and customs exemptions. Main contents relevant to reintegration: Exempts eligible returnees from import duties on their household goods (menaje de casa) and one vehicle, plus some professional equipment, subject to conditions (minimum 5 years' residence abroad, one-time use, etc.). The Normativa issued by the Ministry of Finance via Acuerdo Ministerial No. 23-2005 lays out the administrative procedure for applying for these incentives (submission to the ministry, timelines, documentation, etc.). IOM Nicaragua explicitly lists Ley 535 under the heading "Retorno" as part of the country's national migration-related legislation. Legally, this is Nicaragua's only explicit "repatriation / reintegration" law, but: It is economic and narrowly targeted (tax breaks on goods), not a social reintegration program. It's mainly designed for voluntary returnees who meet the 5-year residence and other requirements; deportees may or may not qualify in practice.

4. Specialized protocol: Protocolo para la repatriación de niños, niñas y adolescentes víctimas de trata. What it is: A specific protocol listed among Nicaragua's national migration-related norms that sets procedures for repatriating child victims of trafficking. This governs coordination between state institutions to ensure safe return and reception of trafficked children and adolescents. It is protection-focused and applies to a limited sub-group of returnees (victims of trafficking), not to deported adults in general.

Direct bottom line. To summarise the laws:

1. Ley 761 (general migration law) – regulates entry/exit and gives migration authorities broad powers over how returnees (including deportees) are processed and admitted;

2. Ley 1228 (2024 reform to Ley 761) – now allows DGME to deny entry to nationals and foreigners deemed "risk social" or a threat to sovereignty, which directly affects whether deportees can even return;

3. Ley 535 + its Normativa – an economic repatriation incentive law (duty-free household goods/vehicle) for some voluntary returnees, tangentially relevant to deportees but not designed for them;

4. A trafficking-victim repatriation protocol – a narrow protection instrument for child victims of trafficking.

Everything beyond that (psychosocial support, job placement, housing, etc.) for deported Nicaraguans is not mandated in law and tends to depend on ad hoc programs, mainly led or co-led by international organizations rather than a robust Nicaraguan reintegration statute.

Sources:

https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Migration-Policy-Regimes-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean-Immigration-Regional-Free-Movement-Refuge-and-Nationality.pdf

https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CF_Nicaragua-v.1.pdf

https://www.asamblea.gob.ni/assets/constitucion.pdf

https://cepei.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Constitucio%CC%81n-de-Nicaragua-1987.pdf

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/b34f77cd9d23625e06257265005d21fa/ca59cddd3915990606258be4007a5380

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

No. Nicaragua does not have any known, deportee-specific legal protections that guarantee access to health care, housing, employment or education as a special category. What does exist instead is only general (non-deportee-specific) rights: (i) The Constitution gives all Nicaraguans social rights: (a) Right to work (Art. 57), (b) Right to education and culture (Art. 58), (c) Right to health (Art. 59), and (d) Right to adequate housing (later consolidated articles on vivienda). (ii) The Migration Law (Ley 761) says that foreigners in Nicaragua enjoy the same individual and social rights as Nicaraguans under the Constitution and human-rights treaties, but it does not create a special status or extra guarantees for people who have been deported. (iii) Other sectoral laws (for older persons, people with disabilities, etc.) do create explicit protections for those groups in health, work, housing and education, showing that Nicaragua knows how to legislate targeted protections—but no such targeted regime exists for "deported individuals." Analyses of Nicaraguan law on migrants, refugees and returnees describe access to services in terms of migrant or refugee status and residence permits, not deportation status, and emphasize that deportees often face rights violations, not special guarantees.

So, while deported Nicaraguans theoretically fall under the same broad constitutional rights to health, housing, work and education as any other national (and some foreigners), there are no specific legal protections or benefits in Nicaraguan law that are uniquely tied to being a deported person.

Sources:

https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Migration-Policy-Regimes-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean-Immigration-Regional-Free-Movement-Refuge-and-Nationality.pdf

https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CF_Nicaragua-v.1.pdf

https://migracionesnicaragua.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/ley-535-ley-especial-de-incentivos-migratorios-para-los-nicaragueses-residentes-en-el-extranjero.pdf

https://migracionesnicaragua.wordpress.com/leyesmigratoriasyconexas/leyes-nacionales/

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Yes. In practice, deported Nicaraguans are subject to systematic security screening on arrival, and some do face short-term detention and interrogation, especially if they are (or are perceived as) government opponents.

Screening on arrival: Investigative reporting shows that deportation flights to Managua are handled directly by the National Police and Army, not like normal commercial flights. Planes are sent to a remote private-flight runway, where airport police, army airport-security units, and migration officers manage arrivals out of public view, which implies a closed, security-heavy screening process. Separately, sources inside Nicaragua's migration system told El País that the regime requires airlines to send passenger lists three days before arrival so agents can "review one by one" those returning. Officials reportedly check passengers online (especially social media) and maintain blacklists; anyone with posts seen as critical of the government can have entry automatically denied.

Detention and interrogation: A joint statement by the opposition platform CDN, republished in La Prensa in June 2025, says that **"daily" there are growing reports of deported and self-deported Nicaraguans who, upon arrival at Managua airport, are taken to prison; some are released after one or two days of incarceration, during which they and their families are threatened, and afterwards placed under permanent surveillance. A Reuters piece documenting one deportee's experience describes him being taken from the airport directly to an interrogation room, where police told him he would be charged with terrorism and instructed him to await further contact at his parents' home—he instead went into hiding and fled again. Broader reporting and UN-backed analyses describe a pattern in which returnees considered "vendepatrias" (traitors) or critics face arbitrary detention, threats and surveillance on or

after return, even when they are not formally charged with any crime.

All deported individuals appear to go through tight, security-run screening on a secluded part of the airport, whereby (i) some particularly those with real or perceived political activity—are detained for hours or days for interrogation, sometimes in prison, and then monitored, while (ii) others, especially those without a political profile, seem to be processed and released the same day, but in a context of secrecy and risk of arbitrary enforcement.

Sources:

https://confidencial.digital/en/english/usa-sends-flight-with-deported-nicaraguans-from-miami/

https://confidencial.digital/english/ortega-secretly-receives-hundreds-of-nicaraguans-deported-by-trump/

https://ondalocalni.com/noticias/3115-nicaragua-dictadura-detencion-deportados-estados-unidos/

https://cdnicaraguense.org/boletin-31-el-derecho-al-retorno-seguro/

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-heads-record-nicaragua-deportations-despite-ortega-criticism-2021-11-25/

https://www.infobae.com/america/america-latina/2024/11/28/el-regimen-de-daniel-ortega-legalizo-denegar-el-ingreso-al-pais-a-nicaraguenses-que-representen-un-riesgo/

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/9e314815a08d4a6206257265005d21f9/5c50ce4ad5bcb20406257905006c3242

https://www.vostv.com.ni/nacionales/43348-nicaragua-urge-de-protocolo-de-seguimiento-a-migra/

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Formally, deported Nicaraguans use the same legal mechanisms as any other Nicaraguan citizen to recover or renew their documents. There is no special "deportee" procedure in Nicaraguan law.

1. National ID card (cédula / "Cédula de Identificación Ciudadana")

In February 2025, Nicaragua adopted a new Ley de Identificación Ciudadana, which replaces the 1993 ID law. It creates a single identification number from birth to death and says the State must ensure identification for every person for their whole life. The Consejo Supremo Electoral (CSE), through its Dirección General de Identificación, is responsible for issuing and updating the ID card. The CSE's official "Cedulación" portal describes three relevant procedures: (i) Nuevo cedulado (first ID), (ii) Reposición (replacement when lost/stolen/damaged), and (iii) Renovación (when data or address changes, or card expires).

How a deported person can recover/renew a cédula: Once back in Nicaragua, a deported citizen legally follows the same steps as anyone else: New ID (if they never had a cédula or cannot prove it) – "Nuevo Cedulado" requires: (i) Birth certificate from the municipal registry or CSE, (ii) copy of at least one parent's ID (or another relative if parents are unavailable), (iii) at least two "official documents" such as a passport, school ID, diploma, social-security card, or "Carta de Orden de Libertad" if the person was previously deprived of liberty. If they lack all supporting documents, they may instead present two witnesses (with their own IDs) who attest to the person's identity and community ties. Renewal of an existing ID – "Renovación" is done in person at any CSE cedulación office; the law treats it as an ordinary civil-administrative procedure, with a set fee (currently C$300).

2. Passport (pasaporte nicaragüense)

The Ley General de Migración y Extranjería (Ley 761) and its regulations make the Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME), under the Interior Ministry, responsible for: (i) Authorizing the issuance and "revalidation" of migration documents, including passports, and (ii) Handling matters of granting, loss and recovery of nationality. The law and regulations also allow Nicaraguan consulates to issue or renew passports abroad in certain cases (e.g., provisional passports to minors born abroad to Nicaraguan parents). Official guidance from the Interior Ministry (MIGOB) explains that first-time and renewal passport applications can be initiated online and finalized at DGME offices; typical requirements include a previous passport (if any), ID card, photos and proof of payment. Reporting on Nicaraguan consulates in the US shows that, for passport renewal abroad, people must present: (i) a birth certificate issued in the past 10

years, and (ii) their cédula if they have it, or failing that, a foreign residency card, work permit or another country's passport, plus photos and fees.

How a deported person uses these mechanisms: A deported Nicaraguan who has been returned to Nicaragua and remains recognized as a citizen can: Later apply for a Nicaraguan passport at DGME in country, using their cédula (or, if they are still reconstructing their ID, alternative documents plus birth certificate). If they are deported to a third country or later move abroad, they can request or renew a passport at a Nicaraguan consulate following the same general requirements as other nationals.

3. Nationality and the practical possibility of recovering documents

On paper, Ley 761 gives DGME authority not only over passports but also over the "otorgamiento, pérdida y recuperación de la nacionalidad nicaragüense" (granting, loss and recovery of nationality).

However, recent laws and constitutional reforms have radically changed how this works in practice: Ley 1055 (2020), Ley 1145 (2023), later reforms and a 2025 constitutional change allow the government to strip people of nationality for vaguely defined "treason to the homeland", and to make Nicaraguans lose their nationality if they acquire another citizenship. Human-rights analysis and independent media document that these powers are used selectively against perceived opponents, including deported or expelled critics: (i) people have been denationalized and expelled (e.g., the 222 political prisoners sent to the US), (ii) their civil-registry entries, cédulas and passports are cancelled, and (iii) in some cases, registry records are reportedly erased, making it impossible to prove identity or obtain documents.

Additional reporting shows a broader pattern of creating "apátridas de facto" ("de facto stateless"): authorities confiscate or refuse to renew passports, report them as "stolen," and block re-entry, leaving thousands of Nicaraguans abroad without valid documents or a way to regularize their status.

For deported individuals this means: If the regime still recognizes them as Nicaraguan citizens, the legal mechanisms above (CSE for ID; DGME/consulates for passports) are in principle available. If they have been stripped of nationality or unofficially black-listed, there is no clear, effective legal avenue to "recover" their ID documents inside Nicaragua: The same authorities that control nationality and documents also decide on loss and "recovery," and there is no transparent, independent procedure or judicial remedy that is known to work in practice.

Sources:

https://www.cse.gob.ni/sites/default/files/documentos/nueva_ley_de_identificacion_ciudadana.pdf

https://www.cse.gob.ni/cedulacion

https://www.cse.gob.ni/es/cedulacion/nuevo-cedulado

https://www.cse.gob.ni/es/cedulacion/renovacion

https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/2011_leygeneralmigracionyextranjeria_nic.pdf

https://www.laprensani.com/2025/04/02/nacionales/3455755-migracion-detalla-requisitos-para-tramitar-pasaportes-desde-el-extranjero

https://confidencial.digital/migrantes/asi-funcionan-los-ultimos-consulados-nicas-que-quedan-en-estados-unidos/

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Administrative procedures

Yes – everyone arriving, including deportees, is subject to administrative migration control by DGME:

1. Ley 761 and its Regulation give DGME authority over border checks, document control and admission decisions, and they specifically mention deported migrants arriving via the Managua airport (e.g., exempting them from custody/transfer fees), confirming that their treatment is handled as a migration-administrative process, not by a court.

2. A 2024 reform (Ley 1228) to Ley 761 now explicitly empowers DGME to deny entry to any person – including Nicaraguans – deemed able to "undermine national sovereignty" or a "social risk," effectively legalizing refusal of entry and banishment as an administrative decision.

3. If DGME issues an adverse resolution (e.g., refusal of entry, other sanctions), Ley 761 formally allows administrative review and appeal of DGME decisions (arts. 180–183),

but these are internal administrative remedies, not automatic access to a court.

Judicial procedures

1. There is no automatic judicial procedure triggered just because someone has been deported to Nicaragua.
2. Expulsion and deportation as a judicial measure exist only for foreigners, and even then require a court sentence if their activities threaten public order or sovereignty; they are not applied to Nicaraguan nationals coming back.
3. If, after arrival, authorities decide to prosecute a returnee (for example under national-security or other criminal charges), that proceeds under ordinary criminal law and courts, but this is discretionary and not inherent to deportation itself.

Bottom line: On paper, deported Nicaraguans who are admitted are just ordinary citizens under migration and nationality law. They do go through administrative screening and can face administrative decisions (including denial of entry), but there is no special judicial process that automatically applies to them simply because they were deported.

Source:

https://www.sela.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ley-no-761-2011-ley-general-de-migracion-y-extranjeria-nicaragua.pdf

https://rimap.unhcr.org/node/42978

https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2014/9565.pdf

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. Informate Migrante
   - Mission: To connect migrants, returnees, and displaced people with legal, emotional, educational, and medical assistance services.
   - Type of help: Legal advice, psycho-emotional care, humanitarian aid, school reintegration.
   - Collaborations: State institutions and local organizations.
   - Website: https://informatemigrante.org/servicios/directorio-deservicios-de-atencion/
2. Church World Service (CWS) Latin America and the Caribbean
   - Mission: To defend the rights of migrants, displaced persons, deportees and refugees in Latin America.
   - Type of aid: Accompaniment, protection, political advocacy, training, humanitarian aid.
   - Collaborations: CNEN, ACT Alianza, REDODEM, CASM, Abba A.C.
   - Website: https://cwslac.org/nuestro-trabajo-personas-migrantes-y-refugiadas/
3. NAHRA
   - Mission: Promote and defend the human rights of Nicaraguan migrants and refugees who fled persecution.
   - Type of aid: Human rights advocacy, international advocacy, community support.
   - Collaborations: International organizations and human rights networks.
   - Website: https://nahraglobal.org/es/inicio.html - Website not functional as of today's date.
4. Asociación Enlaces Nicaragüenses
   - Mission: To empower Nicaraguan migrants in defense of their human rights and social development.
   - Type of aid: Documentation centre, training, political advocacy, social communication.

- Collaborations: Rednam, Central American Women's Fund (FCAM), independent media.
- Website: https://rednam.org/asociacion-enlaces-nicaraguenses/

5. Acción Verapaz

- Mission: To help the most disadvantaged peoples from an ethic of solidarity and commitment.
- Type of aid: Healthcare, education, childcare, labour inclusion.
- Collaborations: Local counterparts in Nicaragua.
- Website: https://www.accionverapaz.org/que-hacemos/proyectos/latinoamerica/nicaragua

6. Manos Unidas

- Mission: To improve the living conditions of vulnerable communities through development projects.
- Type of aid: Non-legal assistance in health, human rights, food and livelihoods.
- Collaborations: Indigenous, rural and urban collectives.
- Website: https://www.manosunidas.org/pais/nicaragua

7. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Mission: To promote humane and orderly migration, supporting sustainable development and humanitarian assistance.
- Type of aid: Non-legal assistance. Voluntary return, social and economic reintegration, help for victims of trafficking.
- Collaborations: Ministry of Labor of Nicaragua, local governments (Ocotal, Somoto, Chinandega).
- Website: https://www.iom.int/es/news/la-oim-ayuda-las-victimas-de-la-trata-en-nicaragua-rehacer-sus-vidas-y-fortalece-las-capacidades-regionales

8. Hogar Luceros del Amanecer Foundation

- Mission: To reduce poverty through comprehensive programs in education, health, nutrition and community development.
- Type of aid: Non-legal. Support for pregnant teenagers, pregnancy prevention, medical assistance, educational workshops.
- Collaborations: Public institutions, private companies, international cooperation.
- Website: https://hogarlucerosdelamanecer.org/ongs-y-fundaciones-en-nicaragua-2024/

9. La Esperanza Foundation

- Mission: To provide quality education to children in poverty.
- Type of aid: Non-legal. Tutorials, scholarships, practical workshops.
- Collaborations: Ministry of Education, local communities.
- Website: https://hogarlucerosdelamanecer.org/ong-en-nicaragua-2025/

10. ADEINIC Foundation

- Mission: Transforming lives through educational, emotional and material support.
- Type of aid: Non-legal. Education, family assistance, overcoming economic barriers.
- Collaborations: Local communities.
- Website: https://hogarlucerosdelamanecer.org/ongs-y-fundaciones-en-nicaragua-2024/

11. Huella de Paz Foundation

- Mission: To promote gender equality and community resilience.
- Type of aid: Non-legal. Art courses, food packages, medical services.
- Collaborations: Local communities.
- Website: https://hogarlucerosdelamanecer.org/ongs-y-fundaciones-en-nicaragua-2024/

12. Gloria Quintanilla Cooperative

- Mission: Community empowerment led by women.
- Type of aid: Non-legal. Education, environmental protection, self-improvement.
- Collaborations: State Institutions.
- Website: https://hogarlucerosdelamanecer.org/ongs-y-fundaciones-en-nicaragua-2024/

13. Good Neighbors Nicaragua

- Mission: To promote self-sufficiency, community development and children's rights.
- Type of aid: Non-legal. Community development, humanitarian response, training.
- Collaborations: Local networks and volunteers.
- Website: https://goodneighbors.org.ni/quienes-somos/

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

- Legal Framework
  - The General Law on Migration and Aliens (Law No. 761) establishes that Nicaragua must regulate migratory flows in accordance with the international human rights instruments ratified by the country. It recognizes the right to state protection and the promotion of human rights, including those of migrant workers and members of their families.

Source:

General Law on Migration and Aliens - http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/fb812bd5a06244ba062568a30051ce81/5c50ce4ad5bcb20406257905006c3242

- Proposed reforms
  - In November 2024, an amendment to Law 761 was approved that gives the government powers to deny entry, residence or nationality to people considered a threat. This has been criticized by human rights organizations for criminalizing political dissent.

Source:

Rights Across Borders Foundation - https://rab.cr/el-impacto-de-la-nueva-ley-migratoria-de-nicaragua-en-las-solicitudes-de-refugio/

Consortium Legal - https://consortiumlegal.com/2025/07/29/reforma-migratoria-en-nicaragua-cambios-de-interes-de-2024/

- Barriers to accessing legal assistance
  - The main barriers include lack of information, limited resources, and political restrictions that prevent the return of deported people. Arbitrariness in the application of immigration laws also limits access to justice.

Source:

Acceso Latino - https://accesolatino.org/orientacion-legal/asesoria-legal-gratuita-para-personas-en-proceso-de-deportacion/

Divergentes - https://www.divergentes.com/te-explicamos-los-pasos-legales-si-la-dictadura-de-nicaragua-te-impide-regresar-tras-el-parole/

- Are there regional inequalities? Yes. Access to justice varies significantly between regions. Rural areas and the Caribbean Coast have greater difficulties in accessing legal services, due to the lack of infrastructure and trained personnel.

Source:

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights - https://www.iidh.ed.cr/images/Publicaciones/Justicia/Acceso%20a%20la%20justicia%20y%20derechos%20humanos%20en%20Nicaragua.pdf

Conclusion

Although Nicaragua recognizes the right to legal assistance in its legal framework, in practice there are significant barriers that limit effective access to these services for deportees. Recent reforms have raised concerns about their impact on human rights and access to justice.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Nicaragua is a party to several international treaties on human rights and refugee protection:

American Convention on Human Rights International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol

These treaties have constitutional hierarchy in Nicaragua, which means that, in theory, they must

be applied directly by the national authorities. [A/HRC/42/1...nts.un.org]

Sources:

https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g19/274/96/pdf/g1927496.pdf

https://www.ohchr.org/es/documents/country-reports/ahrc5720-situation-human-rights-nicaragua-report-united-nations-high

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

While there does not appear to be clear evidence of specific programmes aimed exclusively at deportees, there are broader legal education and human rights awareness initiatives:

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):
  - It promotes the World Programme for Human Rights Education, which includes educational materials, training for professionals and grants to civil society organizations.
  - The Helping Communities Together (ACT) project provides technical and financial support to local initiatives working on human rights education, which could include deportees if organizations approach it that way

Source:

https://www.ohchr.org/es/resources/educators/human-rights-education-training/human-rights-education-and-training-materials-and-resources

- OpenGlobalRights
  - He has documented intensive human rights education programs that promote civic engagement and empowerment, although examples come primarily from the US and other contexts. These models could serve as a reference for implementing similar initiatives in Nicaragua.

Source:

https://www.openglobalrights.org/new-human-rights-education-program-to-promote-civic-engagement/?lang=Spanish

- Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI):
  - It develops the Education in Human Rights, Democracy and Equality program, with a focus on democratic coexistence and social inclusion in Ibero-America. Although it is not focused on deportees, its awareness and training campaigns can be adapted by local actors to serve this population.

Source:

https://oei.int/areas-de-trabajo/educacion-en-derechos-humanos-y-ciudadania/

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Resources in the United States

- ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) stores belongings during detention. Someone in the U.S. can be authorized to remove them with a letter (or with a power of attorney). https://www.ice.gov
- Freedom for Immigrants Hotline and assistance for detained individuals and their families. https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/recursos

Legal organizations that can help: RAICES: https://www.raicestexas.org

NIJC (National Immigrant Justice Center): https://immigrantjustice.org

Catholic Charities USA: https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union): https://www.aclu.org

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

There are currently no specific bilateral programs between the United States and Nicaragua that

formally guarantee that deported Nicaraguan citizens do not lose their property, wages, or financial assets in the U.S. However, there are legal mechanisms, diplomatic precedents, and consular resources that can help in these cases.

Deportation does not eliminate the legal right to property, bank accounts, or wages in the U.S.

- It is recommended to establish a power of attorney prior to deportation for a third party to manage assets or accounts.
- You can claim unpaid wages or bank accounts from abroad, with the help of lawyers or family members in the U.S.
- You can convert your bank account into a Foreign Nationals account via Form W8 https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw8ben.pdf

Resources such as USA.gov – Unclaimed Money can also be accessed.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

- Memorandum of Understanding on Repatriation (2018) - signed between the Government of Nicaragua and the U.S. embassy, this agreement seeks to facilitate the safe and orderly return of Nicaraguan citizens deported from the U.S.
- Establishes a model of documented entry for deportees.- Guarantees that the process is carried out legally, efficiently and respects human rights.- Improves coordination between Nicaraguan and U.S. institutions.

Source:

https://2017-2021.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-nicaragua/

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Nicaragua's international obligations to ensure safe and dignified repatriation are grounded in international human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and UN principles of non-discrimination and the best interests of children and migrants. Nicaragua must adopt return and reintegration policies that respect the dignity and needs of migrants, guaranteeing non-discrimination and, in the case of children, their best interests and right to be heard.

Source:

https://www.ohchr.org/es/migration/global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-gcm

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

- Nicaraguan consulates in the U.S. provide support to deported Nicaraguans, such as family reunification assistance, documentation, and help with social and economic reintegration, while pre-removal activities include guidance on deportation proceedings and legal remedies, although effectiveness varies depending on the availability of resources and the country's political situation.
- Before removal: Legal advice: Consulates can offer information and guidance about deportation proceedings in the U.S.
- Documentation: They help manage the issuance of identity documents to facilitate return to Nicaragua and reintegration. Connection to support networks: They can connect Nicaraguans with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that offer legal and humanitarian assistance.
- After expulsion: *Support for family reunification*: They facilitate contact and communication with relatives in Nicaragua for reunification. *Social reintegration*: Provide information and support for adjustment to life in Nicaragua, including assistance in finding employment and housing.
- Psychological help: They may offer or refer to psychological support services to deal with the trauma of deportation.
- Resource constraints: The effectiveness of consular support may be limited by limited financial and human resources. Political volatility: The political situation in Nicaragua

can affect the consulate's ability to effectively provide support and coordinate with local authorities.

- In summary: The role of consulates is multifaceted, ranging from legal preparation to reintegration assistance, but they face significant challenges in providing comprehensive and effective support to deported nationals.

Source:

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/b34f77cd9d23625e06257265005d21fa/4386813d65826cbd0625750800630b3b?OpenDocument

Nicaraguan consulates in the United States are limited to the Embassy in Washington D.C. and consulates general in New York and Miami. Consulates previously located in Los Angeles, Houston, and New Orleans closed in February 2024.

Active Consulates:

Embassy of Nicaragua in Washington, D.C.: It is the main diplomatic headquarters and offers consular services. Consulate General in New York: Handles the jurisdiction of several states on the East Coast. Consulate General in Miami: Covers the jurisdiction of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Audiovisual source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa2IkBcJHms

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

- The estimated number of deportations from the United States to Nicaragua between November 2024 and September 2025, based on official trends is 13,950 people.
- Month / Deported Persons
- Nov 2024 – 850
- Dec 2024 – 920
- Jan 2025 – 1100
- Feb 2025 – 1250
- Mar 2025 – 1300
- Apr 2025 – 1280
- May 2025 – 1350
- Jun 2025 - 1400
- Jul 2025 – 1450
- Ago 2025 – 1500
- Sep 2025 - 1550

Sources:

https://www.ice.gov/statistics

https://www.trac.syr.edu/foia/ice/20120104/

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

- After reviewing official U.S. and Nicaraguan government sources, no direct evidence was found published on sites such as ICE.gov, DHS.gov, TRAC.syr.edu, or Nicaragua.gob.ni that specifically confirms the airports or arrival locations in Nicaragua of deportation flights from the U.S. during the period from November 2024 to September 2025.
- However, in previous reports and in statements by Nicaraguan migration authorities, it has been confirmed that:
  - Historically confirmed arrival airport: Augusto C. Sandino International Airport (MGA) – Managua, Nicaragua
  - This has been the only airport used for deportation flights from the U.S. in previous years, and there is no official evidence to indicate a change in this practice.

Official sources consulted:

ICE – Removal Statistics - https://www.ice.gov/statistics

DHS – Department of Homeland Security

TRAC – Syracuse UniversityGovernment of Nicaragua

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Although there is no government data explicitly indicating the cities of resettlement, it is known that many deportees return to their places of origin or seek refuge in areas where they have family members or support networks. The cities most mentioned in human rights reports and advocacy organizations are:

Managua – For being the entry point and capital of the country. León – University city with the presence of social organizations. Estelí – Urban center in the north with economic activity. Matagalpa – Mountainous region with rural communities. Chinandega – Border area with agricultural activity. Masaya – City with a strong cultural and political presence.

Official and reliable sources consulted:DHS – Department of Homeland Security - https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/07/07/dhs-terminates-tps-nicaragua-it-was-never-meant-last-25-years

OHSS – Office of Homeland Security Statistics - https://ohss.dhs.gov/topics/immigration/immigration-enforcement/monthly-tables

La Mesa Redonda – Interview with human rights defender - https://www.lamesaredonda.net/destacados/92508-mas-de-40000-nicaraguenses-tienen-orden-de-deportacion-en-eeuu/

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Demographic data for people deported from the United States to Nicaragua between November 2024 and September 2025 are limited in terms of country-specific breakdown. However, official sources from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) offer general information on the characteristics of the deportees, which include Nicaraguan citizens.

Overall Demographic Summary (according to DHS and ICE)

Age: Most deportees are between 18 and 45 years old. There is a significant presence of young adults (25–35 years), especially men.

Sex: Men predominate, representing approximately 75% of deportees. Deported women are often accompanied by minor children or part of family units.

Family situation: Many deportees are fathers or mothers, some with children born in EE.UU.Se report cases of forced family reunification, where minors are later sent or separated.

Educational level: Most have incomplete or complete secondary education. A smaller percentage have a technical or university education, especially those who lived longer in the U.S. 1.Years in the U.S. before deportation

Many deportees had resided in the U.S. for between 3 and 10 years, some even longer.

Some arrived as minors and were deported as adults, complicating their reintegration in Nicaragua.

Source:

Official sources:OHSS – Immigration Enforcement and Legal Processes Monthly Tables - https://ohss.dhs.gov/topics/immigration/immigration-enforcement/monthly-tables

ICE – Deportation Flight Releases - https://www.ice.gov/es/news/releases/dhs-ice-lleva-cabo-vuelos-de-deportacion-cada-semana

Yearbook 2024 – DHS - https://ohss.dhs.gov/topics/immigration/yearbook/2024

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

According to official sources from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS), the main legal and administrative reasons for deporting Nicaraguan citizens from the United States are grouped into three broad priority categories:

Main grounds for deportation

- Priority 1: Homeland Security, Border Security, and Public Safety

- Participation in terrorist or espionage activities.
- Attempted illegal entry through the border or port of entry.
- Antecedentes penales graves (delitos graves o “aggravated felonies”).
- Participation in organized criminal gangs.

- Priority 2: Misdemeanors and Recent Violations
  - Conviction for three or more misdemeanors (excluding traffic violations).
  - Conviction for significant crimes such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, illegal possession of weapons, drug trafficking, or DUI.
  - Recent illegal entry without being able to demonstrate continuous presence in the U.S. since before January 1, 2014.
  - Significant abuse of visa programs or visa waiver.
- Priority 3: Other immigration violations
  - Individuals with final order of removal issued after January 1, 2014.
  - Cases that do not fit into the above priorities but do not qualify for asylum or other legal protection.
- Applicable Legal Processes
  - Title 8 of the U.S. Code: Applies criminal consequences, five-year bars on re-entry, and prosecution for repeat offenders.
  - Expedited Removal: Applied to those who cross the border without authorization and do not qualify for legal protection.
  - Criminal background checks: All migrants are checked against databases before being released or deported.

Official sources:

DHS – Deportation Priorities Memorandum – https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/14_1120_memo_prosecutorial_discretion%281%29.pdf

OHSS – Immigration Enforcement Monthly Tables - https://ohss.dhs.gov/topics/immigration/immigration-enforcement/monthly-tables

DHS – Immigration System Explained - https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/42530

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

- Ley No. 621 – Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública
- This law guarantees the right of any person to request and receive public information from government entities. It establishes principles of access, publicity, transparency, and citizen participation. While it does not explicitly mandate proactive publication of deportation data, it obliges public institutions to provide such data upon request, unless classified as reserved.

Link:

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28$All%29/675A94FF2EBFEE9106257331007476F2

- Ley No. 761 – Ley General de Migración y Extranjería
- This law regulates migration procedures, including deportations. It assigns responsibilities to the Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería and the Ministry of Gobernación. However, it does not contain provisions requiring the public disclosure or reporting of deportation statistics.

Link:

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/%28All%29/93464552A14B474406258ADD006FD1BC

Conclusion: Nicaragua does not have specific laws mandating the proactive public reporting of deportation data. Nonetheless, Ley No. 621 provides a legal framework for citizens to request such information from public institutions.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

1. Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME)

DGME is the primary agency responsible for implementing migration policies, managing deportation procedures, and maintaining migration records. It operates under the Ministry of Gobernación.

Mandate Source: Ley No. 761 - Ley General de Migración y Extranjería

Link:

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/fb812bd5a06244ba062568a30051ce81/5c50ce4ad5bcb20406257905006c3242

2. Ministerio de Gobernación (MIGOB)

MIGOB oversees DGME and coordinates national migration policy. It is responsible for ensuring the enforcement of migration laws and managing deportation operations.

Mandate Source: MIGOB Institutional Overview

Link:

https://consuladosdenicaragua.com/gobernacion-nicaragua/

3. Instituto Nacional de Información y Desarrollo (INIDE)

INIDE compiles and publishes statistical data on migration, including entries and exits of nationals and foreigners. It contributes to the national data infrastructure used for policy-making.

Mandate Source: Compendio Regional de Fuentes de Datos sobre la Migración - OIM

Link:

https://lac.iom.int/es/resources/compendio-regional-de-fuentes-de-datos-sobre-la-migracion-nicaragua-junio-2024

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

In Nicaragua, access to deportation data is not explicitly mandated for public disclosure. However, it may be requested through general transparency mechanisms established by national legislation.

Ley No. 621 – Law on Access to Public Information

Ley No. 621, enacted in 2007, guarantees the right of any person to request public information from government entities. This includes data held in documents, archives, and databases. While the law does not specifically mention deportation data, it applies broadly to all public information unless classified as reserved.

Link to full text:

https://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28$All%29/675A94FF2EBFEE9106257331007476F2

- Ley No. 761 – General Law on Migration and Aliens
- Ley No. 761 governs immigration and deportation procedures in Nicaragua. It outlines the roles of the Ministry of the Interior and the Directorate General of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) in managing deportations. However, it does not include provisions for public reporting or proactive disclosure of deportation statistics.

Link to full text:

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/%28All%29/93464552A14B474406258ADD006FD1BC

- Procedures for Access
  - To access deportation data, individuals may submit a formal request to the relevant public institution, such as the DGME, under the provisions of Ley No. 621. Each institution is required to have an Office of Access to Public Information to handle such requests.

- Data Protection Considerations
  - Ley No. 787 – Ley de Protección de Datos Personales (2012) governs the handling of personal data in Nicaragua. While it protects sensitive personal information, it does not prohibit the release of anonymized statistical data, such as aggregated deportation figures.

Link to summary:

https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=transfer&c=NI

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Nigeria

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Nigeria

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

The U.S. will deport 85 of 201 detained Nigerians starting February 17, 2025, after all legal appeals are exhausted. Deportees include individuals convicted of crimes or immigration violations, and flights will land only in Lagos. Key concerns involve loss of remittances, reintegration difficulties, and limited time for deportees to prepare before repatriation.

85 Nigerians to Be Deported as U.S. Immigration Policies Tighten

Deportees often return to Nigeria with no financial security, facing stigma, economic hardship, and psychological trauma. Research stresses the need for structured reintegration programs, including mental health support, job training, and long-term assistance. Without these, returnees risk poverty, social exclusion, and re-migration attempts, perpetuating instability. Despite government claims of readiness, there is no clear strategy beyond reception, raising concerns about Nigeria's ability to manage the crisis effectively.

The Harsh Reality Of Deportation And Nigeria's Readiness

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Support for Nigerians Deported from the U.S.

Resources Available

- NEMA, NIS, NCFRMI, IOM, and partners conduct biometric registration, profiling, provide food, water, medical care, luggage handling, counseling, and logistics at Lagos and Kano airports.

  NEMA Receives 178 Nigerian Returnees From Niger in Kano

- Federal Government (Feb 2025) established a mental-health facility at Lagos Airport with British Council, offering counseling, depression/anxiety support.

  FG sets up mental health facility for Nigerian deportees from U.S. - DiasporaNG

- Since 2017, 14,216+ migrants returned; 7,511 received business skills training. Project packages include grants, vocational training, medical-fee assistance, and psycho-social services.

  Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration | IOM Nigeria | IOM Nigeria

- Provided tailored support to 450+ returnees (2017–21), focusing on vocational training, startup kits, gender-specific reintegration; shelter assistance to 45+ men in Lagos (2023)

  Patriotic Citizen Initiatives (PCI) | migration and reintegration support Nigeria

General comment, several of the government websites did not load so i did not add the links here.

- Nigerian Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM)
  - Role: Diaspora engagement, advocacy, and limited facilitation for returnees; often coordinates information and referrals, especially for high-profile or mass return situations.
  - Source: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng
- National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
  - Role: For survivors of trafficking (some deportees fall under this category). Provides shelters, psychosocial support, legal aid, medical care, and vocational training; coordinates with state task forces.
  - Source: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- State government initiatives
  - Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF): MSME loans/grants and vocational programs open to residents, including returnees.

- Source: Home | LSETF | Lagos State Employment Trust Fund

- International organizations and NGO programs
  - Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs): In Abuja, Benin City, Lagos; provide counseling, job/skills information, safe migration awareness, and referrals.
  - Sources: IOM Nigeria; MRC info pages and AVRR pages on IOM Nigeria site.
- UNHCR Nigeria (for specific protection cases)
  - Role: Protection screening and referrals for individuals with mixed-migration backgrounds and specific vulnerabilities; coordinates with NCFRMI and NAPTIP.
  - Source: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency | UNHCR Nigeria
- ICRC and Nigerian Red Cross
  - Role: Restoring family links, limited material support, and referrals for vulnerable returnees.
  - Sources: Nigeria | International Committee of the Red Cross; Nigerian Red Cross Society | Nigerian Red Cross
- Caritas Nigeria (Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria – CCFN)
  - Services: Livelihoods, psychosocial support, and community reintegration for vulnerable returnees in some dioceses; often project-based.
  - Source: Caritas Nigeria
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Nigeria
  - Services: Psychosocial support, education, and livelihoods in certain states; some activities include migrants/returnees.
  - Source: Nigeria - JRS
- ActionAid Nigeria
  - Services: Women and youth economic empowerment, social protection advocacy; some projects include returnees and trafficking survivors.
  - Source: ActionAid Nigeria

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Below is a concise, evidence-informed overview of common gaps and resource constraints faced by deported individuals arriving in Nigeria, both Nigerian citizens and non-citizens, mapped against the government institutions that do provide services. Official portals are linked for verification and contact, but many gaps persist due to capacity, coverage, or mandate limits.

Where services exist and typical gaps observed

1. Reception and immediate assistance at ports of entry
   - Existing institutions: Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Port Health Services, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), NCFRMI.
   - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
   - Port Health Services: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
   - NEMA: NEMA Nigeria – Official Site
   - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmidps.com.ng/wp/?page_id=387
   - Gaps:
     - Uneven coverage and surge capacity: Reception desks and coordinated joint briefings are stronger at major airports (e.g., Lagos, Abuja) but limited/episodic at secondary airports and land borders.
     - Limited temporary shelter/transport: NEMA's emergency relief is event-driven; routine, short-term accommodation and onward transport for individuals (outside mass returns) are not consistently available.
     - Inconsistent information provision: Rights/complaints briefings and multilingual materials may vary by location and shift.

https://zenodo.org/records/15222377/files/D3.1_WP3_Nigeria%20Dossier.pdf?download=1

New Publication Alert: GAPs-Funded Study on Return Migration in Nigeria — GAPs

2. Protection screening and specialized referrals
    - Existing institutions: NCFRMI (asylum/refugee referrals), NAPTIP (trafficking victims), state child-protection services.
        - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
        - NAPTIP acts/policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies | Portal: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
        - Child rights framework overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights
    - Gaps:
        - Caseworker and interpreter capacity: Limited trained screeners and language support affect timely identification of protection needs (asylum, trafficking, child protection), especially for non-English/French speakers.
        - Shelter and psychosocial services: NAPTIP shelters prioritize trafficking victims; broader safe accommodation for other vulnerable deportees (including non-citizens not meeting trafficking criteria) is scarce.
        - Consistent child-protection pathways: Implementation depends on state systems; availability of social workers, family tracing, and best-interests processes varies by state.

    NAPTIP and the battle against human trafficking in Nigeria – Tribune Online

    SituationAnalysisofChildreninNigeria.pdf

3. Legal aid, status resolution, and complaints mechanisms
    - Existing institutions: Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), NIS (immigration procedures/custody), Ministry of Justice/ACJA safeguards.
        - LACON: Home - Legal Aid Council
        - NHRC: National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission
        - Ministry of Justice: Federal Ministry of Justice
    - Gaps:
        - Limited immigration-specialized legal aid: LACON's mandate and resources are stretched; few practitioners focus on asylum/immigration detention. Access for non-citizens in short-term holding or remote locations is inconsistent.
        - Complaints follow-through: Deportees may struggle to navigate multi-agency complaints pathways; feedback loops and case tracking are not always transparent.
    - Documentation hurdles for Nigerians: Rapid issuance of emergency travel certificates abroad does not always translate into speedy post-arrival ID replacement (NIN/passport), delaying services.

    Nigerians in US Stranded, Unable to Renew Passports as NIN Portal Suffers Glitch - Latest News In Nigeria, Nigeria News Today, Your Online Nigerian Newspaper

    Returning Migrants Economic Reintegration

4. Reintegration supports (livelihoods, housing, health, MHPSS)
    - Existing institutions: NCFRMI (case management/AVRR coordination), NiDCOM (for Nigerians), Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), state social welfare/youth ministries; Port Health Services for initial screening.
        - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
        - NiDCOM: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng | Legal framework: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
        - FMLE: Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians
    - Port Health Services: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
    - Gaps:
        - Limited scale and continuity: Reintegration assistance is often

project-based and time-bound; waiting lists and geographic gaps are common outside major urban centers.

- Employment and skills linkage: Access to sustained job placement, seed capital, or vocational upskilling is uneven and not systematically tailored to deportees' profiles.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS): Beyond initial reception, ongoing MHPSS and community reintegration support are limited; referrals to public health facilities face capacity constraints.

- Housing insecurity: There is no deportee-specific transitional housing program; short-term accommodation relies on ad hoc arrangements or NGO support where present.

EVALUATION BRIEF EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT: NIGERIA: STRENGTHENING REINTEGRATION FOR RETURNEES (SRARP) - PHASE II

REINTEGRATION GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

5. Non-citizens who are inadmissible or in removal processes

- Existing institutions: NIS (inadmissibility/detention/removal), NCFRMI (asylum referral), NAPTIP (if indicators), Correctional Service where court-ordered detention applies.
  - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
  - Nigerian Correctional Service: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal
- Gaps:
  - Short-term holding conditions and access: Consistent access to legal counsel, interpreters, and communication with consulates can be variable in short-term immigration holding areas.
  - Alternatives to detention: Structured community-based alternatives are limited; detention may be used due to lack of supervised release options.
- Readmission/transfer coordination: Where bilateral arrangements exist, practical guidance for affected individuals is not always publicly available.

Nigeria Immigration Detention Profile – Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world

pub2024-043-l-analysing-migrant-detention-legal-frameworks_0.pdf

Multi-stakeholder Pledge: Developing Alternatives to Immigration Detention and Ending Immigration Detention of Asylum-Seeking, Refugee, Stateless and Migrant Children and their Families | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR

NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE DETENTION OF EXPATRIATES AND MIGRANTS – HAS THE IMMIGRATION ACT CROSSED THE LEGAL THRESHOLD?

6. Data, transparency, and coordination

- Existing tools: Inter-agency SOPs on Return/Readmission/Reintegration (NCFRMI), agency portals for regulations/circulars (NIS), emergency coordination (NEMA).
- NCFRMI publications (SOPs): ncfrmidps.com.ng
- NIS acts/regulations: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
- Gaps:
  - Public, up-to-date SOP access: Some operational guidance and readmission arrangements are not consistently posted or updated, limiting predictability for deportees and civil society.
  - Disaggregated data on returns and outcomes: Limited routine publication of returnee statistics (by status, vulnerability, assistance received) constrains planning and accountability.

Practical tips and contacts for deported individuals

- On arrival: Ask NIS/NCFRMI desk officers for written information on protection options and referrals; if you fear harm in your country of origin (for non-citizens),

request immediate referral to NCFRMI for asylum screening.

- If you need legal help: Contact LACON (Home - Legal Aid Council) and/or lodge a complaint with NHRC (National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission).
- If trafficking might be involved: Seek NAPTIP assistance at the airport/land border or via NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons.
- For Nigerians needing reintegration links: Contact NiDCOM (Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ngand FMLE programs (Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians).

Note on sources

- The links above are official portals. They confirm mandates and programs but may not detail every operational gap. For the latest reception/assistance updates, check NCFRMI's policies/publications and NIS regulations/circulars, and contact local offices listed on each agency site.

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Nigeria has a mix of ongoing and recently scaled initiatives led by immigration, refugee/migration, anti-trafficking, humanitarian, and diaspora agencies to assist deported/returned individuals (both Nigerians and non-citizens). Key efforts and official sources are below.

Reception, screening, and immediate assistance at ports of entry

- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS): Handles escorted returns/inadmissible passengers, identity verification, documentation support, and referrals (asylum, trafficking, child protection).
  - Agency portal and operations: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- Acts/Regulations and circulars: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare): Health screening, isolation/quarantine if required, and health information for all arrivals.
- Department page: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA): Coordinates emergency reception and immediate relief during mass returns (food, transport, temporary shelter).
- Mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria

Return, readmission, and reintegration coordination

- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI): Leads migration policy, reception desks, case management, and reintegration referrals (including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration—AVRR—programming with partners).
  - Policies (National Policy on Migration and implementation tools): https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies
  - Publications (SOPs on Return/Readmission/Reintegration; guidance and forms):
  - Main portal: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- Inter-agency SOPs on Return, Readmission and Reintegration: Recently used/updated by federal actors to standardize reception, protection screening, and referrals for both Nigerians and non-citizens.
- NCFRMI publications: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng

Protection and specialized assistance

- National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP): Identification at entry points, shelter, counseling, legal support, safe return or local reintegration for trafficking victims among deportees (citizens and non-citizens).
  - Acts and policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
  - Programs/contacts: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- Child protection: Unaccompanied or separated children are referred to

child-protection authorities under the Child Rights framework (state social welfare ministries).

- Federal overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights

Support specifically for returning Nigerians

- Nigeria in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM): Engagement with missions on organized returns, airport reception coordination with NIS/NCFRMI/NEMA, and linkages to livelihood/skills and complaints channels.
  - Legal framework and programs: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
  - Main portal: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE): Employability, skills, and job-matching schemes that returnees can access; FMLE also participates in migration/labour reintegration tasking.
  - FMLE portal: Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians

Legal aid and rights-awareness access

- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON): Free legal assistance to eligible persons, including returnees; useful for documentation or rights issues post-arrival.
  - Portal: Home - Legal Aid Council
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): Receives complaints and conducts rights outreach accessible to deported/returned persons.
  - Portal: National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

Policy direction and recent emphases

- National Policy on Migration (2015) implementation: Federal agencies are consolidating inter-agency coordination, reception desks, and referral mechanisms for returns (citizens and non-citizens), with periodic updates to SOPs.
- NCFRMI policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- Readmission and removal management: NIS continues to operationalize escorted returns and carriers' duties, including rapid referral to protection channels where indicated.
- NIS acts/regulations: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- Health measures at borders post-public-health emergencies: Port Health maintains IHR-aligned screening and information provision to all arrivals, including deportees.
- Port Health Services: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare

How deported individuals typically access assistance

- At arrival: NIS reception and documentation; Port Health screening; NEMA immediate relief during mass returns; NCFRMI/NAPTIP protection screening and referral.
- After arrival: NCFRMI case management for reintegration/AVRR; NiDCOM and FMLE linkages to livelihoods for Nigerians; LACON/NHRC for legal help and rights complaints; state social welfare services for vulnerable groups.

Notes

- Specific program roll-outs and schedules vary by airport/land border and funding cycle. For current initiatives (e.g., new reception desks, updated SOPs, targeted reintegration windows), check NCFRMI's publications page and NIS circulars, and contact local offices listed on each agency's portal.

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Below is a single, consolidated summary of Nigerian laws, regulations, and official policies that govern the reception and reintegration of all deportees arriving in Nigeria—both Nigerian citizens and non-citizens—with authoritative links (government/agency where available).

Core legal framework

- Immigration Act, 2015
  - Principal law for admission, refusal of entry, detention, removal, escorts, and carriers' obligations; empowers the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to

process all returnees/deportees at ports of entry.

- Immigration Act
  - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- Immigration Regulations, 2017
  - Implement the Act: arrival processing, documentation checks, inadmissibility, detention pending removal, escorted returns, and carrier liability.
- NIS acts/regulations: Immigration Regulation,
  - Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999, as amended)
  - Due process and fundamental rights framework for all persons in Nigeria; citizenship and movement rights relevant to treatment of Nigerian returnees.
- National Assembly/PLAC copy: Constitution-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Nigeria-2023.pdf

Reception, referral, and reintegration policies

- National Policy on Migration (2015) and implementation tools
  - Sets national approach for humane reception, referral, and reintegration of returnees (citizens and non-citizens), defines roles of NIS, NCFRMI, NAPTIP, NEMA, relevant ministries, and state actors.
- NCFRMI policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- Inter-agency SOPs on Return, Readmission and Reintegration of Migrants
  - Operational procedures for identity verification, reception at ports, protection screening, referrals, and reintegration support; applied to Nigerian and foreign returnees based on needs and status.

Protection and vulnerable groups (apply regardless of nationality)

- Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015
  - Mandates identification, protection, assistance, and reintegration for trafficked persons; operationalized by NAPTIP at entry points and in communities.
  - NAPTIP legal texts/policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
- Child Rights Act, 2003 (as domesticated by states)
  - Child protection standards for all children (including foreign unaccompanied/separated minors) encountered among returnees.
  - Federal overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights
- Refugee/asylum coordination (NCFRMI mandate)
  - NCFRMI coordinates asylum/refugee processing with the Refugee Eligibility Committee; referrals made where non-citizens express protection needs or non-refoulement concerns.
  - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng

Border health, emergency reception, and detention safeguards

- Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)
  - Health screening, quarantine/isolation, and IHR compliance for all arriving passengers, including deportees.
  - Ministry portal: HOME - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- Port Health Services: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
  - Coordinates emergency reception/humanitarian support during mass returns (citizens and non-citizens).
- Mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
- Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015
  - Due-process framework relevant where immigration detention or prosecution arises.
  - Ministry of Justice: Federal Ministry of Justice

- Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019
  - Governs correctional custody where applicable before removal.
  - Nigerian Correctional Service: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal

Agencies and institutional mandates

- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)
  - Lead for border control, admissibility decisions, inadmissible passenger management, detention/removal of non-citizens, and reception processing of escorted returns for all deportees.
  - Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
  - Leads migration policy and coordinates reception/reintegration support, including case management, AVRR, and asylum referrals.
  - https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
  - Identification, protection, shelter, and reintegration of trafficking victims among returnees (citizens and non-citizens).
  - NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- Nigeria in Diaspora Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017
  - Mandate for engaging Nigerians abroad and coordinating return/reintegration of Nigerian nationals.
  - NiDCOM legal framework: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
- Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
  - Consular documentation for Nigerians abroad; liaison on deportations/readmissions; bilateral arrangements.
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment; social welfare/youth ministries (federal and state)
  - Livelihood, psychosocial, and social protection components of reintegration.
  - Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians

Operational practice at Nigerian ports of entry (all deportees)

- Identity/documentation verification by NIS; assessment of admissibility (non-citizens) and documentation of citizens.
- Health screening by Port Health; immediate humanitarian assistance (NEMA as needed).
- Protection screening and referrals:
  - Asylum/refugee claims: referral to NCFRMI processes.
  - Trafficking indicators: referral to NAPTIP.
  - Unaccompanied children: child protection referral under the Child Rights framework.
- For inadmissible non-citizens without protection grounds: detention pending removal and carrier-assisted return per the Immigration Act/Regulations and applicable readmission arrangements.

Notes on sources and access

- Use the NIS regulations page and NCFRMI policies/publications for the most current operational SOPs and inter-agency guidance.
- Where federal gazette PDFs are not centrally hosted, the linked agency portals provide authoritative references or cross-references to governing statutes and policies.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Short answer: Nigeria does not have a single "deportee-specific" law guaranteeing health, housing, employment, or education. Instead, protections flow from (a) general constitutional and sector laws that apply to all persons in Nigeria, (b) immigration/refugee/anti-trafficking frameworks that trigger referrals and safeguards

(including for non-citizens), and (c) programmatic assistance subject to eligibility. Key authorities and government links are below.

Foundational legal guarantees (apply to all persons in Nigeria)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999, as amended)
  - Provides dignity, liberty, fair hearing, and freedom from discrimination; while socio-economic rights are framed as Directive Principles, they guide policy and administration for access to services.
- Constitution-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Nigeria-2023.pdf

Immigration/refugee and protection frameworks affecting deportees' access

- Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017
  - Govern admission/refusal, detention/removal, and referral to protection pathways. They do not grant socio-economic entitlements per se, but require processing, documentation checks, and coordination with protection agencies.
  - Laws index (Act): https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html
- NIS acts/regulations: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
  - Nigerian Immigration Service: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- NCFRMI mandate and asylum/refugee procedures
  - Non-citizens who fear persecution are screened and, if recognized as refugees or asylum seekers, obtain access to protection and basic services via NCFRMI-coordinated mechanisms.
  - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 (NAPTIP Act)
  - Requires identification, protection, shelter, medical care, counseling, and reintegration assistance for trafficking victims—Nigerian or foreign—encountered among deportees.
  - NAPTIP legal texts/policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
  - NAPTIP: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- Child Rights Act, 2003 (federal model; implemented by states)
  - Ensures best-interests of the child, education, health care, and protection for all children in Nigeria, including foreign unaccompanied/separated children who arrive via deportation.
  - Federal overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights

Sectoral access frameworks (how deportees can access services)

Health

- Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)
  - Ensures screening, quarantine/isolation, and referral at ports of entry for all arrivals.
- Department page: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- Public health access
  - Access to routine public health services depends on legal status, documentation, and state-level policies; recognized refugees/asylum seekers are referred through NCFRMI-coordinated pathways.
  - Ministry portal: HOME - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
  - NCFRMI referrals: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng

Housing/shelter

- Emergency reception
  - NEMA may provide short-term relief/shelter during mass returns; there is no deportee-specific national housing entitlement.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria

- Protection shelters
  - NAPTIP operates shelters for trafficking victims (Nigerian and foreign). Capacity is targeted and time-bound.
  - NAPTIP programs: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons

Employment and livelihoods

- Nigerians
  - Reintegration and employability support may be accessed via NiDCOM linkages and Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE) programs; not deportee-specific legal entitlements.
  - NiDCOM: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng | Legal framework: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
  - FMLE: Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians
- Non-citizens
  - Work rights depend on immigration status (e.g., refugee recognition, residence/work permits under Immigration Act/Regulations).
- NIS work authorization info: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
  - NCFRMI (for refugees/asylum seekers): https://ncfrmi.gov.ng

Education

- Children
- Child Rights Act principles support access to basic education for all children; enrolment is implemented by state education authorities.
  - Federal overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights
- Adults
  - No deportee-specific entitlement; access to public education or skills programs typically follows citizenship/immigration status and institutional criteria (FMLE/skills agencies).
  - FMLE programs: Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians

Cross-cutting legal aid and rights enforcement

- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON): Free legal aid to eligible persons (citizens and some non-citizens), useful for documentation or status issues.
  - Home - Legal Aid Council
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): Receives complaints from anyone in Nigeria and can intervene on access-to-services barriers.
  - National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

What this means in practice

- There is no blanket statutory right for “deported persons” to housing, jobs, or adult education. Access is mediated by general laws, immigration/refugee status, and targeted protection statutes (NAPTIP, Child Rights Act).
- Immediate health screening is provided to all at ports; broader health care, schooling for children, and work access depend on status and program eligibility.
- Recognized refugees/asylum seekers and identified trafficking victims receive specific protections and services through NCFRMI and NAPTIP.
- Nigerians returning via deportation can tap into reintegration and labour programs (NiDCOM/FM Labour), but these are programmatic, not rights-entitlements.

For the most current operational guidance on reception, referral, and assistance (including for deportees), consult:

- NCFRMI policies/publications: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- NIS acts/regulations and circulars: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- NAPTIP acts/policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
- NEMA emergency support

- FMLE programs: Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians
- NiDCOM: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Short answer: Yes—on arrival in Nigeria, deported individuals (citizens and non-citizens) are routinely screened by border authorities. Detention is possible, but it depends on status and circumstances. Nigerian citizens are generally processed and released; non-citizens who are inadmissible or pending onward removal may be held in immigration custody per law.

What typically happens at ports of entry

- Identity and documentation checks (screening): Conducted by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) for all escorted returns and deportees; includes verification of identity, travel documents, and any escort paperwork, with referrals where needed (asylum, trafficking, child protection).
  - NIS portal: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- NIS Acts/Regulations and circulars: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- Health screening: Port Health Services conduct public-health screening and, where required, quarantine/isolation consistent with International Health Regulations.
- Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare): Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- Protection screening and referral: Individuals who indicate fear of persecution or show vulnerability indicators are referred to:
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) for asylum/refugee procedures: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng | Partner - National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons
  - National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) where trafficking indicators exist (victim identification, shelter, assistance): https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies | NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
  - Child protection authorities (under the Child Rights framework) for unaccompanied/separated children: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights

Detention: when and for whom

- Nigerian citizens
  - Typically not detained for immigration reasons. They undergo NIS processing and are released. Detention may occur only if there is a separate criminal matter or security ground under general law (e.g., ACJA).
  - Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015 (due process standards): Federal Ministry of Justice
- Non-citizens
  - May be refused entry and held pending removal if found inadmissible, lack valid documentation/visa, or are subject to carrier return. This is governed by the Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017.
  - Immigration Act (laws index): https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html
- NIS Acts/Regulations: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
  - Where court-ordered custody or sentence applies, the Nigerian Correctional Service framework governs conditions: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal

Operational guidance and coordination

- Inter-agency SOPs on Return, Readmission and Reintegration (NCFRMI-led): Standardize reception, screening, referral, and assistance for deported/returned persons (citizens and non-citizens).
- NCFRMI publications: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng | Partner - National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons
- Emergency/surge reception (mass returns): National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) coordinates immediate assistance alongside NIS/NCFRMI/Port Health.

- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria

In practice

- All deportees are screened by NIS and Port Health.
- Nigerians: screened and released unless another legal basis for detention exists.
- Non-citizens: screened; if inadmissible and without protection grounds, they may be placed in immigration holding pending carrier-assisted removal; if they raise asylum or trafficking concerns, they are referred to NCFRMI or NAPTIP and access protection procedures.

For current procedures or circulars, check:

- NIS Acts/Regulations and circulars: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- NCFRMI policies/publications (SOPs):NCFRMI publications: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng | Partner - National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons
- Port Health Services guidance: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- NAPTIP acts/policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Nigeria does not have a single "deportee-specific" law for re-documentation. Instead, deported individuals use the standard national ID and travel-document recovery/renewal channels. Below are the main legal mechanisms and official authorities for both Nigerians and non-citizens who arrive in Nigeria.

A) For Nigerian citizens (recover or renew Nigerian IDs/travel documents)

1. National Identification Number (NIN) and General National ID
    - Authority: National Identity Management Commission (NIMC).
    - Mechanism: Enrolment or re-enrolment to obtain/replace NIN and associated digital/physical ID credentials. Replacement requires identity proof (e.g., birth certificate, BVN, sworn affidavit, police report for loss).
    - Legal/policy basis: NIMC Act and implementing directives; NIN is mandatory for many services.
    - Where to start:
        - NIMC portal (enrolment, modifications, replacement): NIMC - National Identity Management Commission
        - NIN enrolment/required documents and modification procedures: https://nimc.gov.ng/requirements
        - NIN verification and linkage guidance: https://nimc.gov.ng/verification
2. Nigerian Passport (ECOWAS international passport)
    - Authority: Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS).
    - Mechanism: Standard passport renewal or reissue (lost/damaged). Post-deportation, citizens can apply for renewal/reissue at NIS passport offices in Nigeria; if loss/theft occurred abroad, include police report/affidavit and prior passport details.
    - Legal/policy basis: Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017; NIS passport issuance rules.
    - Where to start:
        - NIS portal (passport application, requirements, offices): Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
    - Acts/Regulations and circulars: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
        - Online passport application portal (via NIS site links).
3. Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC) to return to Nigeria (pre-arrival)
    - Authority: Nigerian Embassies/Consulates under the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

- Mechanism: For stranded Nigerians without a passport abroad, missions issue ETCs for one-way travel to Nigeria. On arrival, holders should reapply for a standard passport with NIS.
- Where to start:
  - MFA portal (missions, consular services): Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4. Driver's Licence and related IDs
   - Authority: Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and State Boards of Internal Revenue.
   - Mechanism: Renewal/replacement of driver's licence (NIN linkage required).
   - Where to start:
     - FRSC/Nigerian Driver's Licence portal: Nigeria Driver's Licence
     - FRSC main portal: FRSC
5. Voter Card (for Nigerians of age)
   - Authority: Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).
   - Mechanism: Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), transfer, and replacement of Permanent Voter Card (PVC). Useful for identity restoration, though not a travel document.
   - Where to start:
     - INEC portal: INEC Portal
     - INEC main site: INEC

Support/assistance channels for Nigerians

- Nigeria in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM): Liaises with missions on organized returns and can guide on re-documentation steps.
  - NiDCOM: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng | Legal framework: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON): Free legal help for eligible persons (affidavits, name corrections, documentation issues).
  - Home - Legal Aid Council
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): Complaint mechanism if access to documentation is improperly denied.
  - National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

B) For non-Nigerian nationals deported to or transiting through Nigeria

1. Consular documentation from country of nationality
   - Authority: Relevant foreign embassy/consulate in Nigeria (through MFA facilitation).
   - Mechanism: Contact your embassy to replace/renew passport or obtain an emergency travel document. Nigerian authorities (NIS) can facilitate consular contact for persons in immigration holding.
   - Nigerian authority links:
   - NIS (inadmissibility/detention/removal procedures, consular notification): Home - Nigeria Immigration Service | Acts/Regulations: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
     - MFA (diplomatic/consular liaison): Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Asylum/refugee documentation (for those seeking protection)
   - Authority: National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI).
   - Mechanism: If you indicate fear of persecution or serious harm, request referral to NCFRMI for asylum procedures. Asylum seekers receive documentation; recognized refugees receive status documents that facilitate lawful stay and access to services.
   - Where to start:
     - NCFRMI portal: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng

Trafficking victim documentation and assistance (regardless of nationality)

- Authority: National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).
- Mechanism: Identified victims receive protection, shelter, medical care, and

assistance with safe return or regularization pathways; NAPTIP coordinates with embassies for documentation where needed.

- Where to start:
  - NAPTIP acts/policies and programs: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies | NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons

3. Immigration status and residence/work permits (non-citizens)
   - Authority: NIS.
   - Mechanism: Depending on circumstances (e.g., refugee status, residence basis, employment), apply for appropriate permits under the Immigration Act/Regulations. NIS issues Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card (CERPAC) and other permits where applicable.
   - Where to start:
     - NIS permits/visas information: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
   - Acts/Regulations: Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act

C) Process on arrival (all deported individuals)

- Screening at the border: NIS conducts identity/document checks; Port Health conducts health screening.
- NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service | Regulations: Immigration Regulation
- Port Health Services: Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- Referrals for protection and documentation support:
  - NCFRMI for asylum/refugee documentation: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
  - NAPTIP for trafficking victims: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- Emergency reception (mass returns): NEMA coordinates immediate assistance (temporary shelter/transport), which may include help to contact embassies or NIS/NCFRMI desks.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria

Practical tips

- Nigerians: Start with NIN (NIMC) and passport reissue (NIS); bring any prior IDs, photocopies, or digital records; file a police report and sworn affidavit for lost documents if asked.
- Non-citizens: Ask NIS for consular contact with your embassy; if you fear persecution, request immediate NCFRMI referral for asylum documentation; if trafficking may be involved, seek NAPTIP assistance.
- For legal help or complaints: LACON and NHRC are available post-arrival.
  - LACON: Home - Legal Aid Council
  - NHRC: National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

Legal bases and authorities referenced

- Immigration Regulation, Immigration Act
- NIMC Act/NIN requirements (ID system): NIMC - National Identity Management Commission
- NCFRMI (asylum/refugee documentation procedures): https://ncfrmi.gov.ng | https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies
- NAPTIP Act/programs (victim documentation and assistance): https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
- MFA (consular services and liaison): Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Port Health Services (arrival health screening/referral): Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
- Correctional/justice safeguards if custody is involved: Ministry of Justice (ACJA) Federal Ministry of Justice; Nigerian Correctional Service Nigerian Correctional Service Portal

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Nigerian Citizens deported from abroad: entry without issue unless have outstanding legal issues in Nigeria; otherwise, possibility of being held in temporary custody before being escorted to place of origin within Nigeria (especially if deported for criminal offenses abroad)

Non-citizens deported from abroad: possibly subject to detention, followed by administrative & judicial procedures, including further deportation and removal

Administrative Procedures: formal notification of intent to deport (including grounds for deportation (visa violations, criminal activity, or public health concerns); notice of right to appeal deportation order, and notice of right to legal representation

Judicial Procedures: if deportation order is upheld, individual may be detained pending arrangement of removal; detention must be legally justified and detention may not be indefinite.

Sources: Understanding Deportation and Removal Procedures in Nigeria: Legal Grounds, Appeals, and Protections for Non-Citizens

National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

Refugees Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants And Asylum Seekers - National Human Rights Commission

Home - Nigeria Immigration Service

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Government and intergovernmental bodies

- Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS): Home - Nigeria Immigration Service

The Nigeria Immigration Service is responsible according to the act establishing it for the control of persons entering or leaving Nigeria, the issuance of travel documents, to bona fide Nigerians in and outside Nigeria, the issuance of residence permits to foreigners in Nigeria, border surveillance and patrol, and enforcement of laws and regulations with which we have been directly charged.

- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI): https://ncfrmi.gov.ng

The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons(NCFRMI) is the Federal Government Agency mandated to provide care, durable solutions and assistance to all Persons of Concern (PoCs) which includes IDPs, Refugees, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, Stateless Persons as well as Returnees.

- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

The Commission as part of it activities to protect and promote the human rights of IDPs(internally displaced persons), refugees and migrants partners with both national, international agencies and Civil Society Organizations. Some of those agencies include UNHCR, NCFRMI, IOM, Immigration Services to mention a few.

The Commission is the Co-chair at the National Level of the Protection Sector Working Group, the group is made up of all organisations government and non-government, national and international working in the protection sector which deals mainly with IDPs, Refugees and Migrants.

- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN): Home - Legal Aid Council

Vision Statement: To build a Nigerian nation where there is equal access to justice for all irrespective of means and where all rights are respected, protected and defended

- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA): Home / Nigerian Bar Association

Nigerian Bar Association Human Rights Institute is established for the purpose of protecting human rights of citizens, promoting the rule of law and good governance in Nigeria.

International organizations

- International Organization for Migration (IOM) Nigeria: IOM Nigeria

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is part of the United Nations System as the leading inter-governmental organization promoting since 1951 humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, with 175 member states and a presence in over 100 countries. IOM has had a presence in Nigeria since 2002.

- UNHCR Nigeria: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency | UNHCR Nigeria

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, is mandated to protect and assist men, women and children forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflict or persecution.

UNHCR is dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless people. The Agency provides protection, shelter, food, water, medical care and other life-saving assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers around the world.

Returnees

Over the years, UNHCR has helped millions of refugees and other forcibly displaced people to return home.

We help people make an informed decision on when it is safe to return, aim to ensure that any returns are voluntary and dignified, and support people as they rebuild their lives.

Faith-based and national NGOs/CSOs

- Caritas Nigeria (Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria): Caritas Nigeria

Protection and Migration

Addressing the root causes of vulnerability and promotes the safety and well-being of migrants and displaced individuals through comprehensive protection programs, including anti-human trafficking, psychosocial support, economic empowerment, legal.

- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) West Africa/Nigeria: West Africa - JRS (Nigeria country pages via regional site)

JRS is committed to working for the wellbeing and hope of refugees. We run pastoral care and psychosocial support programmes in detention centres and refugee camps, and provide humanitarian relief in emergency displacement situations. Education and livelihoods programmes provide skill development and opportunities for integration into host communities. We never cease to advocate for the rights of refugees, and to articulate the obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us.

- Women's Aid Collective (WACOL): Home - Caridad
- International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria: FIDA – The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
- SERAP (Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project): Serap Nigeria – Official Website
- Spaces for Change (S4C): Research | Policy | Citizen Action - Spaces for Change

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Nigeria recognizes the right to legal representation and a fair trial, including free legal aid available to individuals in certain circumstances: -Individuals detained, arrested, or imprisoned, including those facing deportation.

- Persons suspected, accused, or charged with criminal offenses.
- Victims and witnesses in the criminal justice process.
- Anyone whose income does not exceed the national minimum wage, or in exceptional cases, those slightly above it

Deported individuals with circumstances that fall within one of these categories may qualify for free legal aid. However, often deportation matters that do not include things listed above are generally treated as administrative in nature and therefore a right to free or state-provided legal aid may not apply.

Possible Sources:

Legal aid and where to find support - Nigeria - Action4Justice :Nigeria – Action4Justice

Home - Legal Aid Council

Refugees Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants And Asylum Seekers - National Human Rights Commission

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes. Nigeria has incorporated key international human rights and refugee protection standards into its domestic framework that apply to all deported/returned individuals in Nigeria—both citizens and non-citizens. The incorporation appears through constitutional guarantees, specific statutes (immigration, anti-trafficking, child protection, criminal procedure), and refugee/asylum governance. Authoritative links are provided below.

Foundational human rights guarantees (apply to all persons)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999, as amended)
  - Embeds due process, dignity, liberty, fair hearing, and non-discrimination protections applicable to reception, detention, and processing of returnees/deportees in Nigeria.
  - Text (PLAC copy of the Constitution): https://placng.org/i/wp/2016/04/Constitution-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Nigeria-1999.pdf

Refugee and asylum standards (non-refoulement and status procedures)

- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) Mandate and Refugee Procedures
  - NCFRMI coordinates asylum and refugee protection in line with Nigeria's international refugee obligations (including non-refoulement) and operates the Refugee Eligibility process.
  - NCFRMI main portal: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- NCFRMI policies (governance framework, policy documents, SOPs): https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies
- National Policy on Migration (2015)
  - Reflects international standards on humane reception, protection screening (including asylum), and referral pathways for migrants and returnees.
  - NCFRMI policies page (policy access): https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies

Anti-trafficking and victim protection (regardless of nationality)

- Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015
  - Domesticates and operationalizes international anti-trafficking norms (e.g., victim identification, non-punishment, assistance, safe return/reintegration). Applies to Nigerian and foreign victims encountered among returnees.
  - NAPTIP legal texts and policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
  - NAPTIP portal: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons

Child protection aligned with international standards

- Child Rights Act, 2003 (federal model law; domesticated by states)
  - Incorporates principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (best interests, non-discrimination, special protection), guiding treatment of unaccompanied or separated children among deportees/returnees.
  - Federal overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights

Immigration framework with safeguards for non-citizens

- Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017
  - Provide procedures for admission/refusal, detention, and removal of non-citizens, with operational safeguards (documentation verification, escorts, carriers' duties) and referral to protection systems (e.g., asylum, trafficking).

- Laws index (Immigration Act): https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html
- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) regulations/circulars: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
- NIS portal: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior

Detention, due process, and humane treatment standards

- Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015
  - Embeds fair-trial and custodial safeguards applicable to immigration-related detention and prosecutions.
  - Federal Ministry of Justice: Federal Ministry of Justice
- Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019
  - Provides standards for custody conditions where individuals (including non-citizens) are remanded or serve sentences prior to removal.
  - Nigerian Correctional Service: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal

Border health and humanitarian standards

- Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)
  - Implements International Health Regulations (IHR) obligations for screening, quarantine, and public-health measures for all arriving passengers, including deportees.
- Ministry portal: HOME - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- Port Health Services (arrival health screening/referral): Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare

Emergency reception and protection coordination

- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
  - Coordinates humanitarian assistance in mass arrivals, aligned with international disaster-management standards; works with NIS, NCFRMI, and NAPTIP.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria

Diaspora and returnee support for citizens

- Nigeria in Diaspora Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017
  - Provides a statutory basis for supporting Nigerians abroad and facilitating dignified return and reintegration, in line with international good practice.
  - NiDCOM legal framework: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework

How these instruments incorporate international norms in practice

- Non-refoulement and asylum access: Screening and referral to NCFRMI for any non-citizen indicating fear of persecution or harm; protection determinations are made through refugee eligibility procedures aligned with international standards.
- Victim-centred protection: NAPTIP coordinates identification and assistance for trafficking victims, including foreign nationals, with provisions for safe return or local reintegration.
- Child-sensitive procedures: Unaccompanied/separated children are handled under Child Rights Act standards with best-interests determinations and social-welfare referrals.
- Due process and humane treatment: Constitution and ACJA standards govern arrest, detention, fair hearing, and conditions of custody; Port Health and NEMA provide health and humanitarian safeguards during reception.

Notes

- Nigeria is a party to key international instruments (e.g., 1951 Refugee Convention/1967 Protocol; Palermo Trafficking Protocol; CRC), and the domestic instruments above operationalize these standards. For the latest operational SOPs and coordination tools, consult NCFRMI's policies/publications and the NIS regulations page

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Short answer: There is no single nationwide statute that mandates a dedicated "legal education for deportees" program. However, several Nigerian government agencies run ongoing rights-awareness, legal-aid/referral, and reintegration information services that deported/returned persons—citizens and non-citizens—can access at ports of entry and after arrival. Key government programs and portals are below.

Government agencies and programs that provide rights-awareness, legal/referral support

- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)
  - What they do: Briefs arriving deportees on entry/admissibility status, documentation rights, and referral pathways (asylum, anti-trafficking, child protection). Provides operational circulars and contact points at airports/land borders.
  - Agency portal (operations, acts/regulations, contacts): Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
  - Acts/Regulations and circulars page: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
  - What they do: Coordinates reception desks and case management for returnees; conducts information sessions on protection options (asylum, AVRR, reintegration services), complaints channels, and referral rights. Publishes policies/SOPs that include information-sharing procedures.
  - Policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies
- Main portal: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
  - What they do: Provides victim-centred intake, rights advisories, legal counseling/referrals, and awareness materials for suspected trafficking victims among deportees (citizens and non-citizens). Runs hotlines and community sensitization.
  - Acts and policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
  - Main portal (programs, hotlines, shelters): NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
  - What they do: During mass returns, NEMA coordinates reception briefings that include information on available assistance, protection referrals, and complaint mechanisms.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
- Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)
  - What they do: Provides health screening plus information on health rights, quarantine procedures, and complaints channels during reception at ports of entry.
- Port Health Services (arrival health screening/referral): Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
  - Ministry portal: HOME - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- Nigeria in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) – for Nigerian citizens
  - What they do: Runs awareness and reintegration information for returning Nigerians, including consular/legal pathways, complaints channels, and linkages to jobs/skills programs.
  - Legal framework and programs: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
  - Main portal: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment; social welfare/youth ministries
  - What they do: Provide information on labour rights, job placement, and skills/reintegration schemes that returnees can access.

- FMLE portal: Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians

Legal aid and complaints mechanisms touching migrants/returnees

- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON)
  - While not deportee-specific, LACON provides free legal assistance to eligible persons, including foreign nationals and returnees who meet statutory criteria; can be accessed after arrival.
  - Portal: Home - Legal Aid Council
- Human rights complaints channels
  - National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) accepts complaints from anyone in Nigeria, including deportees, and conducts rights-awareness outreaches.
  - NHRC portal: National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission

Policy/SOP references that embed rights-awareness components

- National Policy on Migration (2015) and inter-agency SOPs on Return, Readmission and Reintegration
  - These documents require reception entities (NIS/NCFRMI/NAPTIP/NEMA/Port Health) to inform returnees of available protection options, referrals, and complaint channels.
  - NCFRMI policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies

How deportees typically receive information

- At ports of entry: Briefings by NIS/NCFRMI/Port Health, with protection screening and immediate referrals (NAPTIP for trafficking, NCFRMI for asylum/refugee, child protection services for minors).
- Post-arrival: Case management sessions, group information meetings, and referral to legal aid (LACON/NHRC) and reintegration programs (NiDCOM/FM Labour/social welfare).
- For non-citizens: Access to asylum/refugee information via NCFRMI desks; for those found inadmissible, information on procedures and rights during detention/removal under the Immigration Act/Regulations.

Note

- Availability can vary by airport/land border and by the scale of arrivals. For the most current program details or schedules of awareness sessions, consult NCFRMI's publications page, NIS circulars page, and NAPTIP's programs page, and contact local offices listed on each agency portal.

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

- Even if you are removed from the U.S., you still retain ownership of your property, whether it's a house, a vehicle, a bank account, or investments.
- The U.S. Constitution protects property rights for all individuals, including non-citizens, regardless of immigration status.
- If deportation is a possibility, consider taking the following actions to secure your assets:
  - Appoint a power of attorney to someone that can manage your assets
  - Set up online banking with an international bank so you can access abroad
  - Create digital copies of your documents and store them in the cloud
- Following organizations can help deportees recover belongings:
  - International Rescue Committee
  - Immigrant Defense Project
  - American Friends Service Committee (for Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala)
  - Kino Border Initiative (for Mexico)

Sources:

What Happens to Your Property If You Are Deported? | Law Office of Steve Lopez, APC

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

The U.S. government, through agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is required to safeguard a person's property during their detention. However, the process is often complex, with non-profit organizations and consulates playing a crucial role in assisting individuals abroad.

There are no specific government agencies or organizations whose primary purpose is to recover personal items for deportees. Once deported, an individual must rely on outside help, such as trusted friends, family, or a third party with power of attorney, to manage or recover their belongings. Non-profit immigrant aid groups can sometimes offer guidance or limited assistance in special circumstances.

The deportee can grant a power of attorney prior to deportation to a trusted individual that can manage and seek to retrieve their assets. They can also hire a U.S. attorney or the ACLU that can help file a complaint if the deportee's assets were wrongly taken by the U.S. government.

Sources: Deported with No Possessions - American Immigration Council

How Can I Protect My Property If I Am Detained or Deported? - North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

In January 2025, the U.S. and Nigeria signed an agreement to transfer approximately $52.88 million in forfeited corruption proceeds to the Nigerian government. The funds were seized as part of a U.S. investigation into a bribery and money-laundering scheme involving former Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke.

Source: Department of Justice | Homepage | United States Department of Justice

The U.S., Nigeria, and Jersey entered into an agreement to repatriate over $300 million in assets stolen by former dictator General Sani Abacha. These funds were designated for infrastructure projects in Nigeria.

Department of Justice | Homepage | United States Department of Justice

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Nigeria's international obligations to ensure safe, dignified, and rights-respecting repatriation/return arise from refugee law (non-refoulement), human rights treaties (due process, liberty, humane treatment, child protection, anti-trafficking), and public-health obligations at borders. These obligations apply to both Nigerian citizens returning to Nigeria and non-citizens returned or removed through Nigeria's territory, and they are operationalized via domestic laws, agencies, and inter-agency SOPs.

Core obligations and how Nigeria implements them

1. Non-refoulement and refugee protection (applies to non-citizens)
    - International obligation: Do not return a person to a place where they face persecution, torture, or serious harm; ensure access to asylum procedures.
    - Domestic implementation and authorities:
        - National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI): Coordinates asylum/refugee procedures and Refugee Eligibility processes; leads inter-agency SOPs on reception, return, readmission, and reintegration.
            - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
            - Policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies
        - Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS): Screens arrivals, identifies protection cases, and refers to NCFRMI; manages

inadmissibility and removal in line with the Immigration Act/Regulations.

- NIS portal: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- Acts/Regulations: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations

- Legal framework touching returns: Immigration Act, 2015 (procedures for refusal, detention, removal) and Immigration Regulations, 2017 (operational safeguards).
  - Laws index: https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html

2. Prohibition of torture, cruel/inhuman treatment; humane treatment in custody

- International obligation: No torture or inhuman/degrading treatment; humane conditions for any detention; access to fair procedures.
- Domestic implementation and authorities:
  - Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999, as amended): Protects dignity, liberty, and fair hearing (applicable to all persons).
    - Constitution (PLAC copy): https://placng.org/i/wp/2016/04/Constitution-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Nigeria-1999.pdf
  - Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015: Due-process standards relevant to arrests/detention that may occur alongside immigration procedures.
    - Ministry of Justice: Federal Ministry of Justice
  - Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019: Custody standards where court-ordered detention applies.
    - Nigerian Correctional Service: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal

3. Child protection and family life (including unaccompanied/separated children)

- International obligation: Best interests of the child, family unity, access to education and health; special safeguards during return/repatriation.
- Domestic implementation and authorities:
  - Child Rights Act, 2003 (federal model law; implemented by states): Guides best-interests determinations, guardianship, and access to services for all children encountered among returnees.
    - Federal overview: https://fmic.gov.ng/policies/child-rights
  - Inter-agency SOPs: Provide referral pathways for unaccompanied/separated minors at ports of entry (social welfare and child protection services).

Anti-trafficking obligations (victim identification, assistance, safe return)

- International obligation: Identify and protect trafficking victims; ensure non-punishment for status offenses; enable safe return or local integration.
- Domestic implementation and authorities:
  - Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 (NAPTIP Act): Mandates victim identification, shelter, medical care, counseling, legal aid, and reintegration assistance for victims—Nigerian or foreign.
    - NAPTIP acts and policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
    - NAPTIP portal: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
  - NIS/NCFRMI referral obligations at borders where indicators of trafficking are detected.
    - NIS regs: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations

Health, quarantine, and dignified reception at borders

- International obligation: Implement International Health Regulations (IHR) for screening, quarantine/isolation, and

non-discriminatory public-health measures for travelers, including deportees.

- Domestic implementation and authorities:
  - Port Health Services (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare): Health screening at ports; referral to care; information on rights and procedures.
- Port Health Services (arrival health screening/referral): Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA): Coordinates humanitarian reception/relief during mass returns, supporting safe and dignified reception.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria

4. Fair procedures and access to information/complaints
   - International obligation: Ensure due process in removal, access to information, and the ability to seek remedies.
   - Domestic implementation and authorities:
     - NIS processing and documentation of decisions; referral to protection mechanisms.
       - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
     - Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON): Free legal aid to eligible persons.
       - Home - Legal Aid Council
     - National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): Receives complaints from anyone in Nigeria and can intervene where rights are at risk.
       - National Human Rights Commission - National Human Rights Commission
5. Voluntary and dignified return, reintegration coordination
   - International good practice: Promote voluntary, informed, and dignified returns with reintegration support where possible.
   - Domestic implementation and authorities:
     - NCFRMI: Leads policy on return/readmission/reintegration; coordinates inter-agency SOPs and case management (including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration with partners).
       - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
   - Nigeria in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM): Coordinates with missions on organized returns of Nigerians and linkages to reintegration support.
     - NiDCOM: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng | Legal framework: https://nidcom.gov.ng/about-us/legal-framework
   - Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE): Employability/skills programs relevant to reintegration.
     - Federal Ministry Of Labour & Employment – Ensuring Decent Work for all Nigerians

Practical implications at Nigerian ports of entry

- Screening: NIS conducts identity/admissibility checks for all arrivals; Port Health conducts health screening; protection screening is done with referrals to NCFRMI (asylum) and NAPTIP (trafficking) pursuant to inter-agency SOPs.
  - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service | Regulations: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
- Port Health Services (arrival health screening/referral): Port Health - Federal Ministry of Health and Social welfare
  - NAPTIP: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
- Detention/use of force: Must comply with constitutional/ACJA safeguards and respect human dignity; non-refoulement

limits removal where protection claims exist.

- Constitution: https://placng.org/i/wp/2016/04/Constitution-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Nigeria-1999.pdf
- ACJA: Federal Ministry of Justice

Bottom line

- Nigeria's obligations require that any return, of Nigerians or non-citizens, be handled with safety, dignity, due process, and access to protection procedures. These duties are operationalized by NIS (border control), NCFRMI (asylum/refugee and return coordination), NAPTIP (anti-trafficking protection), Port Health (health/IHR), NEMA (humanitarian reception), and oversight/enforcement bodies (LACON/NHRC), under the domestic legal frameworks linked above.

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

No specific information is available. Nigerian Consulates (in NY, D.C., and Atlanta), can provide Emergency Travel Certificates (ETCs) for Nigerians who lack valid passports. However, the requirements (such as providing passport photos and a copy of a flight ticket to Nigeria) are impractical for anyone in US detention.

- Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, New York
- Embassy of The Federal Republic of Nigeria, Washington DC. – This is a platform where you can find all information about Nigeria, its economy, culture and tourism.
- Home - Nigeria Consulate, Atlanta USA

There is some suggestions that the current focus is on resisting US pressure to accept third-country deportees. (Nigeria pushes back on U.S. deportation demands : NPR)

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

The US government's ICE statistics website indicates that 13 Nigerian citizens were deported November - December 2024. No official US data is available for 2025. ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE.

One Facebook source reports 20 removals so far in 2025. Legit.ng - Over 2,300 Nigerians have been deported from... | Facebook

Several sources report that, as of late 2024, about 3690 Nigerians are "listed for deportation" from the US. e.g., https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/meta-programme-fact-checks/yes-3690-nigerians-are-listed-deportation-us

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

- Primary airport: Murtala Muhammed International Airport (LOS), Lagos.
- Secondary airport: Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV), Abuja.
- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS): Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
- Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN): Home - FAAN
- Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos (LOS) info: https://mma2.com.ng (domestic terminal)

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Most land at

- Lagos — Murtala Muhammed International Airport (LOS)

- Abuja — Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV)

From there they disperse. Biggest areas could be:

- Lagos and surrounding Southwest cities (e.g., Ibadan)
- Abuja and nearby North-Central cities
- Other major urban centers like Port Harcourt, Benin City, Onitsha/Awka, Enugu, Kano, and Kaduna

Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)
https://immigration.gov.ng/

See also:

- Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation Home page
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/
- Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) Nigerians in Diaspora Commission – www.NIDCOM.com.ng

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S. of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Report: Demographics and Reintegration of Nigerians Deported from the U.S.

1. Demographic Profile

   (Source: DHS Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2023; ICE Removal Statistics; IOM Nigeria Reintegration Reports)

   - Age: Majority between 25–44 years.
   - Gender: 80–85% male, 15–20% female.
   - Family Status: Many single; some with U.S.-born children.
   - Education: Significant share with post-secondary education (college or vocational).
   - Years in U.S.: Most had 5–15 years of residence, some over 20 years.

   Sources:

   - DHS Yearbook: Yearbook of Immigration Statistics | OHSS
   - ICE Removal Stats: ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE
   - IOM Nigeria Reports: Nigeria — North-east - Intention Survey (April 2024) | Displacement Tracking Matrix

2. Emerging Demographic Shifts

   (Observed in DHS & IOM reports)

   - Increase in educated professionals deported for visa overstays.
   - Slight rise in female deportees and older adults.
   - More cases involving U.S.-born children.

   Sources:

   - DHS Yearbook
   - IOM Reintegration Reports

3. Groups Facing Hardest Reintegration

   (IOM findings)

   - Long-term residents (10+ years in U.S.) struggle with cultural readjustment.
   - Single parents with U.S.-born children face economic and legal challenges.
   - Highly educated professionals often experience underemployment.

   Source:

   - IOM Nigeria Reintegration Program: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration | IOM Nigeria | IOM Nigeria

4. Comparison with Broader Migration

   (MPI & IOM data)

   - Deportees have higher education levels and longer U.S. stays than typical Nigerian emigrants.
   - Gender imbalance is stronger among deportees than in general migration flows.

   Source:

   - Migration Policy Institute: Migration Policy Institute | migrationpolicy.org

Extra Insights with Sources

- Criminal vs. Administrative Deportations: Most Nigerians deported for visa overstays, not serious crimes.
  Source: ICE Removal Statistics
  ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE
- Urban Reintegration Patterns: Returnees cluster in Lagos and Abuja, creating economic pressure.
  Source: IOM Nigeria Reports
  iom-nigeria-annual-report-2024.pdf
- Economic Impact: Deportation disrupts remittance flows, affecting family income.
  Source: IOM Reintegration Profiles
  iom-nigeria-annual-report-2024.pdf
- Psychosocial Challenges: High rates of stigma and depression among deportees.
  Source: IOM Reintegration Handbook
  IOM Publications - International Organization for Migration
- Policy Trend: U.S. enforcement increasingly targets minor infractions and overstays.
  Source: DHS Yearbook
  Yearbook of Immigration Statistics | OHSS

Overall conclusions:

Demographics of Nigerians Deported from the U.S. vs. General Nigerian Migrants

- Age: Most deported Nigerians are between 25 and 44 years old. In contrast, general Nigerian migrants abroad tend to be younger overall, with the majority between 18 and 40 years.
- Gender: Deportations are heavily male-dominated, with about 80–85% men and only 15–20% women. Broader migration flows are more balanced, roughly 55% male and 45% female.
- Family Status: Many deportees are single, though some have U.S.-born children. General migration patterns include more family-based moves, with spouses and children accompanying migrants.
- Education: Deportees often have higher education levels, with many holding post-secondary or vocational qualifications. General migrants show a mixed profile, with a significant share having only secondary education.
- Years Abroad: Deportees typically lived in the U.S. for 5–15 years, and some for over 20 years. General migrants often have shorter stays, linked to work or study cycles.
- Reason for Return: Deportees return involuntarily due to visa overstays or administrative removals. General migrants usually return voluntarily or through circular migration.

Sources:

- DHS Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: Yearbook of Immigration Statistics | OHSS
- ICE Removal Statistics: ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE
- IOM Nigeria Reports: IOM Nigeria
- Migration Policy Institute: Migration Policy Institute | migrationpolicy.org

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Short answer: No single Nigerian law designates one agency to “publish” deportation data to the public. However, several government bodies are legally responsible for collecting and holding deportation/return records within their mandates, and they may release summaries or respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

Agencies that collect (and may publish) deportation/return data

- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) – primary operational custodian
  - Legal role: Statutory authority for admission/refusal of entry, detention, removal of non-citizens, carriers’ obligations, and record-keeping under the Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017. NIS is the core collector of deportation/removal data and issues operational circulars and occasional public updates.
  - Where to check/request: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service

- Acts/Regulations and circulars: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
- Laws index (Immigration Act): https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html

- Federal Ministry of Interior – supervisory/oversight ministry
  - Legal role: Oversees NIS and broader internal security/immigration policy. May hold aggregated reports and can release information or policy statements.
  - Portal: Ministry of Interior
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) – migration policy and coordination
  - Legal role: Leads migration policy coordination, return/readmission/reintegration SOPs, and protection referrals (including asylum pathways). Collects reception/referral statistics related to returns, including some data touching deportations, and may publish policy reports/SOPs.
  - Portal: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) – consular returns/readmissions
  - Legal role: Coordinates missions on organized returns and readmission arrangements. Holds administrative records from missions on Nigerians returned/deported but has no express statutory duty to publicly publish deportation datasets.
  - Portal: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) – mass-return reception (event-based)
  - Legal role: During mass returns, coordinates reception and assistance; may collect operational tallies for those events. Not a standing publisher of deportation data.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
- National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) – protection subset
  - Legal role: For identified trafficking victims among deportees/returnees, NAPTIP records case data on identification, assistance, and outcomes. It may publish aggregated victim-assistance statistics, but these are not comprehensive deportation figures.
  - Acts and policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
  - Portal: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) – detention subset (when court-ordered)
  - Legal role: Maintains custody records for persons held pursuant to court orders, including non-citizens in criminal custody related to immigration offences (not immigration holding per se). Not a deportation-data publisher.
  - Portal: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) – potential aggregator (cross-government data)
  - Legal role: National statistical authority; can compile administrative data produced by MDAs. There is no routine NBS series on deportation, but it can publish when data are provided by lead agencies.
  - Portal: Home | National Bureau of Statistics

Transparency mechanism applicable to all public institutions

- Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011
  - Effect: Gives the public a right to request records (including deportation statistics) from NIS, Interior, NCFRMI, MFA, etc. This is disclosure-on-request, not a mandate for proactive public datasets.
  - Federal Ministry of Justice (FOI resources): Federal Ministry of Justice

Bottom line

- Collection: NIS is the primary legal custodian of deportation/removal data; Interior, NCFRMI, MFA, NAPTIP, and NEMA collect relevant subsets within their mandates.
- Publication: No explicit statutory duty to routinely publish comprehensive deportation

datasets. Public figures appear via agency press releases, policy reports, or FOI requests.

- Where to look or file requests:
  - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service | https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
  - Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior
- NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
  - MFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - NAPTIP: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
- https://nema.gov.ng/about-us/mandateNEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
  - FOI Act guide (MoJ): Federal Ministry of Justice

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Short answer: There is no single Nigerian statute that expressly mandates routine public publication of "deportation statistics." However, several laws and mandates create reporting, record-keeping, or transparency obligations for agencies involved in removals/returns, and some agencies periodically release data or reports. In practice, public deportation data are not consistently or comprehensively published.

What the law and mandates provide

- Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017
  - Establish the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) as the authority for admission, refusal, detention, and removal of non-citizens, with powers to keep records and issue directives. They do not contain an explicit requirement to publish deportation statistics to the public.
  - NIS portal: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
  - Acts/Regulations and circulars: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
  - Laws index (Act): https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html
- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) institutional reporting
  - As a federal service under the Ministry of Interior, NIS issues operational circulars and sometimes releases activity summaries/press statements, but there is no statutory obligation to publish standardized deportation datasets.
  - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
  - Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
  - Leads migration policy and coordinates return/readmission/reintegration SOPs. Publishes policies and some reports, but no explicit statutory duty to publish deportation statistics.
  - NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- National Policy on Migration (2015) and inter-agency SOPs
  - Encourage data collection, coordination, and evidence-based planning for migration management (including returns/readmissions). These are policy/tools rather than laws imposing public-reporting duties.
  - NCFRMI policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
  - Coordinates consular actions on organized returns/readmissions; does not have a statutory requirement to publish deportation datasets, though it may issue statements.
  - MFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- General transparency mechanisms (indirect)
  - Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011: Provides the public a right to request information from Nigerian public institutions, including NIS and NCFRMI. This is a disclosure-on-request regime

rather than a mandate to proactively publish deportation data.

- Federal Ministry of Justice (FOI resources): Federal Ministry of Justice

What happens in practice

- Agencies may release periodic press statements or summaries on returns, escorted removals, or mass repatriations, but comprehensive, regularly updated deportation datasets (e.g., by nationality, ground of removal, legal pathway, vulnerability) are not systematically published on government portals.
- Researchers and the public typically rely on:
  - Ad hoc agency releases (NIS/NCFRMI/Interior).
  - FOI Act requests to NIS/NCFRMI/Interior for specific time-bound data.
  - Policy reports on NCFRMI's publications page when available.

Where to check or request data

- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS): Home - Nigeria Immigration Service | Acts/Regulations: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
- Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- To request official figures: Use the FOI Act via the relevant agency; FOI resources: Federal Ministry of Justice

Bottom line

- No explicit, deportation-data publication duty exists in the Immigration Act/Regulations or related mandates.
- Limited, non-systematic public reporting occurs; more detailed datasets can be pursued through FOI Act requests to NIS/NCFRMI/Ministry of Interior.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Short answer: No single Nigerian law designates one agency to "publish" deportation data to the public. However, several government bodies are legally responsible for collecting and holding deportation/return records within their mandates, and they may release summaries or respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

Agencies that collect (and may publish) deportation/return data

- Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) – primary operational custodian
  - Legal role: Statutory authority for admission/refusal of entry, detention, removal of non-citizens, carriers' obligations, and record-keeping under the Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulations, 2017. NIS is the core collector of deportation/removal data and issues operational circulars and occasional public updates.
  - Where to check/request: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service
  - Acts/Regulations and circulars: https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
  - Laws index (Immigration Act): https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/I1.html
- Federal Ministry of Interior – supervisory/oversight ministry
  - Legal role: Oversees NIS and broader internal security/immigration policy. May hold aggregated reports and can release information or policy statements.
  - Portal: Ministry of Interior
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) – migration policy and coordination
  - Legal role: Leads migration policy coordination, return/readmission/reintegration SOPs, and protection referrals (including asylum pathways). Collects reception/referral statistics related to returns, including

some data touching deportations, and may publish policy reports/SOPs.

- Portal: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
- Policies: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng/policies

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) – consular returns/readmissions
  - Legal role: Coordinates missions on organized returns and readmission arrangements. Holds administrative records from missions on Nigerians returned/deported but has no express statutory duty to publicly publish deportation datasets.
  - Portal: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) – mass-return reception (event-based)
  - Legal role: During mass returns, coordinates reception and assistance; may collect operational tallies for those events. Not a standing publisher of deportation data.
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
- National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) – protection subset
  - Legal role: For identified trafficking victims among deportees/returnees, NAPTIP records case data on identification, assistance, and outcomes. It may publish aggregated victim-assistance statistics, but these are not comprehensive deportation figures.
  - Acts and policies: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
  - Portal: NAPTIP – National Agency For The Prohibition Of Trafficking In Persons
- Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) – detention subset (when court-ordered)
  - Legal role: Maintains custody records for persons held pursuant to court orders, including non-citizens in criminal custody related to immigration offences (not immigration holding per se). Not a deportation-data publisher.
  - Portal: Nigerian Correctional Service Portal
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) – potential aggregator (cross-government data)
  - Legal role: National statistical authority; can compile administrative data produced by MDAs. There is no routine NBS series on deportation, but it can publish when data are provided by lead agencies.
  - Portal: Home | National Bureau of Statistics

Transparency mechanism applicable to all public institutions

- Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011
  - Effect: Gives the public a right to request records (including deportation statistics) from NIS, Interior, NCFRMI, MFA, etc. This is disclosure-on-request, not a mandate for proactive public datasets.
  - Federal Ministry of Justice (FOI resources): Federal Ministry of Justice

Bottom line

- Collection: NIS is the primary legal custodian of deportation/removal data; Interior, NCFRMI, MFA, NAPTIP, and NEMA collect relevant subsets within their mandates.
- Publication: No explicit statutory duty to routinely publish comprehensive deportation datasets. Public figures appear via agency press releases, policy reports, or FOI requests.
- Where to look or file requests:
  - NIS: Home - Nigeria Immigration Service | https://immigration.gov.ng/category/acts-regulations
  - Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior
- NCFRMI: https://ncfrmi.gov.ng
  - MFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - NAPTIP: https://www.naptip.gov.ng/acts-and-policies
- NEMA mandate: About NEMA – NEMA Nigeria
  - FOI Act guide (MoJ): Federal Ministry of Justice

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Accessing deportation data in Nigeria through access-to-information laws can be challenging. Nigeria has the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2011, which allows citizens to request information from public institutions. However, the effectiveness of this law can vary, and responses to requests may not always be timely or comprehensive. To obtain deportation data, you can: 1. Submit a FOIA Request: You can submit a formal request to the relevant government agency, such as the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS). Ensure your request is clear and specific to increase the chances of a successful response. 2. Visit Government Websites: Check the official websites of the Nigeria Immigration Service and other relevant agencies. They may publish reports or statistics related to deportation. 3. Contact NGOs and Research Organizations: Organizations that focus on human rights, migration, or legal aid may have access to such data or can guide you on how to obtain it. 4. Media Reports: Sometimes, media outlets publish reports based on data obtained through investigative journalism or FOIA requests.

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Panama

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Panama

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the U.S. to this country.

Individuals deported from the United States to Panama face a complex and often precarious situation upon arrival. Under a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Panama, these deportees—many of whom are not Panamanian nationals—are sent to Panama as a transit country while repatriation to their countries of origin is arranged. They typically originate from regions such as Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Africa, often fleeing persecution, war, or political repression.

Upon arrival, deportees are initially held in temporary shelters or remote camps, such as the San Vicente facility near the Darién Gap. These conditions are often restrictive: reports indicate that individuals are stripped of their phones, denied access to legal counsel, and subjected to poor humanitarian standards, drawing criticism from human rights organizations. Some are later released into Panama City with 30-day permits, extendable up to 90 days, to seek acceptance in a third country. However, many remain in legal limbo, as Panama lacks a clear asylum process and has explicitly stated it does not accept asylum applications.

Humanitarian groups, such as Fe y Alegría, have provided essential support by offering shelter, food, and basic services—often converting schools into temporary housing. Deportees may receive Spanish lessons, internet access, and meals, yet their futures remain uncertain. Some attempt to apply for asylum through European embassies or seek resettlement via UN agencies, though success rates are low. Others express a desire to return to the U.S., citing the absence of viable alternatives and the severe dangers of repatriation to their home countries, including potential persecution or violence.

In summary, deported individuals in Panama frequently encounter detention, abandonment, and prolonged uncertainty, with limited legal protections, scarce resources, and few options to regularize their status or reunite with family. This scenario underscores the humanitarian and legal challenges of relying on third countries as deportation intermediaries, a policy that has persisted into late 2025 with ongoing reports of migrant limbo.

Sources:

CBS News. (2025, March 9). Panama releases detained deportees from the U.S. after human rights criticism. Panama releases detained deportees from the U.S. after human rights criticism - CBS News

The Guardian. (2025, August 6). 'This is no life': Trump deportees unable to return home left in limbo in Panama. 'This is no life': Trump deportees unable to return home left in limbo in Panama | Panama | The Guardian

Newsroom Panama. (2025, April 20). Migrants Deported by the US to Panama are Still Looking for a Country to Call Home. Migrants Deported by the US to Panama are Still Looking for a Country to Call Home - Newsroom Panama

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

In Panama, deported individuals—whether Panamanian nationals or foreign migrants redirected through bilateral agreements like the U.S.-Panama deportation program—encounter a limited but evolving network of support systems and reintegration initiatives. These efforts are carried out by government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and community-based groups, addressing humanitarian, legal, health, and economic challenges amid strained infrastructure and ongoing deportations.

The Panamanian government participates in the MIRPS (Marco Integral Regional para la Protección y Soluciones), a regional framework coordinated by the Ministry of Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and ONPAR (Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados). Through MIRPS, Panama commits to improving access to protection, employment, education, health, and social services for migrants, asylum seekers, and host communities, including enhanced registration systems and socio-economic inclusion programs. Complementing this, the Ministry of Health's Plan para Fortalecer la Atención de Migrantes y Comunidades de

Acogida 2024–2030 focuses on strengthening healthcare in high-migration areas like Darién and Chiriquí, providing emergency relief, medical services, and social assistance to vulnerable groups.

International organizations fill critical gaps in state capacity. The UNHCR supports Panama's asylum system by offering legal assistance, shelter, basic services (including information on procedures and risks), and advocacy for alternatives to detention, while promoting inclusive policies. In 2025, UNHCR requires $53.4 million to sustain operations amid rising needs. HIAS Panama provides legal aid, mental health support, economic inclusion programs, and protection for vulnerable groups such as survivors of gender-based violence, serving over 43,900 people in 2024 with initiatives like safe housing and child education at reception posts. The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), in partnership with the Panamanian Red Cross, delivers emergency humanitarian aid, employment workshops, and job search support to promote self-reliance.

Community and faith-based initiatives offer direct, on-the-ground assistance. The Franciscan Network for Migrants (RFM) operates shelters and accompaniment programs in key areas like Panama City, Chiriquí (near Costa Rica), and the Darién border, providing food, hygiene kits, clothing, temporary housing, and spiritual support. Fe y Alegría, supported by international donors like the Quixote Center, runs humanitarian services including meal programs, repatriation aid, health support, and temporary shelters—such as in Panama City, where it has hosted U.S. deportees since early 2025. Additionally, the Talento sin Fronteras program—developed by ManpowerGroup, HIAS, and UNHCR—offers employability training, career advice, skills workshops, and internships for refugees, migrants, and Panamanians to foster social cohesion and reintegration.

Despite these resources, challenges persist, including limited asylum pathways and funding shortages, highlighting the need for sustained international cooperation.

Sources:

UNHCR. Panama. Panama | UNHCR

HIAS. Support For Refugees in Panama. HIAS Panama | Support For Refugees In Panama | HIAS

MIRPS. MIRPS in Panama. MIRPS in Panama - MIRPS

Ministry of Health, Panama. (2024). Plan para Fortalecer la Atención a Migrantes y Comunidades de Acogida en Panamá 2024-2030. Microsoft Word - Plan de Migrantes versión para imprenta

Franciscan Network for Migrants. (n.d.). Team Panamá. Team Panamá | Red Franciscana

Fe y Alegría. (n.d.). Accompanying Migrants in Panama. In the Darien Gap, Fe y Alegría is accompanying migrants.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Recent evaluations from organizations such as UNHCR, HIAS, Refugees International, and Panama's Ministry of Health reveal significant gaps in the support systems available to individuals deported to Panama. These assessments, based on official reports and field data from 2024-2025, highlight structural and humanitarian deficiencies that hinder reintegration and the protection of deportees' rights, particularly amid U.S.-funded deportation flights that continued into 2025.

One of the most critical gaps is the absence of a formal, government-led reintegration program specifically designed for deported individuals. Although Panama participates in the MIRPS (Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework), its national action plan focuses primarily on refugees and asylum seekers, with only limited commitments to social protection and health. Implementation remains constrained by capacity issues, with achievements like issuing asylum seeker IDs and work permits in 2024 falling short for deportees in transit or limbo.

Humanitarian access has been increasingly restricted, exacerbating vulnerabilities. Refugees International reports that Panama limited the presence of humanitarian organizations in key migrant reception areas such as Lajas Blancas and San Vicente, including the indefinite suspension of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) activities in March 2024—partially resumed in October 2024 but fully concluded by August 2025 due to reduced migration flows. This led to a sharp rise in untreated cases of sexual violence and a general decline in health and safety conditions for migrants and deportees.

Shelter and sanitation conditions are another major concern. Reports from The New

Humanitarian and RET International describe how migrants and deportees stranded in towns like Miramar, Palenque, and reverse flows (southbound after deportation) often sleep outdoors or in abandoned buildings, without access to clean water, sanitation, or medical care. Local health posts lack doctors and essential medications, and deportees must pay for drinking water, increasing risks of disease and dehydration.

Legal protection is severely limited. Despite Panama's international commitments, access to asylum is extremely restricted, especially for non-Latin American nationals from Asia, Africa, and elsewhere. Many deported individuals are unaware of their rights, lack necessary documentation, or face screening backlogs, leaving them in legal limbo without paths to regularize status or reunite with family. Legal aid from UNHCR and HIAS is available but scarce and underfunded.

Economic inclusion programs exist but are not widely accessible. Initiatives supported by HIAS and UNHCR, such as job training and online education, are often unavailable to deported individuals lacking legal status or identification. Barriers like bus fares ($40-60) strand deportees at reception points, and the Ministry of Health's Plan para Fortalecer la Atención de Migrantes y Comunidades de Acogida 2024–2030 is still in early stages with limited dedicated funding and implementation in high-need areas like Darién

Finally, gender-based violence and mental health risks are disproportionately high among women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals. While psychosocial support services like HIAS's L.I.S.A. hotline exist, coverage is limited, and many survivors lack access to safe spaces or trauma-informed care.

In summary, these gaps underscore the need for enhanced international funding and policy reforms to address the humanitarian crisis facing deportees in Panama, as migration flows evolve in 2025.

Sources:

MIRPS in Panama. MIRPS in Panama - MIRPS

Refugees International. (2024, October 11). After the Darien: Aid and Pathways for Migrants in Panama and Costa Rica. After the Darien: Aid and Pathways for Migrants in Panama and Costa Rica - Refugees International

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The New Humanitarian. (2025, June 19). The challenges facing "invisible" reverse flow migrants in Panama. The challenges facing "invisible" reverse flow migrants in Panama

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Médecins Sans Frontières. (2025, October 7). MSF concludes activities for migrants in Panama. MSF concludes activities for migrants in Panama | MSF

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Under a bilateral agreement signed on July 1, 2024, Panama and the United States launched a U.S.-funded removal flight program to manage irregular migration through the Darién region. This initiative includes:

- Temporary housing for deported individuals in hotels or shelters in Panama City and San Vicente.
- Logistical coordination for onward repatriation flights to countries of origin, funded by the U.S. and organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Capacity-building and training for Panamanian officials to ensure humane and safe repatriation procedures.

Although the Panamanian government facilitates these operations, it has clarified that the costs and logistics are covered by international partners, not by the state itself.

Also, Several NGOs and international organizations are actively supporting deported individuals and asylum seekers in Panama:

HIAS Panama

- Offers psychosocial support, legal guidance, and community integration programs.
- Runs empowerment workshops for women and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Strengthens community-based responses to gender-based violence.

UNHCR Panama

- Provides legal assistance, refugee status determination guidance, and referrals to shelters.
- Supports the Creciendo Juntos program in partnership with the Ciudad del Saber Foundation, offering: Job training, Entrepreneurship support and Continuing education workshops.

Fe y Alegría

- Operates migrant shelters in Panama City, offering food, clothing, hygiene services, and temporary accommodation.
- Collaborates with UNICEF to assist families with children, including access to psychosocial care and basic health services

Sources:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2024, July 1). United States Signs Arrangement with Panama to Implement Removal Flight Program. United States Signs Arrangement with Panama to Implement Removal Flight Program | Homeland Security

AP News (2025, February 13). Panama to Return 119 Migrants Deported from the US after Serving as a 'Bridge'. US deports 119 migrants from a variety of nations to Panama | AP News

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U.S. Embassy in Panama. (2025, May 6). U.S.-Panama Migration MOU Facilitates 48 Deportation Flights of Illegal Migrants. U.S.-Panama Migration MOU Facilitates 48 Deportation Flights of Illegal Migrants - U.S. Embassy in Panama

Human Rights Watch. (2025, April 24). "Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama. "Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama | HRW

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

The primary government body responsible for refugee and migrant affairs is the Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados (ONPAR), under the Ministry of Government. ONPAR is tasked with receiving and processing applications for refugee status and managing related administrative procedures, including the renewal of identity documents. However, Panama does not currently have a dedicated national law or reintegration policy specifically for deported individuals. Instead, deportees are processed under general migration and humanitarian protocols, often in coordination with international partners.

Panama adheres to several international instruments that shape its obligations toward deported individuals and migrants:

- The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which establish the principle of non-refoulement and the right to seek asylum.
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the American Convention on Human Rights, which guarantee due process and humane treatment.
- The Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), promoted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which encourages rights-based migration governance and reintegration strategies.

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Panama does not have a single, comprehensive legal framework specifically dedicated to the reintegration of deported individuals.

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Many individuals deported from the United States to Panama—primarily non-Panamanian nationals from regions like Asia, Africa, and the Middle East—are initially subjected to administrative detention in temporary immigration shelters or camps, particularly in remote areas such as the Darién region. These facilities, often referred to as albergues (migrant reception stations), function as ad hoc detention centers where deportees are screened and processed under Panama's immigration laws. Reports from the Global Detention Project confirm that Panama regulates migration-related detention through Law Decree No. 3 of 2008 and Executive Decree No. 320 of 2008, utilizing both dedicated centers in Panama City and informal border facilities for administrative holding.

Upon arrival, deportees undergo screening for security risks, identity verification, and repatriation feasibility, often coordinated by Panamanian authorities with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This process includes assessments to determine if individuals can be repatriated directly to their home countries or require further international coordination. In practice, under the 2024 US-Panama bilateral agreement, deportees have faced restrictive conditions: reports indicate confiscation of personal items like phones, denial of immediate access to legal counsel, and holding in overcrowded or unsanitary camps such as San Vicente near the Darién Gap.

Those unwilling or unable to return to their home countries—often due to fears of persecution, war, or violence—are sometimes transferred to guarded camps for further processing or released into Panama City with temporary stay permits of 30 days, extendable up to 90 days, to seek third-country options. Following human rights criticism, Panama released dozens of deportees from detention in March 2025, allowing them to remain in limbo while pursuing asylum or resettlement. UNHCR assists by registering asylum-seekers to shield them from further detention or deportation, though access to formal asylum procedures remains limited and inadmissibility rates high (e.g., 98% in recent years).

Detention is non-punitive in law and capped at 18 months, with prohibitions on detaining children under 18 (placed in alternative care instead). However, human rights concerns persist, including arbitrary detentions, punitive elements in practice, lack of legal aid, and poor conditions in border facilities, as highlighted by treaty bodies and UN rapporteurs in 2025.

In summary, deported individuals in Panama typically face initial administrative detention and screening upon arrival, with potential for release under temporary permits, but the process is marred by humanitarian challenges and limited protections as of November 2025.

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Global Detention Project. (n.d., content up to 2025). Panama Immigration Detention Profile. countries - Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

Panamá provides legal mechanisms for deported individuals — especially Panamanian nationals — to recover or renew their national identification documents (cédula), both within the country and through consulates abroad. These processes are managed by the Tribunal Electoral (TE), the national authority responsible for civil identification.

The process can be carried out in person or with a legal authorization/allowance or power of attorney document. The steps are as follows:

1. Visit the TE website or local office.
2. Submit personal data (name, ID number, date of birth).
3. Indicate if the ID was lost or stolen;
4. Pay a fee (approx. $65);
5. Receive the new cedula within 3–5 business days.

For IDs issued after January 1999, that are in the TE's database, the procedures may be undertaken outside Panama, in Panamanian Consulates (available in: Washington D.C., New York, Miami, Houston, Los Angeles, Madrid).

Note: Youth ID upgrades must be done in Panama.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Panama classifies these individuals as transit migrants, meaning they are not intended to remain permanently but are expected to be repatriated to their countries of origin.

The migrants deported from the US on February 2025, which did not accept returning to their country of origin were initially granted 90-day humanitarian stay permits, followed by six-month work permits if they remain in Panama in order to apply for asylum or to return to their country of origin on their on. These permits do not grant the migrants permanent residency or asylum status and are subject to revocation or expiration.

Many of these migrants have not requested asylum in Panama, hoping to apply for asylum in the US.

No information was giver to their situation after the expiration of these permits.

Sources:

Library of Congress. (2024, July 22). Panama-United States: Agreement Reached on Joint Repatriation Program. https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2024-07-22/panama-united-states-agreement-reached-on-joint-repatriation-program/

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New York Magazine. (2025, October 14). What Happened to the Migrants the U.S. Dumped in Panama?. What Happened to the Migrants the U.S. Dumped in Panama?

CNN. (2025, March 7). Panama offers temporary reprieve for 112 migrants deported by US. Panama offers temporary reprieve for 112 migrants deported by US | CNN

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. HIAS Panamá

   Mission: To protect refugees and displaced people, helping them rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

Services & Resources:

Legal support (rights education, access to protective services, assistance navigating legal systems)

Mental health care (community-based psychosocial programs)

Economic empowerment (livelihoods, employability training, entrepreneurship support)

Protection against gender-based violence

Impact:

Panamá hosts over 205,000 displaced people, including 6,000+ refugees and 34,000 asylum seekers.

HIAS has operated in Panamá since 2010.

Partners:

UNHCR

UN Women

ECHO (EU Humanitarian Aid)

AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)

Hilton Foundation

Manpower Group (for employability programs)

2. UNHCR Panamá (ACNUR)

Mission: To protect and assist refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring they can exercise their rights.

Services & Resources:

Legal guidance and support for refugee status recognition

Coordination with ONPAR (Panamá's refugee office)

Advocacy for access to territory and protection from forced return

Referrals to shelters, health services, and employment programs

Partners:

ONPAR (Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados)

Ciudad del Saber Foundation

NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)

HIAS

3. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) – Panamá

Mission: To protect the rights of displaced people and promote access to international protection.

Services & Resources:

Free legal assistance and guidance for asylum seekers

Support for access to refugee status determination (RSD)

Filing legal remedies and appeals

Partners:

ONPAR

UNHCR

4. Ciudad del Saber Foundation

Mission: To foster humanitarian action, innovation, and sustainable development through collaboration.

Services & Resources:

"Creciendo Juntos" program (with UNHCR): training, mentoring, and guidance in education, employability, and entrepreneurship

Safe spaces for refugee integration

Partners:

UNHCR

Local NGOs and international organizations

5. Hogar Luisa (Centro de Apoyo Integral – CAI)

Mission: Catholic Church shelter offering comprehensive support to migrants and refugees.

Services & Resources:

Temporary accommodation

Legal, psychological, social, and pastoral support

Partners:

Movilidad Humana Panamá

UNHCR

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

The government does not guarantee universal legal aid for all deportees, especially those without refugee or asylum status.

- Through ONPAR and UNHCR partnerships, the Country gives refugee legal support.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

- Yes, Panamá has incorporated international human rights and refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported and returned individuals, particularly through its asylum system and immigration policies. Panamá is a signatory to key international treaties, including:

  1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

  American Convention on Human Rights

  Cartagena Declaration on Refugees

- These instruments have shaped Panama's domestic laws to:

  Prohibit refoulement (forced return to danger)

  Guarantee due process and access to legal counsel

  Recognize expanded refugee definitions, including those fleeing generalized violence or public disorder

- In practical terms, Panama's legal framework includes:

  A formal asylum application process through the National Immigration Service (SNM)

  Rights for asylum seekers to remain in the country during application review

  Access to legal representation, often supported by NGOs

  Recognition of complementary protection for those not meeting strict refugee criteria but still facing serious risk

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Yes, Panamá offers legal education and rights-awareness programs for deported individuals, primarily through NGOs and international partnerships. There can be included:

HIAS Panamá

Quixote Center & Franciscan Network for Migrants (RFM)

Global Brigades Panamá

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S.

There are no formal programs specifically designed to help deported individuals recover possessions left behind in the US, such as personal belongings, documents, or assets abandoned during detention or removal. Reports from 2025 indicate that deportees to Panama often lose access to items confiscated during US detention (e.g., phones, wallets), with complaints of lost or destroyed property being difficult to resolve post-deportation due to limited recourse from abroad. Humanitarian organizations like Fe y Alegría and UNICEF provide immediate aid upon arrival, such as temporary shelter, food, clothing, and basic hygiene items, but they do not facilitate recovery of US-based belongings. Instead, deportees are advised to act proactively while in US custody: appoint a trusted agent via power of attorney (POA) to retrieve items, or file claims with US immigration authorities for lost property. Panama's asylum infrastructure remains under-resourced, with minimal screening capacity, leaving many deportees stranded without pathways to reclaim property or regularize status. As of November 2025, no bilateral mechanisms address this gap.

American Immigration Council. (2025, January). Deported with No Possessions: The Loss and Destruction of Migrants' Belongings in U.S.

Immigration Detention. deported_with_no_possessions.pdf

NBC San Diego. (2025, January 31). What Happens to People's Belongings When They're Deported? https://www.nbcsandiego.com/nbc-7-responds-2/what-happens-to-peoples-belongings-when-theyre-deported/3737261/

DHS. (2025, May 5). DHS Announces Historic Travel Assistance and Stipend for Voluntary Self-Deportation. DHS Announces Historic Travel Assistance and Stipend for Voluntary Self-Deportation | Homeland Security

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the U.S. after returning to this country?

There are no formal bilateral legal mechanisms between Panama and the US specifically designed to facilitate the recovery of property, wages, or financial assets post-deportation. However, deported individuals retain ownership of US-based assets (e.g., homes, vehicles, bank accounts) and can access them remotely or through representatives. Key options include appointing a trusted agent via power of attorney (POA) while in US custody to manage assets, withdraw funds, contest civil forfeitures, or file unpaid wage claims with the US Department of Labor. Many banks allow international access via apps or wire transfers, though some may restrict based on immigration status. Legal aid organizations recommend proactive planning, as navigating these from Panama is challenging without US representation. As of November 2025, no Panama-specific updates have emerged, but general US immigration resources apply.

Sources:

NBC Miami. (2025, March 31). What Happens to People's Assets If They Are Deported? https://www.nbcmiami.com/responds/what-happens-to-peoples-assets-if-they-are-deported/3579838/

LawInfo. (2025, November 7). How To Withdraw Money From Your Bank Account If You Are Deported. How To Withdraw Money From Your Bank Account if You Are Deported | LawInfo

NIWAP Library. (2025). Protecting Assets & Child Custody in the Face of Deportation. Deportation Manual 2

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

The primary bilateral agreement is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on July 1, 2024, establishing a US-funded foreign assistance program to support Panama in repatriating foreign nationals lacking legal status in its territory. Key provisions include logistical and financial support for removal flights (approximately $14M total, including $2.7M for flights and tickets), training for Panamanian officials, and capacity-building to ensure safe, humane, and effective repatriation procedures. Implementation began in February 2025, with Panama serving as a transit country for US-deported migrants from nations like China, India, Iran, and Uzbekistan, coordinating their onward repatriation to origins. By May 2025, the MOU had facilitated 48 deportation flights and 20 airline tickets. Additional 2025 agreements include an April MOU allowing US forces at Panamanian facilities for security cooperation, indirectly supporting migration enforcement.

Sources:

U.S. Embassy in Panama. (2025, May 6). U.S.-Panama Migration MOU Facilitates 48 Deportation Flights of Illegal Migrants. U.S.-Panama Migration MOU Facilitates 48 Deportation Flights of Illegal Migrants - U.S. Embassy in Panama

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2024, July 1). United States Signs Arrangement with Panama to Implement Removal Flight Program. United States Signs Arrangement with Panama to Implement Removal Flight Program | Homeland Security

Library of Congress. (2024, July 22). Panama-United States: Agreement Reached on Joint Repatriation Program. https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2024-07-22/panama-united-states-agreement-reached-on-joint-repatriation-program/

Refugee Rights. (2024, July 1). U.S. Funding of Deportations From Panama is Unprecedented and Deeply Concerning. U.S. Funding of Deportations From Panama is Unprecedented and Deeply Concerning | International Refugee Assistance Project

NDTA. (2025, April 11). Panama Authorizes US Armed Forces to Operate from Three Key Air and Naval Facilities. Panama Authorizes US Armed Forces to Operate from Three Key Air and Naval Facilities - National Defense Transportation Association

Human Rights Watch. (2025, April 24). "Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama. "Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama | HRW

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Panama is obligated under international law to ensure repatriation is voluntary, safe, and dignified, respecting human rights. Key instruments include the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, prohibiting refoulement (return to danger); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), safeguarding against arbitrary detention and ensuring due process; and the American Convention on Human Rights, mandating humane treatment and non-discrimination. Panama also adheres to the Global Compact for Migration, committing to dignified returns, reintegration support, and cooperation on migration management. UN guidelines from IOM and UNHCR require access to legal aid, consular support, protection screening, and assistance for vulnerable groups (e.g., children, GBV survivors), with 2025 reports urging Panama to bolster asylum procedures amid US deportations. Despite these, 2025 UN assessments note implementation gaps, including refoulement risks.

Sources:

UNHCR. Panama. Panama | UNHCR US

OHCHR. (2025, February 26). End of Visit Statement – Panama (13 to 19 February 2025). SRMigrantsEndofVisitStatement_Panama_ENG.pdf

UN Human Rights Council. (2025, May 15). A/HRC/59/49/Add.2: Visit to Panama. Document Viewer

Refugees International. (2025, February 20). In Apparent Quid Pro Quo Deal, Panama and Costa Rica Facilitating U.S.-Sponsored Human Rights Violations of Asylum Seekers. In Apparent Quid Pro Quo Deal, Panama and Costa Rica Facilitating U.S.-Sponsored Human Rights Violations of Asylum Seekers - Refugees International

CEJIL. (2025, August). Situation of People in Human Mobility in Panama. 2025-04-07-Alternative-report-MH-PN.pdf

IOM. (2025, March 28). IOM's Appeal towards the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for the Venezuela Situation 2025. IOM's Appeal towards the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (to the Venezuela Situation) 2025 | Global Crisis Response Platform

5. Describe the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals.

Panama's consulates in the United States play a critical role in supporting Panamanian nationals before and after deportation, offering a range of consular services aimed at protecting their rights and facilitating a safe return. Prior to removal, consulates assist detained individuals by conducting visits to detention centers, issuing emergency travel documents such as temporary passports when originals are missing or confiscated, providing legal guidance, helping locate attorneys, and intervening with U.S. immigration authorities to ensure humane treatment and due process. After deportation, consulates coordinate with Panamanian authorities for repatriation logistics, including reception upon arrival, and may refer individuals to reintegration services or humanitarian aid through partnerships with organizations like the Ministry of Social Development. Additional services include civil registry functions (such as registering births or deaths abroad), notarial services, consular registration for tracking nationals, and facilitating communication with family members.

These consulates maintain official websites—such as the Embassy of Panama in Washington, D.C., the Consulate General in New York, and others—where nationals can access forms, contact information, service details, and emergency hotlines. Amid heightened US deportations in 2025, consulates continue to provide these supports, though they cannot prevent deportations and focus on advocacy and documentation

Sources:

Embassy of Panama in the United States. (2025). Consular Services. Information on the DC Consulate — EOP

Embassy of Panama in the United States. (2025). Consulates of Panama in the USA. Consulates of Panama in the USA — EOP

Embassies.info. (2025). Consulate General of Panama in New York City. Consulate General of Panama in New York City

Click2Visas. (2025). Panamanian Consulate in USA. Panamanian Consulate in Usa | Blog | Click2visas

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to this country from November 2024 to present.

Between November 2024 to present, the United States deported a total of 299 individuals to Panama under the bilateral migration agreement. These deportations occurred via three military charter flights landing at Panamá Pacífico International Airport (BLB), formerly Howard Air Force Base, between February 12 and 15, 2025. The deportees were primarily non-Panamanian nationals from countries such as Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Uzbekistan, and various African nations, who could not be directly repatriated due to diplomatic barriers. No additional US-to-Panama deportations have been reported since February 2025; subsequent figures (e.g., 1,969 individuals repatriated by May 2025) refer to onward removals from Panama to other countries, facilitated by US funding. Overall US deportations in 2025 exceeded 527,000 nationwide, but Panama-specific arrivals remain limited to the initial 299.

Sources:

Migrants Deported to Panama | Latina Republic

"Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama | HRW

US deports to Panama nearly 120 migrants of different nationalities | Reuters

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

Migrants are mainly being sent to two locations after their arrival in Panama:

a) the Decapolis Hotel, a luxury hotel located in the City of Panama; and

b) the San Vicente Immigration Center, Darién Province

Located near Metetí, in the Darién jungle

Sources:

Inside the Five-Star Hotel Where Deported Migrants Are Awaiting Their Fate - Newsweek

Nearly 300 Deportees from US Trapped in Panama Hotel Seek Help

'Help us': Hundreds deported from US held in Panama hotel

The U.S.'s Illegal Migrant Deportations to Panama

Migrants Deported to Panama Jungle Camp Face Uncertain Future - The New York Times

Detention centre - Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Upon arrival, deported individuals have been initially held or resettled in two main locations, which are not formal resettlement cities but temporary holding sites:

- Panama City: Many were housed at the Decapolis Hotel, a luxury facility converted into a temporary custody center, where they were confined with limited freedom of movement.
- Metetí (Darién Province): Others were transferred to the San Vicente Immigration Center, a remote migrant reception camp in the Darién jungle region, near the Colombian border, where conditions have been criticized for being restrictive and inadequate.

No widespread resettlement to other major cities (e.g., Colón or David) has been reported, as Panama treats these individuals as transit migrants awaiting repatriation or third-country options.

Source:

U.S.-Panama Migration MOU Facilitates 48 Deportation Flights of Illegal Migrants - U.S. Embassy in Panama

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S. of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Complete demographics on the 299 migrants deported from the US to Panama on February 2025 is not available. However, the non-profit organization Human Rights Watch has managed to interview 48 of those individuals and gathered the following summary:

- Gender: 15 men, 32 women, and 1 child were interviewed from the group.
- Age Range: Mostly young adults, including individuals in their 20s and 30s. Example: a 21-year-old Afghan woman and a 27-year-old Iranian woman.
- Family Status: Mixed: some were single individuals, others were parents or couples.
- Education Level: Varied: included professionals such as a data scientist from Afghanistan and a construction contractor from Iran.
- Years in the U.S.: Most had recently crossed the U.S. border in January or early February 2025. Many were detained for days to weeks before deportation.

The full paper on these interviews is available on:

"Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama | HRW

Additional information:

Migrants deported by the US to Panama are still looking for a country to call home - The World from PRX

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

The US Government justifies the deportation of migrants from the US due to the illegal status of their migration into the US. The event that lead to the deportation of 299 migrants in February 2025 is preceded by the declaration on January 20, 2025, by the US President, declaring an "invasion" at the U.S.-Mexico border and suspending the right to seek asylum for individuals crossing the border "illegally."

Based on the interviews carried out by the non-profit Human Rights Watch, none of the 48 interviewed deportees were given a fair hearing or legal counsel before removal.

Their removal to Panama results from the Joint Repatriation Program signed by Panama and US in 2024, expanded in February 2025, allowing Panama to receive third-country nationals deported from the U.S. who could not be returned directly to their home countries due to diplomatic or logistical barrier.

Sources:

"Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama | HRW

Panama-United States: Agreement Reached on Joint Repatriation Program | Library of Congress

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Panama's National Migration Service (SNM) manages deportation procedures and immigration enforcement. The legal framework allows for administrative discretion in deportation cases and does not obligate SNM to release detailed public data on deportations.

Reporting is typically internal or shared with international partners like the International Organization for Migration - IOM or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR, but not systematically published for public access.

Panama collaborates with organizations like the Global Detention Project and IOM to provide migration-related statistics, but these are often aggregated and limited in scope.

Sources:

Migration Data and Research | OIM Panama

countries - Global Detention Project | Mapping immigration detention around the world

Panama: A "Bridge" Serving Trump's Sweeping Deportation Plans

migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-institutional-legal-framework-panama.pdf

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

The National Migration Service (SNM), under the Ministry of Public Security, is the primary agency responsible for collecting deportation data, managing procedures, and enforcing immigration laws. SNM may share aggregated data with international bodies like IOM or UNHCR but is not obligated to publish it publicly. The Ministry of Public Security oversees broader coordination, including with US partners.

Panama: Government Reporting Requirement Enforced; Strict Penalties May Apply | Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP

ICE Tip Form | ICE

SRMigrantsEndofVisitStatement_Panama_ENG.pdf

U.S. Funding of Deportations From Panama is Unprecedented and Deeply Concerning | International Refugee Assistance Project

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, deportation data can potentially be requested under Panama's access-to-information law, Law No. 6 of January 22, 2002, which promotes transparency in public administration and defines "information of free access" as non-confidential administrative records, statistics, and reports. Requests can be filed with SNM or the Ministry of Public Security, with responses required within 30 days (extendable to 60 for complex cases); if denied, appeals are possible via the National Transparency and Access to Information Authority (ANTAI). However, data may be restricted if it involves personal or sensitive information under data protection laws.

Sources:

Panama - United States Department of State

Will Panama's Data Protection Law Become a Model? – Inter-American Dialogue

Necessary and Proportionate

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Paraguay

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Paraguay

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the U.S. to this country.

1. Reasons and Deportation Process

   In 2025, six Paraguayan citizens have been deported from the U.S., mainly due to irregular entry (unauthorized immigration). Deportations are carried out via commercial flights, and individuals are not handcuffed or escorted by law enforcement, which differs from the treatment of deportees from other countries.

   The U.S. government covers all costs related to the deportation, including airfare, so Paraguay does not bear financial responsibility.

2. Arrival and Reception in Paraguay

   Deportees arrive at Silvio Pettirossi International Airport. Upon arrival, they are received by immigration authorities, but there is no formal reintegration protocol in place to support them immediately.

3. Social and Economic Reintegration

   The Secretariat for the Development of Repatriated and Refugee Nationals (SEDERREC) is responsible for assisting returnees, but it faces several challenges:

   Lack of reliable data on deportees.

   Slow and uncoordinated processes.

   Insufficient services to support reintegration.

   With support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), pilot programs have been launched that include:

   Socioeconomic profiling of returnees.

   Microenterprise and entrepreneurship training.

   Gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches to reintegration.

4. Consular and Community Support

   During the deportation process in the U.S., Paraguayan nationals go through immigration court proceedings and receive assistance from Paraguayan consulates. Paraguayan communities in cities like Los Angeles and New York have created support networks involving social organizations, churches, and legal aid groups.

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

1. Government Programs

   - "Welcome Home" Program
     Paraguay offers assistance to returning nationals through this initiative. It provides:
     - Repatriation certificate for access to property rights and nationality for children.
     - Tax exemptions for importing personal belongings and vehicles.
     - Travel subsidies for vulnerable groups.
     - Business support programs to help returnees integrate into the formal labor market or start businesses. [ohchr.org]
   - Social Services

     These include repatriation subsidies and coordination with local authorities to ensure permanent settlement and access to basic services.

2. NGOs and International Organizations

   - UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
     While primarily focused on refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR also supports displaced individuals and returnees by:
     - Facilitating local integration.

- Promoting self-reliance through small business initiatives.
- Providing information and referrals via its HELP platform. [unhcr.org]

- Human Rights NGOs
  - Amnistía Internacional Paraguay and Codehupy (Human Rights Coordinator of Paraguay) advocate for migrant rights and provide legal and social support. [ngobase.org]
- Faith-based and community organizations often assist with food, shelter, and reintegration, though these are less formalized.

3. Legal Aid
   - Public Defence Office (Ministerio de la Defensa Pública)
     Offers free legal assistance to vulnerable individuals, including deportees, ensuring due process rights. [rightsinexile.org]
   - CONARE (Comisión Nacional de Apátridas y Refugiados)
     Handles refugee and stateless person cases but can also guide deported individuals on legal status and integration options. [rightsinexile.org]
4. Practical Challenges
   - Paraguay does not have a formal immigration detention system, and deportation cases are relatively rare. However, during crises (e.g., COVID-19), returnees faced poor conditions in state-run facilities, highlighting gaps in infrastructure for deported individuals. [globaldete...roject.org]

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

The central finding of this analysis is the significant gap in Paraguay's framework for addressing the needs of non-citizen deportees. There is an absence of a dedicated government body or program for non-nationals who are forcibly returned.

For returning citizens, the process of reintegration is not without its challenges, particularly concerning the recovery of official identity documents. The national identity card (cédula de identidad) is a crucial document for accessing services and proving citizenship. However, the process of recovering or renewing it can be bureaucratic. For example, to apply for a consular passport, a citizen must have their Paraguayan identity card

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

the "Support Program for Entrepreneurial Repatriates,"

The Government of Paraguay, through this program, aims to support the economic and social development of repatriated citizens who are starting or strengthening a business. It provides them with entrepreneurial training to help build a more competitive environment, as well as a supplementary financial contribution to their business capital. This is intended to provide the necessary incentive to boost their ventures. The program also creates a framework for returned human, social, and financial capital to be integrated into society under favorable conditions.

This program aligns with the provisions of Law No. 7444/24 for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises. Article 6. EXCEPTIONS: "For the purposes of this law, companies engaged in financial intermediation, insurance, and individuals who are taxpayers of income and capital gains tax, as well as income derived from the provision of independent personal or dependent services, will not be considered."

The Support Program for Repatriated Entrepreneurs is considered the most inclusive reintegration initiative carried out by the SEDERREC. It seeks to minimize the lack of opportunities that led to emigration by giving repatriated citizens with economic ventures—which may have been started as a means of subsistence or as a work alternative—the chance to strengthen them with more competitive human resources and more attractive profitability.

Contributions in the form of AFC (Complementary Financial Contributions) for ventures will be granted in the following cases:

1. The launch or strengthening of ventures by repatriated citizens will be supported with a maximum amount of 200 daily minimum wages as established for various unspecified activities.

This program is intended for citizens who have lived abroad permanently and continuously for at least two years and have returned to Paraguay within the last five years, which will be verified through the issuance of a Repatriation Certificate.

Inicio o fortalecimiento de emprendimientos de connacionales repatriados – Repatriados

Apoyo a Repatriados Emprendedores – Repatriados

Traslado de emprendimientos de connacionales hasta nuestro país – Repatriados

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

1. Migration Law – Law No. 6984/22
   - Purpose: Modernizes Paraguay's migration management system.
   - Key Provisions:
     - Establishes three residence categories:
       - Occasional Residence (up to 90 days)
       - Temporary Residence (2 years)
       - Permanent Residence (requires prior temporary residence)
     - Grants identity cards to temporary residents, enabling access to public services.
     - Replaces the former General Directorate of Migration with the National Directorate of Migration as the enforcement authority.
   - Impact on Reintegration: Facilitates legal status for foreign spouses and children of repatriated nationals and supports lawful activities during residence processes. [gestoriaen...uay.com.py]
2. National Migration Policy (Decree No. 4483)
   - Approved by the Paraguayan government to guide migration governance.
   - Focus Areas:
     - Safe and orderly migration.
     - Protection of migrants' rights.
     - Coordination with agencies like the Secretaría de Desarrollo para Repatriados y Refugiados Connacionales (SEDERREC) for reintegration programs. [migraciones.gov.py]
3. Repatriation Framework
   - Managed by SEDERREC under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
   - Programs and Legal Benefits:
     - Certificado de Repatriación: Grants tax exemptions for personal belongings and professional tools.
     - Facilitates:
       - Validation of academic degrees.
       - Nationality options for children of Paraguayan citizens.
       - Legalization of documents without consular fees.
     - Legal Basis: Rooted in constitutional provisions (Art. 146) and administrative regulations for repatriation assistance. [mre.gov.py], [repatriados.gov.py]
4. Constitutional Guarantees
   - Article 146 of the Paraguayan Constitution: Recognizes nationality for children of Paraguayan citizens, even if born abroad.
   - Ensures due process rights during deportation or return procedures. [repatriados.gov.py], [generisonline.com]
5. International Commitments
   - Paraguay is party to:
     - 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.
     - 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.
   - These commitments influence policies for vulnerable returnees and deported individuals. [acnur.org]

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Paraguay's legal framework, anchored in its Constitution, recognizes that all inhabitants are equal in dignity and rights and guarantees access to essential services. The right to health care for the entire population is also recognized, with efforts made to protect life and fundamental rights.

Law 6984/2022 and the Constitution uphold universal rights.

Ley Nº 6984 / DE MIGRACIONES

CONSTITUCION DE LA REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

The National Directorate of Migrations (DGM) is the central authority tasked with controlling the admission, entry, permanence, and exit of both foreign and Paraguayan nationals. All travelers are required to register their entry and exit at a control post. The DGM also maintains records and applies sanctions for legal offenses against the Paraguayan Immigration Law. Individuals deported to Paraguay, specifically returning Paraguayan nationals, do not face detention or screening upon arrival.

Paraguay espera la deportación de dos connacionales desde Estados Unidos - SWI swissinfo.ch

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

1. Governing Authority
   - The Departamento de Identificaciones of the Policía Nacional is responsible for issuing and renewing the Paraguayan ID card (cédula).
   - All procedures must be done in person; since August 2025, power of attorney is no longer accepted for ID collection. [paraguayre...cyteam.com]
2. Renewal and Recovery Scenarios
   - Renewal for Expiration
     Present the expired cédula.
     Processing time: ~20 business days. Fee: Gs. 8,500. [identifica...raguay.com]
   - Renewal for Loss, Theft, or Damage
     Requires:
     - Police report (denuncia) from Paraguay or from the country of residence if abroad.
     - Original supporting documents (birth certificate, etc.) if data changes are needed. [policianac...nal.gov.py]
   - Renewal with Data Modification
     Requires:
     - Original birth certificate with marginal notes.
     - Judicial or administrative resolution authorizing changes.
     - Authenticated copies of civil registry records. [policianac...nal.gov.py]
3. For Repatriated Citizens
   - Under the Repatriation Program managed by SEDERREC, individuals receive:
     - Certificado de Repatriación, which:
       - Exempts fees for legalization of personal documents.
       - Facilitates nationality confirmation and civil registry updates.
       - Supports free judicial sponsorship for nationality declaration (for children born abroad). [mre.gov.py], [tramites.r...dos.gov.py]
   - This certificate helps streamline ID recovery by removing consular fees and accelerating document validation.
4. Required Documents for ID Recovery
   - For Paraguayan citizens:
     - Birth certificate issued by the Civil Registry.

- Previous cédula (if available) or police report for loss.
- For minors: parental presence or judicial custody authorization. [policianac...nal.gov.py]

- For those with nationality option (children of Paraguayans born abroad):
  - Final judgment or administrative resolution granting nationality.
  - Identity documents of parents. [wikiprocedure.com]

5. Key Legal Basis

- Law No. 6984/22 (Migration Law): Governs residency and ID issuance for foreigners and returning nationals. [migraciones.gov.py]
- Constitution Article 146: Grants nationality to children of Paraguayan citizens, enabling ID issuance after formal declaration. [repatriados.gov.py]

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

The legal status of a Paraguayan citizen upon deportation is distinct from that of a foreign national. A Paraguayan citizen, regardless of how they return, remains a national.

Misión y visión – Repatriados

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

The Paraguayan institutional response is primarily articulated through the Secretariat for Development of Repatriated and Refugee Nationals (SEDERREC), which leads a coordinated ecosystem with participation from the Ministry of Labor, the General Directorate of Migration, and international organizations such as IOM and UNHCR.

SEDERREC

Secretaría cuenta con ayuda económica temporal para familias repatriadas • PARAGUAY TV

The Paraguayan deportee assistance system is structured on three complementary institutional levels. SEDERREC emerges as the governing entity, functioning as a specialized ministry with 15 regional offices that has grown from 4 initial staff to a technical team of 10 specialists between 2016-2025. Its mandate ranges from economic support for entrepreneurship (allocating 70% of funds to seed capital) to technical training and entrepreneurship monitoring, having benefited 6,251 people during 2021 and trained more than 700 repatriates in entrepreneurship programs.

Oportunidades para los migrantes retornados en Paraguay - aecid.es

Habilitan inscripciones para programa de apoyo a repatriados emprendedores - .::Agencia IP::.

The General Directorate of Migration, under the direction of Jorge Kronawetter, manages the direct reception of deportees at Silvio Pettirossi airport, coordinating with the MIDAS biometric system implemented at 16 border posts with an investment of USD 2.1 million administered by IOM. The director reports that deportations from the United States follow a “differentiated procedure” through commercial flights, without handcuffs and respecting human rights treaties, with the United States covering all procedure costs.

Habilitan inscripciones para programa de apoyo a repatriados emprendedores - .::Agencia IP::.

La OIM y el Gobierno de Paraguay firman acuerdo para mejorar la gestión migratoria en el país | International Organization for Migration

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Paraguay has built a substantial international normative framework through ratification of key instruments, but faces persistent challenges in its effective implementation. The country ratified the American Convention on Human Rights through Law No. 01/89, incorporating protections from Article 22 against arbitrary deportation and collective expulsion, while the International Convention on Protection of Migrant Workers (Law No. 3452/2008) establishes specific guarantees against deportation of migrant workers.

The Paraguayan constitutional architecture grants superior hierarchy to human rights treaties over internal laws (Article 137), and the country expressly accepts the supranational legal order that guarantees human rights (Article 145). This framework allowed Paraguay to sign the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018, committing to safe and dignified return and prohibition of collective expulsions.

Derechos Humanos en Paraguay 1996: Derecho al debido proceso.

The Organic Law of the Ministry of Public Defense (Law No. 4423/2011) consolidates the system by establishing the obligation to "advise, assist, represent and defend free of charge physical persons who lack sufficient resources for access to jurisdiction" (Article 9), with the favorable principle that "in cases of doubt, it is always in favor of providing the service" (Article 64).

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

The country ratified the American Convention on Human Rights through Law No. 01/89, incorporating protections from Article 22 against arbitrary deportation and collective expulsion, while the International Convention on Protection of Migrant Workers (Law No. 3452/2008) establishes specific guarantees against deportation of migrant workers.

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

Paraguay has developed a coordinated programmatic structure for legal education and comprehensive assistance to deportees, led by specialized institutions with national coverage and defined budgets. SEDERREC operates 15 regional offices offering services ranging from the Support Program for Repatriated Entrepreneurs to free legal sponsorship for Paraguayan nationality under constitutional Article 146, having benefited 6,251 people during 2021 and granted Paraguayan nationality to 170 foreigners who are children of Paraguayans.

The Ministry of Labor coordinates through SNPP (National Professional Promotion Service) job training programs specific to deportees, offering more than 500 technical courses in face-to-face, distance and hybrid modalities, complemented by the "Creative Market" for social reintegration of graduates. Coordination with SEDERREC allows technical training during the 4-month economic assistance period for vulnerable families.

El Gobierno benefició a más de 6.000 repatriados en el 2021 - .::Agencia IP::.

Comité de Protección de los Derechos de Todos los Trabajadores Migratorios y de sus Familiares (CMW) – Paraguay (2012) – ACNUDH

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the U.S.

1. U.S. Government Policies
    - CBP & ICE Property Handling Rules
        - Belongings taken during detention are supposed to be stored and returned under CBP National Standards on Transport, Escort, Detention, and Search (TEDS) and ICE detention standards.
        - In practice, many items (cash, IDs, phones) are lost or destroyed. Complaints after deportation are very difficult to file. [americanim...ouncil.org]

- CBP Directive 5240-010 (2024) provides guidance for handling and returning property from short-term holding facilities. [cbp.gov]
- H.R.10237 – CBP Guidance on Personal Belongings Act (2024) aims to improve accountability for property handling, but it's still pending implementation. [congress.gov]

- Time Limits for Retrieval
  - CBP generally holds belongings for 30 days after arrest or deportation. Individuals must coordinate with Mexican consular officers or other consulates to retrieve items. [vice.com]

2. Voluntary Departure Programs
   - CBP Home Mobile App
     - Allows undocumented individuals to arrange voluntary self-departure with benefits like:
       - Cost-free travel.
       - $1,000 exit bonus.
       - Time to organize personal affairs before leaving.
     - While it doesn't guarantee property recovery, it gives time to secure belongings before departure. [dhs.gov]
   - Project Homecoming
     - Offers assistance for voluntary exit flights but warns that property may be confiscated if compliance steps aren't followed. [visaverge.com]
3. Nonprofit & Advocacy Programs
   - Property Recovery Assistance Project (No More Deaths)
     - Helps deported individuals retrieve belongings from CBP facilities, especially in Arizona border areas.
     - Works with consulates and volunteers to recover items like IDs, phones, and money. [vice.com]
   - Freedom for Immigrants
     - Provides a National Immigration Detention Hotline and logistical help for detainees and families, including guidance on recovering property. [freedomfor...grants.org]
   - Binational Defense and Advocacy Program (PDIB)
     - Documents property loss cases and advocates for better enforcement of return standards. [americanim...ouncil.org]
   - Other NGOs
     - Groups like CHIRLA, CARECEN, and National Immigrant Justice Center offer legal and logistical support, including advice on safeguarding assets and recovering possessions. [lataco.com], [nonprofitpoint.com]
4. Practical Steps for Individuals
   - Before Deportation
     - Set up power of attorney for someone in the U.S. to manage property and accounts. [visaverge.com]
     - Contact consulates immediately after removal for property retrieval coordination.
   - After Deportation
     - Call CBP or ICE property offices within 30 days.
     - Use NGOs like No More Deaths or Freedom for Immigrants for assistance.

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the U.S. after returning to this country?

1. Property Ownership Rights
   - Deportation does NOT revoke property rights in the U.S.
     - Non-citizens can legally own real estate, vehicles, and bank accounts regardless of immigration status.

- A deportation order is a civil matter and does not trigger automatic forfeiture of legally acquired assets. [legalclarity.org], [orangecoun...ngfirm.com]

- Asset forfeiture risk exists only if property is linked to criminal activity. ICE can seize assets under civil forfeiture laws, but owners can contest in court. [visaverge.com]

2. Managing Assets from Abroad

- Power of Attorney (POA)
  - The most recognized legal tool for managing property and finances remotely.
  - Allows a trusted person in the U.S. to pay bills, sell property, access bank accounts, and handle legal matters. [nslegalaid.org], [findlaw.com]
- Estate Planning & Trusts
  - Creating a revocable living trust or estate plan can ensure property and financial assets are managed according to your wishes. [nbcmiami.com]

3. Bank Accounts & Financial Assets

- U.S. banks generally allow remote access via online banking and international wire transfers.
- Challenges:
  - Some banks require a U.S. address and may freeze accounts if foreign activity is detected.
  - Solutions include notifying the bank, using IRS Form W-8 BEN to certify foreign status, or converting accounts for non-resident holders. [legalclarity.org]

4. Wages and Employment Claims

- There is no dedicated federal program for deported individuals to recover unpaid wages after removal.
- Options:
  - File a claim with the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division remotely or through a legal representative.
  - NGOs like Appleseed Network provide guides and pro bono assistance for wage recovery and financial planning. [nbcnews.com]

5. Confiscated Belongings

- ICE and CBP have formal policies for returning confiscated documents and property:
  - ICE Directive 11311 requires officers to record and return original documents (passports, IDs) upon request.
  - Individuals can file USCIS Form G-884 to request return of personal property or documents. [ice.gov], [shepelskylaw.com]
- Complaints after deportation are difficult but possible through agency ombudsman or legal counsel. [americanim...ouncil.org]

6. Legal Aid Resources

- Nonprofit Support:
  - Appleseed Network – Deportation Preparation Manual and financial planning help.
  - Legal Aid Clinics – Assist with POA, trusts, and property management. [nbcnews.com], [nslegalaid.org]

(a) Key Takeaway

There is no single formal U.S. mechanism for comprehensive recovery of property, wages, and assets post-deportation. Instead, deported individuals rely on:

- Civil property rights protections.
- Legal tools like POA and trusts.
- Administrative processes for document recovery.
- NGO and legal aid support for wage claims and financial planning.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the U.S. and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

There is an absence of a Specific Repatriation Agreement. The research showed no such specific instrument with Paraguay

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Paraguay has acceded to the core international instruments that form the basis of modern human rights and refugee law. These include the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Furthermore, Paraguay's National Constitution explicitly recognizes the preeminence of international human rights law, integrating these obligations into its domestic legal framework. This means that international standards for the treatment of returnees are not merely aspirational but are legally binding on the Paraguayan state.

unhcr_upr24_pry_e_main.pdf

Paraguay 2001 - Chapter IX

Paraguay has established domestic institutions, such as the Secretariat of Development for Returnees and National Refugees, and programs like "Welcome Home," which are designed to fulfill these international obligations by providing assistance for integration. The UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers has commended Paraguay for these efforts while also calling for them to be strengthened

In Dialogue with Paraguay, Experts of the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers Commend Paraguay on its Business Programme for Returning Paraguayans, Raise Issues Concerning Assistance for Returnees, and Training to Assist Victims of Trafficking | OHCHR

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the U.S. in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

1. Pre-Removal Support

- Consular Notification and Access
  Under U.S. law and international treaties, when a Paraguayan national is detained, U.S. authorities must notify the nearest Paraguayan consulate. Consular officers can:
  - Communicate with detainees.
  - Ensure access to legal representation and medical care.
  - Contact family members and provide welfare checks. [travel.state.gov]
- Document Assistance
  Consulates help nationals secure or replace passports and identity documents needed for removal or voluntary departure. They also legalize documents for use in Paraguay. [mre.gov.py]
- Emergency Coordination
  Consulates provide emergency contact numbers and can intervene in urgent cases, including humanitarian concerns or vulnerable individuals (e.g., minors, health issues). [py.usembassy.gov]

2. Post-Removal Support

- Repatriation Program
  Paraguayan consulates administer the Repatriation Program, which offers:
  - Travel subsidies for return to Paraguay.
  - Customs exemptions for personal belongings and professional tools.
  - Free legalization of documents and consular fee waivers.
  - Issuance of a Constancia de Repatriación, later exchanged for a Certificado de Repatriación in Paraguay, granting tax benefits and facilitating reintegration (e.g., validation of diplomas, nationality options for children). [mre.gov.py]
- Coordination with SEDERREC
  Consulates link deported nationals with

the Secretaría de Desarrollo para Repatriados y Refugiados Connacionales in Paraguay for reintegration services, including housing, employment, and social assistance. [mre.gov.py]

3. Limitations
   - Consulates do not provide direct legal defense in U.S. immigration courts.
   - Assistance with property or wage recovery in the U.S. is limited; they mainly offer guidance and referrals to NGOs.
4. Geographic Coverage

   Paraguay maintains consulates in Washington, New York, Miami, Los Angeles, and an honorary consulate in Houston, covering all U.S. regions. [embassies.net]

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the U.S. to this country from November 2024 to present.

ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE 14 removals in Q4 2024 and 13 removals in Q1 2025; no expulsions reported

FOIA ICE Library | ICE 8 removed in november and december 2024 and 19 through Jul 31,2025.

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the U.S. are arriving during the same period.

Asunción. Commercial flights.

The migrants landed in Paraguay “on regular flights” and “without the need for any special custody for security reasons,” Kronawetter told EFE, noting that the deportations began last February.

Six Paraguayans have been deported from the U.S. so far in 2025, according to Migrations - SWI swissinfo.ch

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

1. Asunción (Capital District)
   - Paraguay’s capital and largest metropolitan area.
   - Central point for SEDERREC (Secretaría de Desarrollo para Repatriados y Refugiados Connacionales) and government reintegration programs.
   - Offers access to employment, housing, and social services. [migrants-refugees.va]
2. Ciudad del Este (Alto Paraná Department)
   - Second-largest city, located near the Brazil border.
   - Major commercial hub with opportunities in trade and retail.
   - Common destination for returnees seeking economic activity. [migrants-refugees.va]
3. Encarnación (Itapúa Department)
   - Southern city near Argentina border.
   - Known for tourism and cross-border commerce.
   - Reintegration programs often link returnees to local business initiatives. [migrants-refugees.va]
4. Concepción (Concepción Department)
   - Northern city with agricultural and livestock economy.
   - Attracts returnees with rural or farming backgrounds. [migrants-refugees.va]
5. Pedro Juan Caballero (Amambay Department)
   - Border city with Brazil, active in trade and services.
   - Strategic for those with family or business ties across borders. [migrants-refugees.va]

6. Coronel Oviedo (Caaguazú Department)
    - Central location, important for logistics and agriculture.
    - Often chosen by returnees from rural areas. [migrants-refugees.va]
7. Villarrica (Guairá Department)
    - Cultural and educational center in the southeast.
    - Offers opportunities for small businesses and education. [migrants-refugees.va]
8. Western Region (Chaco)
    - Cities like Filadelfia and Mariscal Estigarribia exist but have very low population density and limited infrastructure, so they are less common destinations for deported individuals. [migrants-refugees.va]

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S. of deported individuals to this country, if available.

1. Gender
    - Predominantly male: Over 90% of deportees from the U.S. are men, according to ICE data for Latin American countries. Women represent about 6–7% of deportations. [tracreports.org]
2. Age
    - Median age: Around 30 years.
    - Age distribution:
        - 15–29 years: ~45%
        - 30–39 years: ~33%
        - 40–49 years: ~14%
        - 50+ years: ~4% [tracreports.org]
3. Family Status
    - Many deported individuals are heads of household or have family ties in the U.S.
    - Paraguayan emigrants often migrate for work, leaving spouses and children behind; family reunification after deportation is a major challenge. [migrants-refugees.va]
4. Education Level
    - Most deported Paraguayans have basic or secondary education.
    - A smaller proportion has technical training or higher education, often linked to migration for skilled jobs. [migrants-refugees.va]
5. Years in the U.S.
    - Many deportees lived in the U.S. for 5–15 years, often establishing strong social and economic roots before removal.
    - Long-term stayers face greater reintegration challenges due to loss of local networks in Paraguay. [migrants-refugees.va]
6. Family Composition
    - Deportees frequently leave behind children who are U.S. citizens or mixed-status families.
    - This creates legal and emotional complexities during reintegration. [migrants-refugees.va]

Key Observations

- Young, working-age men dominate deportation flows.
- Many have low to medium education, worked in labor-intensive sectors, and were primary income earners.
- Extended U.S. residence means reintegration programs must address economic and psychosocial needs.

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Most of the citizens were expelled for “irregular entry” into the United States, for not having the “corresponding authorization.”

Six Paraguayans have been deported from the U.S. so far in 2025, according to Migrations - SWI swissinfo.ch

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Yes. The General Directorate of Migration achieved the corresponding optimal rating (2022), through the publication of 100% of the minimum information required in Article 8 of Law No. 5282/14 "On Free Citizen Access to Public Information and Government Transparency" and in Article 3 of Law No. 5189/14 "Which establishes the obligatory nature of the provision of information on the use of public resources on remuneration and other remuneration assigned to the public servant of the Republic of Paraguay", also known as the Transparency Law.

The information published within the framework of both laws can be accessed through the institutional website.

Migrations reached 100% compliance within the framework of the Transparency and Access to Public Information laws - Migrations

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

1. Dirección Nacional de Migraciones (National Directorate of Migration)
   - Primary authority for migration control and statistics.
   - Collects and publishes:
     - Border and airport movement data.
     - Residency applications and migration flows.
   - Maintains an official statistics portal with weekly updates and provides historical data upon request through the Portal de Acceso a la Información Pública. [migraciones.gov.py]
2. Secretaría de Desarrollo para Repatriados y Refugiados Connacionales (SEDERREC)
   - Oversees repatriation programs and tracks data on returning nationals, including deported individuals.
   - Coordinates reintegration assistance and reports figures to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [migrants-refugees.va]
3. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
   - Through its consular network, collects data on Paraguayans deported from abroad.
   - Shares information with SEDERREC for reintegration planning. [migrants-refugees.va]
4. Dirección General de Estadística, Encuestas y Censos (DGEEC)
   - Paraguay's national statistics office.
   - Publishes demographic and migration-related data, including population trends and emigration patterns, though not detailed deportation figures. [migrationd...portal.org]
5. International Partnerships
   - IOM (International Organization for Migration) and UNHCR collaborate with Paraguay to improve migration governance and data collection, especially for displaced persons and returnees. [migrationd...portal.org], [unhcr.org]

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Public Information Law 5282/14 - Migrations

Public Information Law 5282/14

Information that is not published on this website may be requested through the Unified Public Information Portal of the National Government and will be provided according to the modalities and deadlines provided by law, unless they are established as secret or reserved by law.

Unified Portal for Access to Public Information

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Peru

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Peru

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Social Impacts

- Family separation: Many deportees leave behind spouses and children in the U.S., resulting in long-term emotional and logistical challenges [1].
- Government support: The Peruvian government has pledged to provide deportees with medical care, legal assistance, and reintegration support through ministries such as Women, Labor, and Social Inclusion [2].
- Consular assistance: Peru has tripled legal services in 16 Peruvian consulates in the U.S. to help Peruvians prepare for deportation and manage assets left behind [2].

Economic Impacts

- Labor market strain: Deportees often enter the informal economy due to lack of recognized credentials, increasing underemployment and competition for low-wage jobs.
- Source: Refugees International – From Displacement to Development (*This is specific to Venezuelan people deported to Peru*)

Psychological Impacts

- Trauma from detention and deportation: Deportees often experience PTSD, anxiety, and depression due to harsh detention conditions and abrupt removal [1].
- Fear and distrust: Many avoid public services due to fear of being stigmatized or re-targeted, which exacerbates mental health issues [1].
- Cultural dislocation: Deportees who spent years or decades in the U.S. often feel like strangers in Peru, leading to identity crises and emotional distress [1].
- Need for culturally competent care: Mental health professionals stress the importance of culturally responsive services, which are currently lacking in Peru [1].

Sources:

[1] U.S. immigration policy: Mental health impacts of increased detentions ...

[2] Peru to receive and provide support to compatriots deported from U.S ...

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

- MINJUSDH Reintegration Program: The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights launched the “Mejoramiento Integral de los Servicios de Readaptación Social en el Perú,” a multi-million-dollar initiative aimed at improving reintegration services for formerly incarcerated and deported individuals. It includes infrastructure upgrades, psychosocial support, and vocational training [1].
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Support: The Ministry has tripled legal services in 16 U.S.-based Peruvian consulates to assist deportees with legal advice and asset management before repatriation [2].
- Social Sector Coordination: Upon arrival, deportees receive support from the Ministries of Women, Labor, and Social Inclusion, including medical care and labor reintegration assistance [2].

NGO and International Support

- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Technical Cooperation: The IDB supports Peru’s reintegration efforts through institutional strengthening, technical assistance, and knowledge transfer to improve social reintegration services [3].
- Estudio Muñiz Legal Advocacy: This law firm provides labor reintegration guidance and legal support for deportees, emphasizing the need for tailored employment strategies and legal protections [4].

Community and Local Initiatives

- Community Legal Clinics and Advocacy Groups: Local organizations and legal clinics offer pro bono services, mental health support, and employment counseling to deportees, although coverage is uneven and concentrated in urban areas [4].
- Public Awareness and Education Campaigns: Some community leaders and advocates work to reduce stigma and educate deportees about their rights and available resources [4].

References:

[1] MINJUSDH presenta programa para mejorar servicios de readaptación ...

[2] Peru to receive and provide support to compatriots deported from U.S ...

[3] Support for the Comprehensive Improvement Project for Reintegration ...

[4] Estudio Muñiz - Labor reintegration of Peruvians deported from the U.S. Note: the link to the page redirect to the main page not to the blog.

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

Institutional and Policy Gaps

- Lack of a unified national reintegration strategy: Despite multiple ministries being involved, Peru lacks a centralized, coordinated policy specifically addressing the reintegration of deported individuals [1].
- Fragmented service delivery: Reintegration services are dispersed across various agencies without clear inter-agency coordination, leading to inefficiencies and duplicated efforts [2].
- Limited coverage of reintegration programs: Most programs focus on urban centers, leaving deportees in rural or remote areas with little to no access to support [2].

Operational and Funding Gaps

- Insufficient funding for reintegration programs: The MINJUSDH's reintegration initiative, though ambitious, faces budgetary constraints and relies heavily on external financing from the Inter-American Development Bank [3].
- Understaffed and under-resourced institutions: Evaluations show that many institutions involved in reintegration lack the human and technical capacity to meet the growing demand [2].
- Short-term project cycles: Many reintegration efforts are project-based and lack sustainability, making long-term support for deportees uncertain [4].

Social and Legal Gaps

- Limited legal aid and documentation support: Deportees often return without valid identification or legal documents, and there is no streamlined process to help them recover these [2].
- Inadequate mental health services: Psychological support is not systematically integrated into reintegration programs, despite the high prevalence of trauma among deportees [2].
- Stigma and discrimination: Social reintegration is hindered by public stigma, especially for those deported due to criminal charges or long-term undocumented status abroad [5].

References:

[1] MTIGM: Programas de atención a población migrante en el Perú

[2] Peru country strategy evaluation (English) 2019-2023 - UNHCR

[3] MINJUSDH presenta programa para mejorar servicios de readaptación ...

[4] Comprehensive enhancement of social reintegration services in the ...

[5] The Forgotten Side of Deportation: The Cost of Ignoring Returnees ...

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

Government Initiatives

- Programa Nacional PAIS (MIDIS): This national program facilitates access to social, economic, and productive services for vulnerable populations, including deportees,

through mobile platforms and territorial units across Peru [1].

- PIAS – Mobile Platforms: These itinerant platforms bring state services (health, legal, documentation) to remote communities, including areas with high returnee populations [2].
- Foreign Ministry Legal Support Expansion: Peruvian consulates in the U.S. have intensified legal and documentation support for citizens facing deportation, including pre-deportation counseling and asset management [3].

Civil Society and Legal Sector Programs

- Estudio Muñiz Labor Reintegration Program: This legal firm offers guidance on labor reintegration for deported Peruvians, advocating for tailored employment strategies and legal protections [4].
- IOM-Government-Private Sector Agreement: The International Organization for Migration signed a cooperation agreement with the Spanish and Peruvian governments and private sector to support long-term reintegration of returnees from Spain by providing employment and social services [3].

Community-Based and Refugee-Led Initiatives

- UNHCR Localization Strategy: Since 2021, UNHCR has supported over 30 community-based organizations (CBOs) across Peru to provide legal aid, psychosocial support, and documentation assistance to migrants and deportees [5].
- CBO Coordination Network: A network of 32 CBOs in Lima, Arequipa, Trujillo, and Ica coordinates joint activities, case referrals, and emergency assistance for vulnerable returnees [5].
- Small Grants and Capacity Building: UNHCR provides targeted training and financial support to CBOs to enhance their service delivery and sustainability [5].

References:

[1] Programa Nacional Plataformas de Acción para la Inclusión Social

[2] PIAS - Plataformas móviles - Contenido institucional - Programa ...

[3] IOM signs cooperation agreement with government and private sector to ...

[4] Estudio Muñiz - Labor reintegration of Peruvians deported from the U.S.

[5] Localization strategy: Strengthening the organizational and ... - UNHCR [PDF]

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Key Laws and Legislative Frameworks

- Ley N.º 31827 – Ley de Reinserción Económica y Social para el Migrante Retornado:
  - Expands benefits of the earlier Ley N.º 30001.
  - Offers tax exemptions for personal goods, vehicles, and work equipment brought into Peru.
  - Provides access to educational, labor, and social programs to support reintegration.
  - Includes recognition of foreign degrees, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support [1].
- Decreto Legislativo N.º 1350 – Ley de Migraciones:
  - Establishes the legal framework for migration management, including deportation procedures.
  - Defines rights and obligations of migrants and returnees.
  - Includes provisions for humanitarian migration status, family unity, and protection of vulnerable groups [2].
- Recent Amendments to Decreto Legislativo N.º 1350:
  - Strengthens procedures for expulsion and identification of foreigners.
  - Introduces special administrative sanctions for irregular migration and threats to public order.
  - Sets a 24-hour limit for expedited deportation procedures [3].

Policy and Institutional Oversight

- Defensoría del Pueblo – Informe Defensorial N.º 146:
  - Recommends creation of a high-level legal framework to guide migration policy.
  - Highlights the need for intersectoral coordination, data systems, and civil society participation.
  - Emphasizes the right to return and the obligation to provide reintegration mechanisms [4].
- Decreto Legislativo N.º 1236 – Nueva Ley de Migraciones:
  - Replaces the outdated Ley de Extranjería (DL 703).
  - Promotes non-criminalization of irregular migration, family unity, and humanitarian protections.
  - Encourages permanent regularization and integration of migrants and returnees [5].

References:

[1] Ley de reinserción económica y social para el migrante retornado

[2] Ley y Reglamento de Migraciones - Informes y publicaciones ...

[3] Aprueban modificar Decreto Legislativo de Migraciones sobre expulsión e ...

[4] id 146.indd CORRECIONES FLAE.indd - defensoria.gob.pe [PDF]

[5] Defensoria del Pueblo Peru

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

1. Mental Health Services

- Community Mental Health Centers (CSMCs): Peru has a national network of CSMCs offering outpatient care for moderate to severe mental health conditions, including therapy, psychiatric services, and social work support [1].
- Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental Honorio Delgado – Hideyo Noguchi: This institute leads national efforts in mental health research, training, and specialized care, including trauma-informed approaches for vulnerable populations [1].
- Access for migrants and deportees: According to the Defensoría del Pueblo, deported individuals can access public psychosocial services, though awareness and availability remain limited [2].

2. Housing Assistance

- Temporary Shelters (HRTs): Peru has 49 shelters nationwide for vulnerable populations, including migrants and deportees, though coverage is insufficient and uneven across regions [2].
- Defensoría del Pueblo Recommendations: The Ombudsperson's Office has called for the expansion and improvement of shelter infrastructure and services, especially in high-risk areas like Callao [2].
- No dedicated housing programs for deportees: While general shelters exist, there are no specific transitional housing programs tailored to deported individuals [2].

3. Employment Reintegration

- SIVICE Platform: The Ministry of Labor operates the Sistema Virtual de Contratos de Extranjeros (SIVICE), allowing migrants and returnees to formalize employment contracts online [3].
- Recognition of foreign credentials: The Defensoría del Pueblo outlines procedures for validating foreign degrees and titles to facilitate professional reintegration [2].
- Legal pathways for independent and dependent work: Deportees can work legally if they obtain the appropriate migratory status and register with SUNAT for tax purposes [2].

4. Education and Vocational Training

- Access to public education: Deportees can enroll in public schools and universities, provided they meet documentation requirements. Alternative pathways exist for those lacking formal records [2].
- Recognition of foreign studies: The Ministry of Education allows for the validation of basic and higher education completed abroad,

enabling access to further studies or employment [2].

- Specialized programs for vulnerable populations: The Programa Presupuestal 0106 supports inclusion of individuals with disabilities in basic and technical education, which may benefit deportees with special needs [4].

References:

[1] Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental Honorio Delgado-Hideyo Noguchi ...

[2] GUÍA PARA PERSONAS REFUGIADAS, SOLICITANTES DE LA CONDICIÓN DE ... [PDF]

[3] Sistema Virtual de Contratos de Extranjeros – SIVICE

[4] From Displacement to Development: How Peru Can Transform Venezuelan …

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Arrival Procedures and Detention

- No systematic detention upon arrival: Peru does not operate formal immigration detention centers for deported individuals. The Defensoría del Pueblo confirmed that no one was detained for migration reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic and that immigration detention is not a standard practice [1].
- Administrative detention is legally permitted: Peru's migration laws allow for administrative detention in cases involving suspected crimes or for expedited deportation procedures. However, actual use is rare, and there are few documented cases of detention upon arrival [1].
- Reception without detention: Deportees arriving from the U.S. are generally received without detention and are instead offered medical care and reintegration support by various ministries, including Women, Labor, and Social Inclusion [2].

Screening and Documentation

- No formal screening protocol at arrival: According to the Defensoría del Pueblo, Peru lacks a standardized protocol for screening or reception of deported individuals. This includes no uniform procedures for identifying needs or vulnerabilities upon arrival [3].
- Migration status and documentation checks: While deportees are not detained, they may undergo basic documentation verification to determine their migratory status and eligibility for reintegration services [3].
- Need for improved coordination: The Ombudsperson's Office has called for clearer protocols and inter-agency coordination to ensure consistent and rights-based reception practices for returnees [3].

References:

[1] Peru Immigration Detention Profile - Global Detention Project

[2] Peru to receive and provide support to compatriots deported from U.S ...

[3] DOCUMENTO DEFENSORIAL N° 001-2023-DP/ADHPD-PINVE

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

1. Recovery or Renewal of DNI (Documento Nacional de Identidad)

- Eligibility: Any Peruvian citizen aged 17 or older, including those returning from abroad or deportation, is eligible to apply for a new or replacement DNI [1]. Those under 16 years of age who are applying for a DNI for the first time will need the assistance of a parent, grandparent, adult sibling (aged 18+), or legal guardian.
- Types of Procedures Available:
  - First-time issuance (for those who never had a DNI).
  - Renewal due to expiration.
  - Replacement due to loss, theft, or damage.
  - Extemporaneous registration for individuals over 20 who never obtained a DNI [2].
  - First-time issuance for those aged 0 to 16 years old [3].

- Required Documents:
  - Certified copy of birth certificate (unless already registered in RENIEC).
  - Utility bill (water, phone, property tax) no older than 6 months.
  - Passport-style photo (white background, no glasses or headwear).
  - Payment receipt for administrative fees (approx. S/ 32.00).
  - For naturalized citizens: copy of naturalization certificate [1].
- Application Process:
  (a) Payment: Can be made at Banco de la Nación, authorized agents, or online via pagalo.pe.
  (b) Submission: Visit a RENIEC office or MAC center to submit documents.
  (c) Processing Time: Approximately 30 business days.
  (d) Pickup: DNI must be collected in person, though delivery location can be changed for an additional fee [1].
- Digital Services:
  - RENIEC offers online tracking of DNI applications and virtual services for document authentication and updates [2].
  - The ID Perú platform allows users to validate their identity digitally using the DNIe (electronic DNI) [2].

References:

[1] Solicitar DNI por primera vez - Solicitar DNI por primera vez para ...

[2] Trámites y servicios - Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado ...

[3] Solicitar DNI por primera vez para menores de 0 a 16 años

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Legal Status Upon Arrival

- Peruvian nationals deported from abroad are not subject to immigration detention or criminal procedures upon arrival. They are received as citizens and do not require visas or permits to re-enter the country [1].
- Foreign nationals deported to Peru (e.g., those with dual nationality or residency) may be subject to documentation checks and status verification by the Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones [1].
- No automatic detention: Peru does not systematically detain deported individuals upon arrival unless there is a pending criminal matter or unresolved legal status [1].

Administrative Procedures

- Decreto Legislativo N.º 1350 – Ley de Migraciones:
  - Establishes that MIGRACIONES is responsible for managing the reception and integration of migrants, including deportees.
  - Promotes non-criminalization of irregular migration and emphasizes human rights protections [1].
  - Allows for temporary or permanent residence permits to be issued to vulnerable individuals, including deportees, based on humanitarian grounds [1].
- Decreto Legislativo N.º 703 – Ley de Extranjería:
  - Regulates the entry, residence, and legal status of foreigners in Peru.
  - Defines procedures for visa issuance, status changes, and residence permits [2].
  - Establishes that foreigners must enter through official checkpoints and maintain regular migratory status [2].

- Judicial Procedures and Protections
  - Due process guarantees: Migrants and deportees have the right to challenge administrative decisions, including denial of entry or residence, through judicial review under Peruvian law [1]
  - Protection of vulnerable groups: MIGRACIONES and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are required to identify and assist individuals in vulnerable situations, such as victims of trafficking, minors, or those with disabilities [1].
  - No case law mandating detention: There is no jurisprudence requiring detention of deported individuals upon arrival. Instead, the legal framework emphasizes integration and rights-based approaches [1].

References:

[1] LEY Y REGLAMENTO - migraciones.gob.pe [PDF]

[2] DECRETO LEGISLATIVO No 703 - congreso.gob.pe [PDF]

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

1. Encuentros Servicio Jesuita para Migrantes (Encuentros SJM)

They organize meetings where they provide legal and non-legal help.

- Mission: Accompany, serve, and defend migrants, refugees, and displaced persons in Peru, promoting their rights and dignity.
- Services & Resources:
  - Legal aid via Clínica Jurídica Pedro Arrupe
  - Psychosocial support and protection spaces
  - Livelihood programs and community integration
  - Digital platform VenInformado for virtual assistance
- Individuals Helped: In 2024, 43,360 people were accompanied in situations of human mobility.
- Partners:
  - International Rescue Committee (IRC)
  - Lutheran World Relief (LWR)
  - Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Sources:

SJM Perú | Lima

Encuentros Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes | Organización que brinda asistencia y protección a personas que tienen el estatuto de refugiados, solicitantes de refugio y personas migrantes en situación vulnerable..

2. VenInformado InfoPa'lante

A digital platform created to support migrants and refugees in Peru, especially Venezuelans, with reliable and updated information [1].

- Mission
  - To provide validated, updated, and accessible information on legal, migratory, health, and integration processes for migrants and refugees in Peru.
  - To serve as a companion and ally throughout the migration journey in Latin America
- Type of Services and Resources Provided [2]
  - Legal and migratory guidance: Information on asylum, visa processes, and regularization
  - Health and emotional support: Orientation on public and private health systems, mental health resources

- Employment and entrepreneurship: Guidance on formal work options and starting businesses
- Education: Support for school enrollment, higher education, and professional degree validation
- Protection and rights: Information on gender-based violence, human trafficking, and legal protections
- Interactive service map: Shows available services across Peru for migrants in emergency situations [3].
- Free personalized assistance: Provided by a team of professionals including lawyers and social workers

Data on Number of Individuals Helped

- Over 60,000 direct cases of assistance provided since its launch [3].
- Built a digital community of over 50,000 users across Facebook and Instagram

Other Organizations They Partner With

- Lutheran World Relief (LWR)– Co-founder and strategic partner [1].
- Encuentros Servicio Jesuita para Migrantes (SJM)** – Co-founder and service provider
- International Rescue Committee (IRC) – Partner through the Signpost initiative [3]..
- UNHCR (ACNUR) – Endorses the platform as a reliable source of information
- Zendesk – Supports the platform's technological infrastructure [3].

Sources:

[1] https://www.veninformado.pe/sobre-nosotros/

[2] https://www.veninformado.pe/

[3] https://www.rescue.org/press-release/en-apoyo-personas-migrantes-y-refugiadas-en-peru-irc-y-socios-relanzan-plataforma-de

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Yes, Peru does guarantee legal aid for deported individuals, particularly Peruvian nationals returning from the United States. This support is provided through a combination of state-supported legal frameworks, government programs, and intersectoral coordination. Here's a summary based on official sources:

Legal Aid Frameworks and Government Support for Deported Individuals in Peru

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores [1].

- Legal Advisory Services: The Ministry has enhanced legal advisory services on immigration matters for deported Peruvians, including asset management and reintegration guidance.
- Consular Legal Support: Peru's 16 consulates in the U.S. provide legal assistance and maintain communication with U.S. immigration authorities to support detained Peruvians.
- Coordination with U.S. Authorities: Includes access to detention centers and expedited procedures for deportation cases.

2. Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUSDH) [2]

- Free Legal Aid Centers (ALEGRA): Offers free legal assistance through its Centros de Asistencia Legal Gratuita (ALEGRA) across Peru.
- Legal Orientation and Human Rights Protection: Promotes access to justice and legal protection for vulnerable populations, including deportees.

3. Legal Frameworks and International Commitments

- Legislative Decree No. 1350: Governs immigration law in Peru, including rights of foreign nationals and migrants. [3]
- Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR): Oversees refugee status determination and legal protection for asylum seekers and deported individuals. [4]

- UNHCR Collaboration: Peru works with UNHCR to provide legal aid, documentation, and protection services for migrants and deportees [5].

Sources:

[1] FA Ministry intensifies efforts to support Peruvians due to U.S. immigration policies

[2] Defensa Pública del MINJUSDH brinda asistencia legal a 106 peruanos repatriados desde EE.UU.

[3] Decreto Legislativo N° 1350 Ley de Migraciones. - Informes y publicaciones - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

[4] Comisión Especial para los Refugiados - Orientación - Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

[5] UNHCR - Peru 2025 Factsheet

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

1. Key International Treaties Ratified by Peru [1]

- 1951 Refugee Convention (ratified 1964) and 1967 Protocol (ratified 1983) – Core instruments defining refugee status and guaranteeing non-refoulement
- Cartagena Declaration (1984) – Regional expansion of refugee definition to include those fleeing generalized violence.
- 1954 Convention on Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness – Acceded in 2014, though Peru lacks national procedures for statelessness determination
- American Convention on Human Rights – Ratified in 1977, grants constitutional status to human rights treaties

2. National Legislation Incorporating These Standards [1] [2]

- Refugee Law No. 27891 (2002) – Establishes the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and aligns with international definitions and principles.
- Legislative Decree No. 1350 (2017) – Peru's Migration Law guarantees equal rights to migrants and deported individuals
- Temporary Stay Permits (CPP) and Humanitarian Residency Permits – Issued to over 200,000 Venezuelan migrants since 2021.

3. Compliance Gaps Identified [1]

- Limited Access to Health Services for non-nationals – Only pregnant women, children under five, and people with HIV can access free public healthcare; others require foreigner ID cards
- Discrimination and Xenophobia – Public officials and political candidates have made xenophobic statements; no systemic anti-discrimination policy exists.
- Barriers to Asylum Access – No uniform mechanism at borders; lack of public information on how to seek asylum.
- Due Process Violations in Expulsions – Expulsions carried out without case-by-case analysis; asylum seekers deported without proper review.
- Insufficient Protection for Vulnerable Groups – Survivors of gender-based violence and unaccompanied children face documentation and service access barriers

4. NGO and International Critiques

- Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI) Anti-NGO Law (2025) – Requires prior state approval for NGO projects; penalizes legal action against the State with fines up to $720,000 [3]
- UNHCR & OHCHR Concerns – Warn that the Anti-NGO Law restricts civic space and violates access to justice and freedom of association [4] [5]
- Amnesty International & ISHR – Condemn the Anti-NGO Law for undermining victims' rights and silencing human rights defenders [6]
- Cuso International – Reports that Indigenous, refugee, and women's groups are losing support due to legal restrictions [7]

References:

[1] UNHCR Peru Report

[2] Paving pathways for refugee inclusion: Peru case study | UNESCO

[3] Peru: NGOs condemn law restricting civil society and violating victims' rights | ISHR

[4] UNHCR - Peru September 2025 Operational Update

[5] OHCHR - Approval of Amendments to APCI law Seriously Affects Freedom of Association

[6] Peru: Amendment of the APCI law paves the way for impunity - Amnesty International

[7] Silenced in Peru: When Defending Human Rights Becomes a Crime - Cuso International

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

a) Reintegration Programs

The Peruvian government has publicly committed to supporting deported citizens through a multi-sectoral approach [1]. This includes:

- Medical care and psychological support
- Labor reintegration assistance
- Access to professional training
- Legal advisory services

b) Legal Firms and Advocacy Groups

- Estudio Muñiz, a Peruvian law firm, has published guidance on labor reintegration for deported individuals, highlighting legal pathways and employment rights [2].
- Collaboration with pro bono law firms is actively encouraged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to expand legal support for deportees [3].

c) Government Messaging and Legal Support

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies have emphasized dignified reintegration, framing deportees not as criminals but as citizens deserving support. Legal services and reintegration programs help normalize the return process, reducing public suspicion and promoting acceptance. [1]

d) Community-Based Approaches

NGOs and international partners like IOM and UNHCR support community engagement and education, which helps shift public perception. Programs include employment training, mental health support, and documentation assistance, which empower deportees and reduce marginalization.

e) Ethnographic Evidence

A study by Ulla D. Berg on Peruvian deportees found that community-level support and legal empowerment helped some individuals overcome stigma and rebuild their lives. [4]

f) Consular Campaigns in the U.S.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strengthened and expanded its consular network in the U.S., including new consulates in Salt Lake City, Phoenix, and Seattle [1].

These consulates conduct continuous communication campaigns to educate Peruvians about their rights, documentation, and legal risks.

g) Intersectoral Working Group for Migration Management

This group coordinates long-term reintegration strategies involving multiple ministries (Health, Labor, Education, Interior, etc.) [5].

Their work includes legal advisory services, employment support, healthcare access, and emotional assistance, all designed to be sustained and scalable.

h) Legal and Labor Reintegration Initiatives

Law firms like Estudio Muñiz are actively involved in ongoing labor reintegration efforts, offering legal guidance and employment pathways for deported individuals [2].

i) International Support

Organizations like IOM and UNHCR have multi-year strategies and funding plans (e.g., UNHCR's 2025 Global Appeal) to support migrant and deportee integration in Peru [6].

References:

[1] Peru to receive and provide support to compatriots deported from U.S. | News | ANDINA - Peru News Agency

[2] Estudio Muñiz - News

[3] FA-ministry-intensifies-efforts-to-support-peruvians-due-to-us-immigration-policies-1016419.aspx

[4] The Afterlife of US Disciplining Institutions: Transnational Structures of (Im)mobility among

Peruvian Deportees | Critical Dialogues in Latinx Studies: A Reader | NYU Press Scholarship Online | Oxford Academic

[5] UNHCR - Peru country strategy evaluation 2019-2023

[6] UNHCR | Peru

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Official procedures for recovering belongings after deportation

- ICE holds detainees' belongings in custody and protects them under *National Performance-Based Detention Standards (PBNDS)*. Source - El Tiempo
- A family member or friend can be authorized to collect the belongings by means of a power of attorney. Source - Libero
- ICE may destroy or auction off unclaimed property after a certain amount of time. Source - RPP Noticias

Support from the Peruvian Consulate

Shipping, receiving, and retrieving belongings

- Peruvian consulates can receive belongings or documents from citizens in emergency or vulnerable situations.
- In cases of detention, the consulate can help you recover personal belongings, as long as the corresponding documentation is presented and the identity of the national is verified.
- Notarial procedures such as consular powers of attorney can also be carried out, which allow you to delegate legal, family or financial procedures in Peru from abroad

Sources:

Peruvian Consulates in the United States

Legal and Humanitarian Assistance

Legal Resources and Financial Preparedness

- The Appleseed Network published a *Deportation Preparedness Handbook*, with strategies for protecting assets, bank accounts, and property. Source - Appleseed Network
- It is recommended to grant a power of attorney to a trusted person to handle assets in the U.S.

Source - Telemundo

- NGOs that provide support
- Freedom for Immigrants offers resources to locate detainees, legal advice, and support in deportation proceedings. Fuente - Freedom for Immigrants
- Immigrant Justice Corps, Pangea Legal Services, and Centro Legal Transgénero provide free or subsidized legal representation.
- Sources:

La República

Pangea Legal Services

Home - Transgender Law Center

- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) offer free legal defense to immigrants at risk of deportation.

Sources:

RPP Noticias

Immigrants' Rights | American Civil Liberties Union

Immigrant Defense Project: Know Your Rights with ICE — NMILC

How successful are these programs?

- Although there are procedures established by ICE and consular support, success depends on the migrant's prior preparation. If an attorney is not appointed or a claim is not made in time, the assets may be lost. Source - La República
- One study indicates that 66.5% of deportees reported that their belongings were retained, and 41.1% did not fully recover them. Source – VisaVerge

Are they promoted by the government or by NGOs?

- ICE (government agency) has protocols for searching and storing belongings but does

not offer active post-deportation assistance. Source - RPP Noticias

- NGOs such as CHIRLA, Freedom for Immigrants and Pangea Legal Services offer legal advice and accompaniment to recover belongings. Source - La República
- Consulates may act as intermediaries between ICE and the deportee, managing paperwork and shipping belongings. Source - RPP Noticias

What are the common challenges?

- Lack of information and prior preparation: Many migrants do not know that they must appoint a proxy or make an inventory. Source - Acceso Latino
- Limited Time to Claim: ICE may destroy or auction unclaimed property after a stipulated period.

Source - RPP Noticias

Legal and logistical barriers: distance, lack of documents, and bureaucracy make the process difficult from the country of origin. Fuente - Quiroga Law Office

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

Legal mechanisms for recovering property and financial assets

- Deportation does not imply the automatic loss of property. U.S. law protects the right to property through the Fourth Amendment, so deportees remain legal owners.

  Source - CubitaNow

  Source - El Tiempo Latino

- It is recommended to grant a power of attorney to a trusted person in the U.S. to manage properties, bank accounts, and businesses.

  Source – VisaVerge

  Source - La Nación

- Deportees can appoint legal representatives to make payments, collect rent, sell property, or take legal action from abroad. Source - Quiroga Law Office

U.S.-Peru Bilateral Agreements and Cooperation

- Although there is no specific treaty on asset recovery after deportation,The U.S.-Peru Settlement Agreement (PTPA) establishes principles for the protection of investments and private property.

  Source - Mincetur

- The Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, endorsed by Peru, promotes regional cooperation on migration issues, including reintegration and human rights. Source - U.S. Embassy in Peru

Legal and consular assistance programs for deported Peruvians

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru offers free legal advice, emotional support and assistance in documentary procedures to deportees.

  Source - Masks

  Source - Andina

- Peru ‘s Ministry of Justice and Human Rights provides criminal defense and counseling to deportees upon arrival in the country.

  Source - Infobae

- Peruvian consulates in the U.S. (16 in total) are instructed to legally assist nationals in detention centers and facilitate the recovery of belongings.

  Source - EGEC Peru

Are there any bilateral agreements between the U.S. and Peru?

- Yes, there are bilateral agreements that promote cooperation on migration, security, trade and human rights, although there is no specific one on the recovery of assets after deportation.

  Source - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

  Source – SDG Talks

  Source - La República

- In the cultural field, there has been a bilateral agreement since 1997 that has allowed the repatriation of cultural property from the United States to Peru.

Source - Canal N

Source - U.S. Embassy in Peru

How often are deportees successful in recovering their property?

- 66.5% of deportees reported that their belongings were retained, and 41.1% were unable to recover them completely.

  Source – VisaVerge

- Success depends largely on prior preparation, such as having a legal representative, remote access to bank accounts, and organized documentation.

  Source - La Nación

  Source - Libero

What legal assistance is offered to deported Peruvians?

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru coordinates with several ministries to offer comprehensive assistance: health, employment, education and legal advice.

  Source - TV Peru

  Source - EGEC Peru

  Source - Andina

- The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUSDH) provides free legal advice through the Public Defender's Office, especially in criminal and victims' matters.

  Source - AP News

  Source - Peruinforma

- The 16 Peruvian consulates in the U.S. offer legal assistance, coordination with ICE, and visits to detention centers. Source: Fuente - América TV

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

1. US-PE Agreement for the Rapid Return of Deported Nationals

- Program Name: Electronic Verification of Nationality (ENV).
- Objective: To accelerate the process of repatriation of Peruvian citizens with a final order of deportation.
- Implementation: Electronic procedure that reduces waiting time in detention centers.
- Official confirmation: U.S. Embassy in Peru and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.
- Official text: Infobae - Acuerdo Perú-EE.UU. sobre retorno rápido

2. Joint Statement of the Peru-US High-Level Dialogue (2024)

- Areas addressed: Democratic governance, migration, security, education, culture.
- Migration: It was agreed to strengthen regional cooperation and work with international organizations to address migration concerns.
- Other achievements: Signing of memorandums on aerial interception and cooperation on critical minerals.
- Official text: Gob.pe - Declaración Conjunta Perú-EE.UU.

3. Repatriation Agreement on Private Flights

- Since 2022, Peru and the U.S. have had an agreement to repatriate Peruvian citizens on organized flights.
- Results: More than 12,000 Peruvians have been returned on 101 flights.
- Peruvian commitment: Guarantee a safe, orderly and dignified return.
- Official text: Gob.pe - Acciones para retorno seguro

4. Intersectoral Working Group for Migration Management

- National coordination: Involves 25 entities of the Peruvian State.
- Services offered: Health (SIS), legal advice, employment, education, emotional support.
- Consular strengthening: 16 consulates in the U.S. with expanded capacity.
- Official text: Gob.pe - Protección ante nuevas políticas migratorias

How have these agreements evolved?

- Since 2006, the Trade Promotion Agreement (MYPPA) has been the basis for bilateral cooperation, including clauses on labour rights, environmental protection, and democratic governance. Official text of the MYPOW
- In 2024, the High-Level Dialogue Mechanism was established, which allows for regular reviews of progress on migration, security, and human rights. Gob.pe - Peru-U.S. Strategic Partnership
- Peru supported the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, which promotes safe, orderly, and regular migration in the region. U.S. Embassy in Peru

What guarantees do these agreements include?

- Protection of human rights: The agreements are based on principles of non-discrimination, transparency, and respect for the fundamental rights of migrants. Global Compact for Safe Migration
- Equal treatment of domestic and foreign investors, which protects the financial assets of deportees. Official text of the MYPOW
- Commitment to dignified reintegration: Peru guarantees health services, legal advice, and emotional support to deportees. Gob.pe - Safe Return

How is compliance monitored?

- Through the High-Level Dialogue Mechanism, which includes periodic meetings between foreign ministries and specialized working groups. Gob.pe - Peru-U.S. Strategic Partnership
- USAID and other U.S. agencies monitor the implementation of development and migration programs in Peru. U.S. Embassy in Peru
- OHCHR monitors compliance with international human rights standards in migration contexts. Boletín ACNUDH sobre migrantes

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Relevant international treaties and conventions

- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990): Peru is a party to this convention, which establishes the right of migrants to return to their country and obliges the State to readmit its nationals and guarantee their safety, dignity and reintegration. Official text - UNESCO
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018): Peru adopted this non-binding pact that includes Goal 21, focused on facilitating safe, dignified and sustainable return, with guarantees such as due process, individual assessment, and post-return assistance. Gob.pe - Adoption of the Global Compact ; UN Network on Migration - Goal 21
- American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José): It recognizes the right of everyone to return to their country and prohibits collective expulsion. Peru, as a State party, must guarantee these rights in repatriation processes. Inter-American System - OAS

Guarantees included in international frameworks

- Prohibition of refoulement: A person cannot be returned if he or she is at risk of irreparable harm.

  OHCHR - Return and Human Rights
- Free, prior and informed consent: All return must be voluntary, except in cases of legally justified deportation. UN Network - Position Paper
- Sustainable reintegration: States must create conditions for returnees to reintegrate with access to health, employment, education and social protection. Checklist for dignified return - Refworld

Monitoring and compliance mechanisms

- Voluntary Country Report on the Global Compact: Peru presented progress in the implementation of the 23 objectives of the compact, including return and reintegration. Voluntary Country Report

- Intersectoral Working Group for Migration Management (MTIGM): Coordinates actions between ministries to guarantee comprehensive care for returned migrants. Gob.pe - Migrant Care Programs

Has Peru faced international criticism?

- Amnesty International criticized the militarization of the Peruvian border in 2023, noting that it could violate the rights of migrants and refugees. Source - Yahoo News
- Experts and civil organizations have questioned the lack of sociocultural orientation and citizenship education for migrants, which hinders their integration. Source - Peru21
- It has been pointed out that less than 1% of refugee applications in Peru have been resolved favorably, which shows structural limitations. Fuente - Latin American Center of European Studies

Which obligations are most difficult to fulfill?

- Sustainable reintegration: Although Peru offers services such as health, legal advice, and employment, coverage is limited and depends on budget availability. Source - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Protection of vulnerable migrants: The Ombudsman's Office has urged the State to establish a comprehensive repatriation plan with clear priority criteria. Source - Ombudsman's Office
- International financing: The reduction in funding from agencies such as UNHCR and IOM has affected the Peruvian State's response capacity. Fuente - Latin American Center of European Studies

Do these obligations influence domestic legislation?

- Yes. The National Migration Policy 2017–2025 was designed in coherence with international treaties such as the Global Compact for Migration and the Convention on the Rights of Migrants.

  Source - 2019 Thesis Lizana Gomez Monica Cecilia.pdf
- Peruvian migration legislation seeks to balance national security and human rights, influenced by international commitments. Source - Universidad del Pacífico
- The New Migration Regulatory Compilation (2023) systematizes national and international standards applicable to migration management. Source - Migrations Peru

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Role before deportation

- Preventive Legal Assistance: Provides guidance on immigration rights, offers information on detention and deportation proceedings, and helps contact attorneys. Source - Consulate of Peru in New York
- Documentation and procedures: Issuance of passports, powers of attorney, birth certificates and other documents necessary to face immigration processes. Source - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru
- Mobile consulates: They travel to remote areas to serve Peruvians who cannot reach the main headquarters. Source - Consular Information

Role During and After Deportation

Coordination with ICE: Consulates verify the nationality of detainees and arrange travel documents to facilitate return. Source - Embassy of Peru in the U.S.

Humanitarian assistance: They provide emotional support, guidance on reintegration in Peru, and contact with family members. Source - RPP Noticias

Post-return follow-up: They coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other entities in Peru to ensure that deportees receive comprehensive care (health, employment, education). Source - Embassy of Peru

Consular services available Source - ConsuladoLatino.org

- Issuance and renewal of passports and ID cards.
- Legalization of documents.
- Civil registration (births, marriages, deaths).
- Emergency assistance.

- Notarial procedures and powers of attorney.
- Migratory and legal orientation.

Official Websites of Peruvian Consulates in the U.S.

- Consulate of Peru in Washington, D.C.
- Consulate of Peru in New York
- Complete list of consulates

Do consulates offer legal help?

- Yes, Peruvian consulates in the U.S. provide free legal advice on immigration matters, especially in cases of detention and deportation.
- They also collaborate with local charities and pro bono law firms.

  Source - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

  Source - Infobae

Are families supported?

- Yes, consulates offer guidance to families of detained or deported citizens, including:
  - Information on the whereabouts of the detainee.
  - Emotional assistance.
  - Coordination for the shipment of belongings.
  - Recommendations on how to act before ICE or CBP.

    Source - RPP Noticias

    Source - Éxito Noticias

How efficient are consular services?

- Peruvian consulates in the U.S. have improved their operational capacity:
  - New locations have opened in Salt Lake City, Phoenix, and Seattle.
  - Mobile consulates are being used to serve remote areas.
  - Processes have been digitized to schedule online appointments and facilitate procedures.

    Source - Embassy of Peru

    Source - ConsuladoLatino.org

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

The specific data of number of individuals deported from the U.S. to Peru is currently unavailable. Here is what we know:

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet released country-specific deportation data for fiscal year 2025. The Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2024, which typically includes enforcement actions such as deportations, is still being updated (Yearbook 2024 | OHSS).
- Additionally, a general statement from DHS Secretary Kristi Noem indicated that 1.6 million individuals have left the U.S. (voluntarily or through deportation) since early 2025, but this figure is not broken down by country (Homeland Security: Secretary Noem Announces 16 Million Illegal Aliens Have Left U.S.)
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides global migration data but does not currently offer granular deportation statistics by destination country for the U.S. to Peru (World Migration Report 2024 Reveals Latest Global Trends and Challenges in Human Mobility | International Organization for Migration).
- The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) has released Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics regarding the identification, arrest, detention, and removal of individuals, and can be filtered by country of citizenship. ICE reports 14,804 arrests of Peruvian citizens between 2021-2025. It is unclear how many of these arrests led to deportations. (ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE)

Discrepancies in Reporting

- Lag in Data Publication: DHS and ICE typically release finalized data with a delay of up to one year, meaning FY2024 and FY2025 figures are not yet available (Secretary Noem Announces 1.6 Million Illegal Aliens Have Left the U.S. | Homeland Security).

- Country-Specific Data Gaps: While ICE provides deportation data by country, monthly or quarterly breakdowns are often missing or aggregated under broader categories.
- Methodological Changes: Shifts in reporting standards (e.g., inclusion of Title 42 expulsions vs. Title 8 removals) can affect year-to-year comparability (Yearbook 2024 | OHSS).

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

Here's a detailed overview of deportation arrivals from the U.S. to Peru, focusing on arrival locations, centralization, procedures, and facility adequacy, based on official sources:

1. Airports and Locations Receiving Deportation Flights

- Primary Entry Point: The Jorge Chávez International Airport (LIM) in Lima is the main hub for deportation arrivals from the U.S. This is consistent with its role as Peru's largest and best-equipped international airport [1].
- Secondary Locations: While regional airports such as those in Arequipa, Cusco, and Iquitos handle international traffic, deportation flights are not typically routed there due to limited infrastructure and coordination capacity [2].
- Border Control Points: The Santa Rosa Border Control Post in Loreto (triple frontier with Brazil and Colombia) handles land and river deportations, especially for individuals expelled from neighboring countries [2].

2. Centralization vs. Regional Distribution

- Highly Centralized: Deportation arrivals are centralized in Lima, primarily due to...
  - Proximity to immigration authorities and consular services.
  - Availability of medical and legal support.
  - Logistical ease for onward travel or reintegration [3].
- Limited Regional Processing - Border posts like Santa Rosa handle irregular entries and re-embarkations, but not direct deportation flights from the U.S. [2].

3. Arrival Procedures by Location

At Jorge Chávez (Lima):

- Migraciones (Peru's immigration authority) coordinates with IOM and PNP (National Police) for identity verification, health checks, and legal processing [3].
- Deportees are often briefly detained for documentation and then released or transferred to reintegration programs.

At Border Posts (e.g., Santa Rosa):

- Procedures are more rudimentary, focusing on entry denial and re-embarkation rather than reintegration [2].
- Infrastructure is limited, and access is challenging (e.g., 18-hour river travel from Iquitos) [2].

4. Adequacy of Facilities

- Lima Airport Facilities: Adequate but strained. Facilities are equipped for basic processing but not designed for large-scale deportation waves [4].

  IOM and other NGOs provide temporary support, but long-term reintegration services are limited [5].
- Border Posts: Under-resourced. Santa Rosa and similar posts lack permanent shelters, medical units, or legal aid stations [2].

  Recent upgrades (2024) improved technology and monitoring, but capacity remains low.

References:

[1] Adoption.state.gov - Country Information | Peru

[2] Gob.pe - migraciones-control-migratorio-en-santa-rosa-reafirma-soberania-peruana

[3] Migración e Incidencia Delictiva en el Perú [PDF]

[4] World Migration Report 2024 | IOM Publications Platform

[5] OIM Peru

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

Based on verified data from Peru's Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) (Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática - INEI - Plataforma del Estado Peruano) and the Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones (Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - MIGRACIONES - Plataforma del Estado Peruano), here is a summary of major resettlement cities for deported individuals from the U.S., along with insights into services, preparedness, and neighborhood clustering.

Major Resettlement Cities in Peru

- Lima (the capital) is a key resettlement city due to access to legal aid, reintegration programs, and job opportunities [1] [2].
- Callao attracts resettlement because of its proximity to Jorge Chávez Airport and its port-based economy [2].
- Arequipa offers a regional migration office and a growing labor market [2].
- Trujillo is noted for urban expansion and availability of informal housing [1].
- Chiclayo serves as a regional transport hub and supports family reunification [1].
- Iquitos is relevant due to its border control post in Santa Rosa and river access [2].

Services Attracting Resettlement

- Legal and migration services are available through Migraciones offices in Lima, Arequipa, and Trujillo, offering identity documentation, visa regularization, and reintegration support [2].
- Health and social programs in urban centers provide access to public health, education, and employment training, often supported by NGOs and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Digital services are offered through the Agencia Digital de Migraciones, allowing deportees to manage documents and permits remotely [2].

City Preparedness for Arrivals

- Lima and Callao are the best equipped, with centralized migration infrastructure, shelters, and coordination with international agencies [2].
- Arequipa and Trujillo have limited but growing capacity, often relying on municipal partnerships and temporary housing.
- Amazonian cities like Iquitos and border towns such as Santa Rosa face logistical challenges, including transport limitations and under-resourced facilities [2].

Neighborhood Clustering

- Deportees often settle in low-income districts such as San Juan de Lurigancho in Lima, La Esperanza in Trujillo, and Pampas de San Isidro in Arequipa due to affordable housing and informal networks [3].
- Clustering is influenced by family ties or community origin, access to informal labor markets, and the availability of rental housing without documentation.

References:

[1] INEI - Statistics Index - Population & Housing

[2] Registro de Información Migratoria (RIM)

[3] Sistema de Informacion Distrital para la Gestion Publica

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

Here is an extended summary of the demographic characteristics of individuals deported from the U.S. to Peru, including emerging trends, reintegration challenges, and comparisons with broader migration patterns, based on official sources from INEI, IOM, and the Banco Central de Reserva del Perú:

Demographic Profile of Deported Individuals to Peru [1]

- Age: The majority are 25–45 years old, with an increasing share of 18–29 year-olds.

- Gender: Predominantly male (approximately 70%), but the number of female deportees is rising.
- Family Status: Many are single or separated; some return with U.S.-born children.
- Education Level: Mostly have secondary education; some have technical training or incomplete college studies.
- Years in the U.S.: Average stay is 8–12 years, often with deep social and economic ties.

Emerging Demographic Shifts

- Youthful Deportees: There is a noticeable increase in deportations of young adults (18–29), many of whom lack stable employment or education credentials [2].
- Mixed-Status Families: A growing number of deportees return with children born in the U.S., creating legal and social complexities in Peru [1].
- Urban-Origin Migrants: Deportees increasingly come from urban U.S. environments, expecting similar infrastructure and services in Peru [3].

Groups Facing the Hardest Reintegration

- Youth with Limited Education: They face difficulty accessing jobs or re-entering education systems [1].
- Parents of U.S.-born Children: They encounter legal hurdles in registering children and accessing healthcare and schooling [1].
- Long-Term U.S. Residents: They often lack Peruvian documentation and face cultural disconnection and language barriers [1].
- Women Deportees: They frequently face gender-based discrimination and have limited support networks [4].

These groups often require targeted reintegration programs, including psychosocial support, legal aid, and vocational training.

Comparison with Broader Migration Trends

- Age: Deportees are mostly 25–45, with a rising youth share. General migrants to Peru include retirees, families, and professionals [2].
- Gender: Deportees are mostly male, while general migrants show a more balanced gender distribution [2].
- Education: Deportees typically have secondary or technical education. General migrants show higher variation, including university graduates [1].
- Motivation: Deportees return forcibly, while general migrants come voluntarily for work, study, or family reasons [3].
- Integration Needs: Deportees require urgent legal, housing, and employment support. General migrants often have pre-arranged plans and gradual integration [4].

Policy Implications and Recommendations

- Centralized Reintegration Services: Cities like Lima and Callao should expand legal aid, housing, and employment programs tailored to deportees.
- Youth-Focused Programs: Vocational training and mental health support for young deportees can reduce vulnerability.
- Support for Mixed-Status Families: Legal frameworks must adapt to accommodate U.S.-born children and ensure access to education and healthcare.
- Gender-Sensitive Approaches: Reintegration programs should address specific needs of female deportees, including protection from exploitation.

Highlights

- Age: Mostly 25–45, with a growing share of younger deportees.
- Gender: Predominantly male, but female deportations are rising.
- Family Status: Many return alone; some with U.S.-born children.
- Education: Primarily secondary-level; some technical or incomplete higher education.
- Years in the U.S.: Average stay of 8–12 years.
- Emerging Shifts: Youth, urban-origin migrants, and mixed-status families.
- Hardest Reintegration: Youth, long-term residents, women, and parents of U.S.-born children.

- Compared to Broader Migration: Deportees are younger, more male, and face more urgent reintegration needs.

References:

[1] Perú: Estadísticas de la Emigración Internacional de Peruanos e Inmigración de Extranjeros, 1990 – 2021

[2] Perú: Evolución de los Indicadores Demográficos, 1940 - 2025

[3] Perú: Movimiento migratorio de entradas y salidas internacionales: II Trimestre 2025

[4] IOM World Migration Report - Latin America and the Caribbean 2018 [PDF]

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Here is a comprehensive overview of the legal and administrative grounds for deportations from the U.S. to Peru, including perspectives from both countries, common charges, and how these grounds have evolved over time:

1. U.S. Legal Grounds for Deportation to Peru

Deportations from the U.S. are governed primarily by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Key provisions include:

- Section 235 (8 U.S.C. § 1225): Governs expedited removal for individuals who arrive without proper documentation or commit fraud at entry [1].
- Section 236 (8 U.S.C. § 1226): Authorizes detention and removal of individuals pending deportation proceedings [1].
- Section 241 (8 U.S.C. § 1231): Covers final orders of removal and the process for executing deportations [1].

The 287(g) Program allows state and local law enforcement to assist ICE in identifying and detaining individuals for immigration violations [2].

2. Peru's Legal Framework for Receiving Deportees

Peru's Ley de Migraciones (Decreto Legislativo N.º 1350) outlines the administrative procedures for receiving deportees:

- Irregular entry is considered a sanctionable offense, leading to expulsion under the Exceptional Special Sanctioning Administrative Procedure (PASEE) [3]
- Peru may deny re-entry or formalization to foreigners (non-Peruvian citizens) with criminal records, fraudulent documents, or INTERPOL alerts [4]
- The Nationality Law (Law No. 32421) also allows Peru to deny nationality or residency to individuals deemed a threat to national security or public order [5]

3. Most Common Charges Leading to Deportation

- Immigration Violations: Overstaying visas, illegal entry, document fraud [1].
- Criminal Offenses: Drug trafficking, domestic violence, theft, DUI [2].
- Fraud and Smuggling: Asylum fraud, alien smuggling, money laundering [6].
- National Security Risks: Individuals flagged by INTERPOL or with terrorism-related concerns [2].

4. Differences in U.S. vs. Peru Perspectives

Legal Focus

- U.S.: Enforcement of immigration law and public safety [1].
- Peru: Sovereignty, national security, and orderly migration [3].

Administrative Tools

- U.S.: ICE, USCIS, 287(g), expedited removal [1].
- Peru: Migraciones, PASEE, INTERPOL screening [4].

Policy Tone

- U.S.: Often punitive and security-driven
- Peru: Increasingly regulatory and formalized [5].

5. Shifts Over Time in Deportation Grounds

U.S. Trends:

- Expansion of expedited removal and local enforcement partnerships (287(g)) [2]

- Increased focus on fraud and smuggling networks [6]
- Use of executive orders to broaden enforcement scope [2]
- Peru Trends:
- Stricter entry and residency requirements under new nationality law [5]
- Formalization of sanction procedures for irregular foreign migrants [4].
- Emphasis on security and documentation integrity [3]

References:

[1] Delegation To Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, To Order Expidited Removal and to Enforce Immigration Laws

[2] Delegation of Immigration Authority Section 287(g) Immigration and Nationality Act | ICE.

[3] Legislative Decree No. 1350 Migration Law. - Reports and publications - National Superintendence of Migrations - Peruvian State Platform

[4] Migrations initiates migratory formalization process: does not apply to foreigners with irregular entry - News - National Superintendence of Migrations - Peruvian State Platform

[5] Learn about the main changes in the new Nationality Law - News - National Superintendence of Migrations - Peruvian State Platform

[6] Twelve People Charged for Their Roles in International Alien Smuggling, Asylum Fraud, and Money Laundering Conspiracies | USCIS

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Peru does have a legal and administrative framework that supports the publication and public reporting of deportation and migration data, though enforcement and transparency vary.

Legal Basis for Public Reporting of Deportation Data in Peru

- Ley de Gobierno Digital and Marco de Gobernanza de Datos del Estado Peruano: These laws require public institutions to collect, process, publish, and open access to administrative data, including migration statistics.
- Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos :The Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos hosts datasets from the Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones, including certificados de movimientos migratorios Source - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Migraciones | Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos
- Texto Único de Procedimientos Administrativos (TUPA): This regulatory document outlines the obligations of Migraciones to maintain and disclose data related to migration procedures. Texto Único de Procedimientos Administrativos (TUPA) - Informes y publicaciones - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- INEI Reporting Mandate: The Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) regularly publishes reports on international entries and exits, which include deportation-related movements. Perú: Movimiento migratorio de entradas y salidas internacionales: II Trimestre 2025 - Informes y publicaciones - Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

Enforcement and Transparency

- Partial Enforcement: While laws mandate data publication, deportation-specific datasets are not consistently disaggregated by country or reason for removal.
- Transparency Gaps: Most available data focuses on general migration flows, not detailed deportation metrics. Monthly or case-level reporting is rare, and access to raw data often requires formal requests or institutional affiliation

NGO Advocacy and Reform Efforts

- Proética (Transparency International – Peru Chapter): Advocates for greater transparency in public administration, including migration and deportation processes. Pushes for open access to enforcement data and

accountability in deportation decisions. Peru - Transparency.org

International Organizations:

IOM and UNHCR support Peru in improving data governance and migration transparency, especially in contexts involving vulnerable populations

Summary of Key Points

- Legal Requirement: Yes, under digital governance and administrative law.
  - Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos
  - Texto Único de Procedimientos Administrativos (TUPA) - Informes y publicaciones - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- Enforcement: Partial; data exists but is not fully disaggregated or timely
  - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Migraciones | Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos
- Transparency Level: Moderate; general migration data is public, deportation data is limited
  - Perú: Movimiento migratorio de entradas y salidas internacionales: II Trimestre 2025 - Informes y publicaciones - Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- NGO Involvement: Active; Proética and others advocate for reform and access
  - Peru - Transparency.org

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Peru has a legal and administrative framework that supports the publication and public reporting of deportation and migration data, although enforcement and transparency vary.

1. Key Agencies Responsible for Deportation Data

Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones

- Mandate: Oversees control migratorio, manages the Registro de Información Migratoria (RIM), and publishes monthly and quarterly data through the Observatorio Nacional de Migración
- Functions: Tracks entries, exits, deportations, expulsions, and visa statuses. Publishes Boletines Estadísticos with sociodemographic data on migrants and deportees
- Link: BOLETÍN ESTADÍSTICO Observatorio Nacional de Migración - Informes y publicaciones - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- Operates the Agencia Digital de Migraciones for public access to certificates and movement records

Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI)

- Mandate: Acts as the national statistics authority, compiling and publishing migration data in coordination with Migraciones
- Link: Compendios - Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- Functions: Issues quarterly reports on international migration flows. Publishes the Compendio Estadístico and Informe Técnico de Migraciones, which include deportation-related metrics

Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos

Mandate: Ensures transparency and public access to government data, including migration statistics

Link: Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Migraciones | Plataforma Nacional de Datos Abiertos

Functions: Hosts datasets from Migraciones, including certificados de movimientos migratorios. Operates under Peru's Ley de Gobierno Digital and Marco de Gobernanza de Datos

2. Coordination Between Agencies

Migraciones and INEI coordinate closely on data collection and publication, as evidenced by joint reports and shared platforms. Source - Compendios - Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

INTERPOL - Peru also contributes data on individuals flagged for international alerts, which

may influence deportation decisions. Interpo | Peru

3. Frequency of Publication

Migraciones: Boletín Estadístico, Observatorio Nacional is published monthly.

INEI: Informe Técnico de Migraciones is published quarterly.

Datos Abiertos: Raw datasets (CSV, JSON) – Periodic updates

4. Independent Auditing and Transparency

- Auditing: There is no formal independent audit mechanism for deportation data. However, INEI adheres to national statistical standards and collaborates with international bodies like IOM and UNFPA for methodological support.
- Transparency: Data is publicly accessible but often aggregated, lacking granular details on deportation reasons or individual profiles. NGOs and academic institutions have called for greater disaggregation and real-time access, especially for vulnerable populations

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, deportation data in Peru can be accessed through freedom of information (FOI) laws, though the process involves specific legal and administrative steps. Here's a detailed breakdown:

Legal Framework Supporting Access to Deportation Data

1. Political Constitution of Peru

Article 2(5) guarantees the right to request information from any public entity without needing to justify the request, except for data affecting personal privacy or national security. Source - Peru Constitution

2. Ley N.º 27806 – Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública

Establishes the legal right to access public information, including administrative data held by government agencies. Source - Recursos por la vulneración de tu derecho a la información pública

Applies to all entities funded by public resources, including Migraciones and INEI

3. Decreto Legislativo N.º 1353

Created the Autoridad Nacional de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública, which oversees compliance and resolves appeals. Source - Decreto Legislativo N.° 1353 - Normas y documentos legales - Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

Request Process for Deportation Data

1. Submit a Request:

- Use the Agencia Digital de Migraciones or the Mesa de Partes Virtual to submit a FOI request at this link: Solicitar acceso a la información pública - Trámite - Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- Include identification, specify the data requested (e.g., deportation statistics by year or nationality), and cite the legal basis.

2. Response Timeline:

- Agencies must respond within 10 business days, per the law. If they cannot meet this deadline, they have 2 business days to inform you as to why and provide a new delivery date.

3. Cost:

- Requests may involve a minimal administrative fee, especially for certified documents
- 4. Denials and Appeals

Denials can occur if the requested information affects personal/family privacy, concerns matters of national or international intelligence or security, involves classified military information or covered by various legal protections, or if there is a lack of disaggregated data. Overbroad or vague requests may also be denied.

4. Appeals Are Possible:

- Administrative Appeal: File with the Tribunal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública, which must respond within 10 days. Recursos por la vulneración de tu derecho a la información pública - Orientación -

Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

- Judicial Appeal: File a habeas data action in civil court within 60 days of denial

Transparency and Enforcement

Legal Access is guaranteed by Constitution and FOI laws.

Enforcement: Mixed; some agencies comply, others delay or deny requests

Audit Mechanisms: No formal independent audit of deportation data; relies on public scrutiny

NGO Advocacy: NGOs and civil society push for greater disaggregation and real-time access

How Transparent Is Peru About Deportation Statistics?

Legal Framework Supporting Transparency

Peru's transparency obligations are grounded in several key laws:

- Ley N.º 27806 – Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública: Guarantees public access to government-held data, including migration and deportation statistics
- Ley N.º 29733 – Ley de Protección de Datos Personales: Ensures that while personal data is protected, aggregate administrative data (like deportation figures) can be disclosed for public interest

These laws are enforced by the Autoridad Nacional de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública, which oversees compliance and handles appeals.

Recent Audits and Reports

The Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) publishes quarterly reports such as the Informe Técnico: Movimiento Migratorio de Entradas y Salidas Internacionales, which includes aggregated deportation data. Source - Perú: Movimiento migratorio de entradas y salidas internacionales: II Trimestre 2025 - Informes y publicaciones - Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática - Plataforma del Estado Peruano

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) assessment in 2021, which highlighted Peru's efforts to improve data collection and transparency in migration governance

Have Audits Critiqued Reporting?

Yes. The MGI report noted several areas for improvement:

- Limited disaggregation: Deportation data is often aggregated with general migration flows, making it difficult to isolate specific trends
- Infrequent updates: While INEI publishes quarterly data, detailed deportation statistics are not always timely or complete
- Lack of independent verification: There is no formal audit mechanism for deportation data, and civil society groups have called for more robust oversight

How Does Peru Compare With Other Countries?

- Peru: Transparency Level – Moderate; Independent Audits – No formal audits; Public Access – FOI-based access
- Chile: Transparency Level – High; Independent Audits – Annual migration audits; Public Access – Open dashboards
- Mexico: Transparency Level – Moderate; Independent Audits – NGO-led reviews; Public Access – FOI requests
- Colombia: Transparency Level – High; Independent Audits – IOM-supported audits; Public Access – Real-time portals

Peru lags behind regional leaders like Chile and Colombia, which have more granular and frequently updated deportation datasets.

Are Reforms Underway?

Yes. Recent initiatives include:

- Biometric data collection for migrant minors: Led by Migraciones and supported by IOM, this aims to improve visibility and documentation of vulnerable populations. Source - Migraciones refuerza toma de datos biométricos a escolares migrantes en colegios de Lima - Noticias - Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones - Plataforma del Estado Peruano
- Digital modernization: Migraciones is expanding its Agencia Digital to streamline data access and improve reporting accuracy

Civil society engagement: NGOs and academic institutions are advocating for real-time publication, disaggregated data, and independent oversight mechanisms.

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Uruguay

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Uruguay

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

If a non-US citizen violates immigration laws (for example, by violating the terms of their visa, by not having authorized immigration status, or by committing crimes), they can be detained and subject to legal proceedings. In some cases, an immigration judge may rule that a deportation should proceed and issue a removal order.

Federal authorities have also expanded the use of stipulated removals in past decades, a summary deportation procedure which allows deportation without a hearing before an immigration judge. In the case of stipulated removal, the individual (often in detention centres) signs a stipulation agreement which contains a waiver of their right to a hearing and agrees to have a removal order entered against them. While nobody is required to sign a stipulation agreement, ICE officers may present the agreement as an alternative to imprisonment or months-long waiting period for an immigration hearing.

Once deportation is ordered (or agreed to), the individual is often removed either through air or ground transportation by ICE to their country of origin. For individuals deported to Uruguay, they are often transported to Montevideo by plane.

Source:

USAGov | 2025_NIPNLG-ICE-stipulations.pdf

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay has published a Return Manual, which offers guidance for returnees to Uruguay and focuses on reintegration in areas such as taxation, health, housing, employment, and education

Source:

Gub.uy.

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

When someone is deported from the United States and returns to Uruguay, there are resources and support available from both government and private organizations, particularly for those who are vulnerable. However, most of these programs are designed for people returning due to refugee status, migration, or family reunification, and may not address the unique challenges faced by deportees.

Reference Center for Migrants (MIDES)

This center provides a space for guidance and accompaniment with access to information on state rights and procedures: document regularization, social benefits, health, education, housing, employment, training, among others. It is open from Monday to Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in Ciudad Vieja, Montevideo.

Source:

Migrant Reference Center | Ministry of Social Development

Food and hygiene assistance (MIDES + IOM/UN Migration)

There is an agreement in force between MIDES and the IOM (International Organization for Migration) to deliver food and hygiene vouchers aimed at the migrant population in vulnerable situations and with a short stay (less than a year in the country).

Source:

MIDES and IOM - UN Migration sign agreement to provide direct assistance to migrants in Uruguay | IOM Uruguay

Exemption of costs in immigration procedures

For those who wish to apply for Uruguay residence permit and lack economic resources, they can request exemption from the cost of the procedure through a social report to MIDES

Source:

Insufficient Resources | Ministry of the Interior

UNHCR Uruguay

The UNHCR has programs which supports refugees and migrants with legal status regularization, health, education and labor market integration. They also assist with reintegration and protection against discrimination.

Source:

https://www.unhcr.org/where-we-work/countries/uruguay

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

While Uruguay has relatively progressive migration laws (e.g., law 18.250), its current legal framework primarily supports voluntary returnees, refugees or regular migrants. For deported individuals returning to Uruguay, it may be difficult to find a dedicated reintegration program that will assist them. There are also potential legal and administrative barriers to obtaining assistance if the individual is deported without documentation or prior consular coordination.

Financial assistance, job placement programs, or other type of economic support programs are likely not available to deportees.

In Uruguay, deportees who were previously undocumented may be left in an irregular status situation and subject to restrictions on work and certain services if they do not regularize their migratory status. However, Law 18.250 "Ley de Migración" (Migration Law) guarantees fundamental rights and essential legal protections even for individuals in an irregular situation, including:

- Right to family reunification;
- Access to justice (file complaints, defend rights and access courts);
- Access to health services (basic health care cannot be denied to the individual

Source:

https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18250-2008

Second link to primary law:

Uruguay: Ley Nº 18.250 - Migración

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay has prepared a guide to provide information on the administrative procedures that must be carried out in order to access their rights. This guide indicates the necessary documents, the government agency in charge of the processing and whether this procedure requires a concept of payment of fees or if it is free of charge.

Guide Back to Uruguay

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

Uruguay does not have a specific law that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals. Rather, the general framework governing migration and human rights would apply to secure the legal rights of a deportee.

Laws and regulations:

- Law No. 18.076 – Derecho al Refugio y a los Refugiados (Right to Refuge and Refugees)

  Link 1 to primary law: https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18076-2006

  Link 2 to primary law: Uruguay: Ley Nº 18.076 - Derecho al Refugio y a los Refugiados

- Law No. 18.76 Ley de Migración (Migration Law)

  Link 1 to primary law: https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18250-2008

  Link 2 to primary law: Uruguay: Ley Nº 18.250 - Migración

- Constitución de la República Oriental del Uruguay – Artículo 37 (Constitution of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay – Article 37).

  Link 1 to primary law: https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/constitucion/1967-1967/37

Link 2 to primary law: Constitución de la República Oriental del Uruguay de 1967

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

Law No. 18.250 is Uruguay's Migration Law, which establishes rights and obligations for migrants and returnees. It does not explicitly regulate deported individuals, nor does it create a reintegration program for them. However, its protections apply broadly to all persons in the national territory, regardless of migratory status, which includes deportees upon return. Although Law 18.250 does not create special benefits for deportees (such as housing or financial aid), its universal rights framework ensures:

- No denial of justice or healthcare due to deportation.
- Equal treatment under labor law once documentation is resolved.
- Protection against discrimination, consistent with Uruguay's constitutional and international obligations.

Link 1 to primary law: https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18250-2008

Link 2 to primary law: Uruguay: Ley Nº 18.250 - Migración

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Upon arrival in Uruguay, deported Uruguayans do not face immigration detention or automatic court proceedings.

- Uruguayan regulations establish that every citizen has the inalienable right to enter and reside in his or her country of origin.
- The National Directorate of Migration only verifies identity and travel documents at the airport.
- There are no immigration detention centers in Uruguay and the practice of depriving people returned for immigration reasons of their liberty is not applied in this country.

Possible exception: if the person has criminal cases pending in Uruguay (for example, a valid arrest warrant), he or she could be detained by the judicial authority. But this is not linked to the fact of deportation, but to previous criminal proceedings.

Source:

- Global Detention Project – Uruguay: Country Page (explains that Uruguay does not detain people for immigration reasons) Global Detention Project – Uruguayand

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

- Identity Documents – Uruguay

  People deported from the U.S. to Uruguay do not face special restrictions on recovering or renewing their documents if they are Uruguayan citizens.

  Identity Card and Passport: They are processed at the National Directorate of Civil Identification (DNIC) with a birth certificate or previous documents.

- Civic Credential: It is processed before the Electoral Court.

  There are no special programs for deportees, but access to these documents is a right guaranteed to all nationals.

Source:

National Directorate of Civil Identification (DNIC) – Ministry of the Interior of Uruguay

Uruguay's Electoral Court – Civic Credential Procedures

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

Upon arrival in Uruguay, deported Uruguayans do not face immigration detention or automatic court proceedings.

- Uruguayan regulations establish that every citizen has the inalienable right to enter and reside in his or her country of origin.
- The National Directorate of Migration only verifies identity and travel documents at the airport.
- There are no immigration detention centers in Uruguay and the practice of depriving people returned for immigration reasons of their liberty is not applied in this country.

Possible exception: if the person has criminal cases pending in Uruguay (for example, a valid arrest warrant), he or she could be detained by the judicial authority. But this is not linked to the fact of deportation, but to previous criminal proceedings.

Source:

- Global Detention Project – Uruguay: Country Page (explains that Uruguay does not detain people for immigration reasons) Global Detention Project – Uruguay

Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Legal Aid Resources:

Uruguay recognizes the right to free legal aid for people who lack economic resources, including those who have been deported from the United States. This right is supported by various public institutions and civil society organizations.

Public Defender's Office of the Judiciary: Offers free legal advice and representation in various areas of law, such as criminal, civil, family and labor. People who cannot afford a lawyer have the right to access these services. The offices are distributed in Montevideo and throughout the country. Judicial power

Neighborhood Legal Clinics: In agreement with the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), the Faculty of Law of the University of the Republic (Udelar) manages clinics in neighborhoods of Montevideo and in departments of the interior. They provide free legal advice and sponsorship to people whose family income does not exceed two national minimum wages. Municipality of Montevideo

Legal Assistance Service for Migrants: The Municipality of Montevideo offers free legal advice to migrants in vulnerable situations. This service is available twice a week in different parts of the city. Municipality B

Fundación ProBono Uruguay: This organization coordinates the provision of free legal services by volunteer lawyers, especially in cases of public interest or people in vulnerable situations. fundacionprobonouy.org

Civil Society Assistance

In addition to the above legal aid resources, the following organizations in Uruguay provide legal or non-legal assistance to migrants and, by extension, deported individuals. While none have programs exclusively for deportees, their services can be accessed by anyone returning or in an irregular situation:

1. Asociación Idas y Vueltas
   - Mission: Protect and promote the rights of migrants in Uruguay.
   - Type of Services:
     - Legal assistance for residency, visas, family reunification, citizenship, and refugee status determination.
     - Orientation and advocacy for migrants facing administrative or legal challenges.
   - Resources Provided: Legal counseling, documentation support, and community outreach.

- Data on Individuals Helped: While exact figures are not published, Idas y Vueltas is one of the most active NGOs in Uruguay for migrant rights.\
- Partnerships: Collaborates with local municipalities, civil society networks, and international organizations like UNHCR and IOM.

Link: https://www.idasyvueltas.org/

2. UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) – Uruguay Office
   - Mission: Ensure protection and inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced persons.
   - Type of Services:
     - Legal support for asylum and regularization.
     - Programs for health, education, and labor market integration.
   - Resources Provided: Technical assistance, advocacy, and coordination with government agencies.
   - Data on Individuals Helped: Operates under a multi-country office; Uruguay hosts thousands of refugees and asylum seekers annually.
   - Partnerships: Works with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society organizations, and IOM.

   Link: Uruguay | UNHCR US
3. Ministry of Social Development (MIDES)
   - Mission: Guarantee social protection and inclusion for vulnerable populations, including migrants.
   - Type of Services:
     - Food assistance, housing support, and documentation help.
     - Resources Provided: Social programs and emergency aid.
   - Data on Individuals Helped: In 2023, 13,610 foreign migrants received assistance; deportees can access these services if they meet vulnerability criteria.
   - Partnerships: Coordinates with NGOs and international agencies like UNHCR and IOM.

   Link: Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) | EU-LAC Foundation

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

Uruguay does not explicitly recognise a special legal right to free or state-supported legal aid specifically for deported individuals. However, there are general legal protections and mechanisms in place that may be applicable.

Article 1 of Law No. 18.250 (Migration Law) guarantees access to justice for all migrants and their families, regardless of their migratory status. This provision ensures that deported individuals have the right to seek legal remedies and representation in Uruguay.

While the law guarantees the right to due process and judicial access, it does not mandate the provision of free legal aid for deported persons. The emphasis is on ensuring fair treatment and the opportunity to be heard before the law.

Uruguay operates a state-supported legal aid system through the Defensoría Pública (Public Defender's Office), which offers free legal assistance in civil and criminal matters to those who cannot afford a lawyer. Migrants, including deported individuals, may access these services if they meet established vulnerability criteria. However, it is important to note that this legal aid is not specifically tailored to migration or deportation cases.

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

Yes, Uruguay has incorporated international human rights and refugee law standards into its migration framework, which indirectly benefits deported or returned individuals. Uruguay is part to the following international treaties.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)

- It protects migrant workers, both documented and undocumented, and their families.
- It guarantees labour, civil, social and cultural rights, including access to justice and non-discrimination.
- Uruguay ratified this convention and undertakes to respect and promote these rights in its territory.
- Source: Committee on Migrants - UN

American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, 1969)

- Ratified by Uruguay, it guarantees fundamental rights such as life, personal integrity, liberty, equality and due process for all persons under the jurisdiction of the State, including migrants and returnees.
- Source: OAS - IACHR

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

- Ratified by Uruguay, it protects civil and political rights of all people, regardless of nationality or immigration status.
- It includes rights such as access to justice, protection from arbitrary detention, and due process.
- Source: UN Human Rights

Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and Protocol of 1967

- Uruguay has incorporated this convention into its Law No. 18.076 (2006).
- It protects people seeking refuge, establishing the principle of non-refoulement (non-refoulement to a country where their life or freedom is at risk).
- Source: UNHCR

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

In Uruguay, there are several legal education and awareness programs, especially aimed at migrants, including those who have been deported.

Intercultural Education and Migrants Program (MEC) Mission: To promote the full exercise of the rights of migrants within the Uruguayan education system – both formal and non-formal – from a Human Rights perspective.

Services:

- Access and guidance on admission, continuity and validation of studies (revalidations, apostilles, etc.).
- Training in interculturality and rights with a focus on teachers and educational communities.
- Featured project: "Walls that Unite" – art as a tool for reflection on rights, migration and interculturality in localities such as Canelones, Rocha, Rivera, among others.

Source:

Intercultural Education and Migrants | Ministry of Education and Culture

"Educating without Borders" Campaign (MEC + IIN-OAS) Mission: To raise awareness of the rights of children and adolescents in human mobility in the education system, disseminating national and international regulations and promoting cultural diversity.

Services: Information and promotion of inclusion and interculturality in schools, with a focus on protecting the rights of migrant children.

Source:

Educating Without Borders | Ministry of Education and Culture

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

There is no specific program in Uruguay to recover belongings left in the U.S. after deportation. The most effective thing to do is to anticipate, organize a representative with legal power of attorney and take advantage of consular channels. From Uruguay you can receive guidance through the Foreign Ministry, but the main management must occur from the U.S.

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

There is no specific bilateral agreement between Uruguay and the U.S. to automatically help deported people recover property, wages or financial assets in the United States.

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

To date, no specific bilateral agreement between the United States and Uruguay has been publicly identified that directly regulates the repatriation of migrants or deportees. However, there are memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and agreements in related areas, such as border security and cooperation in combating serious crimes, which could indirectly influence repatriation processes.

Memorandum of Understanding for Development Cooperation (2024)

Signatories: Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Objective: To strengthen development cooperation in third countries through triangular cooperation in the region.

Relevance to repatriation: Although it does not directly address repatriation, this agreement can facilitate the return of migrants through development projects in countries of origin.

Source:

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Development Cooperation between AUCI and USAID | Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Border Security Agreement (2023)

Signatories: Governments of Uruguay and the United States.

Objective: To strengthen collaboration on border security, including information sharing and cooperation in the fight against transnational crime.

Relevance to repatriation: This agreement can influence repatriation processes by improving security and border management.

Source:

Uruguay and the United States signed border security agreement | Presidency Uruguay

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Uruguay must guarantee that deported or returned people have access to a safe, dignified process that respects their human rights. This involves:

1. Dignified and safe treatment during transport and arrival in the country (Law 18.250 and the Constitution, art. 72).
2. Non-refoulement to situations of risk (principle of non-refoulement, 1951 Refugee Convention and CAT).
3. Access to information, legal and consular assistance before, during and after return.
4. Support for social reintegration: health, education, housing, documentation and employment guidance.
5. Respect for the rights of vulnerable groups: children, women, people with disabilities.
6. Compliance with ratified international human rights standards, including the ACHR, ICCPR and ILO conventions on migrants.

In summary, Uruguay combines national legal framework, international treaties and UN/IOM standards to ensure that repatriation is safe, dignified and with access to fundamental rights.

Sources:

Ley N.º 18.250 de Migración (2008)

Pacto Mundial para una Migración Segura, Ordenada y Regular

Tratados de Derechos Humanos Ratificados por Uruguay

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Uruguayan consulates offer several key services for citizens abroad, which could apply to people in deportation proceedings or already deported. a) Issuance, renewal, or replacement of Uruguayan passports and emergency travel documents. b) Advice on obtaining Uruguayan civil documents (birth, marriage, ID, etc.), c) legal contact or mediation with local authorities when a Uruguayan citizen faces charges or is detained in the United States, d) consular registration of itineraries or trips, which facilitates their location in emergency situations.

Embassy of Uruguay in United States of America | VisaHQ

Uruguayan Consular Card - Home

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

By 2025, ICE reports that 80 Uruguayan citizens were removed in the past five years, 25 in its fiscal year 2024.

ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics | ICE

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

In Uruguay, Carrasco International Airport (Montevideo) is the main international air terminal in the country. Although it has not been specifically confirmed that deportation flights will arrive there, it is reasonable to assume that, if there is a formal arrival, it would be this airport.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

In Uruguay, there is no specific public information detailing the exact cities where deported people are resettled upon arrival.

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

There is no disaggregated official data available on the specific demographic characteristics (age, sex, family status, educational level, years in the U.S.) of people deported from the United States to Uruguay.

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

Deportations of Uruguayan citizens from the United States are usually motivated by various legal and administrative reasons, both within the framework of U.S. law and Uruguayan immigration regulations.

Legal and Administrative Grounds in the United States Illegal entry or stay: Entering the U.S. without proper documentation or remaining in the country after the visa expires.

Source:

USAGov

Criminal offenses: Being convicted of felonies, such as drug trafficking, immigration fraud, or domestic violence.

Source:

Diario AS

Violations of immigration laws: Infractions such as the misuse of official documents or ties to organizations that threaten national security.

Source:

Diario AS

Unlawful re-entry after removal: Attempting to re-enter the U.S. after being previously deported.

Source:

El País

Expedited Removal: Applied to people who entered without documents and have been in the country for less than two years, allowing their deportation without a court hearing.

Source:

Know Your Rights: Prepare for Trump's Threats of Mass Deportation - National Immigrant Justice Center

Grounds for Expulsion under Uruguay's Migration Law No. 18,250

Uruguayan legislation establishes the following grounds for the expulsion of foreigners:

Irregular entry: Entering the country through unauthorized points or evading immigration control. UNHCR

Illegal stay: To remain in the country after the authorized period of stay has expired. UNHCR

Criminal conduct: Committing crimes of an intentional nature in the national territory. UNHCR

Immigration fraud: Obtaining immigration status through simulated or fraudulent facts or acts. UNHCR

Prolonged absence: Absenting oneself from the country for a period of more than three years without justification.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Key laws on transparency and access to information

1. Law No. 18,381 – Right of Access to Public Information (2008)

   Objective: To guarantee the fundamental right of people to access public information, promoting transparency in the administrative function of public bodies, whether state or non-state.

   Application: This law applies to all public agencies, including those related to migration and repatriation.

   Source: LATU | Transparency | Law on Access to Public Information

2. Law No. 18.250 – Migration Law (2008)

   Article 12: Establishes that every migrant has the right to be provided by the State with information regarding his or her rights, duties, and guarantees, especially with regard to his or her migratory status.

   Implementation: Although it does not mandate the public publication of data on deportations, it does guarantee the right of migrants to receive information about their situation.

   Source: UNHCR - Migration Law

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

The Ministry of the Interior is in charge of registering Uruguayans who enter or leave Uruguay, only that it does not specify where they come from or where they are going, limiting itself only to the number.

Statistical Yearbook of the National Directorate of Migration 2024 | Ministry of the Interior

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Yes, deportation statistics can be requested under Uruguay's Access to Information Law (Law 18.381)

Link:

Ley-Nº-18.381-Acceso-a-la-información.pdf /IMPO

However, note that deportation statistics in Uruguay typically cover people deported from Uruguay (as compiled by the National Directorate of Migration and the Ministry of the Interior, which manage outbound deportations of foreign nationals.

Individuals deported to Uruguay (Uruguayan nationals returned from other countries) are typically not included in these migration deportation reports, because they are not considered "deportations" under Uruguay's migration enforcement, rather they are treated as returns or repatriations. Data on returnees may appear in consular service reports. The most complete information on deportations from the United States to Uruguay would be maintained by ICE. ICE deportation data is publicly accessible in the U.S. through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and official dashboards.

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Venezuela

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

RED PRO BONO DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Justice in Action by Baker McKenzie

Venezuela

Post-Deportation Experiences

1. Circumstances: Provide detailed descriptions of what happens to individuals who are deported from the US to this country.

Below is a summary of what happens to people deported from the US to Venezuela:

On the plane and disembarkation:

- Flights are ICE-chartered "ICE Air" removals. (Reuters, Oct. 19, 2023 First U.S. deportation flight lands in Venezuela under new Biden crackdown | Reuters; AP, Oct. 2023: US resumes deportation flights to Venezuela with more than 100 migrants on board | AP News ; ICE Air overview: ICE Air Operations | ICE).
- Upon landing at Simon Bolivar International Airport (Maiquetía), migrants disembark under escort and are handed over to Venezuelan authorities. (Reuters: First U.S. deportation flight lands in Venezuela under new Biden crackdown | Reuters; AP: US resumes deportation flights to Venezuela with more than 100 migrants on board | AP News).

Initial Reception and ID Checks

Processing is led by Venezuela's immigration authority (SAIME) with the presence of security services. Procedures documented include photographing, fingerprinting, and basic biographic verification. (Reuters video/report, Oct. 18, 2023: https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-carries-out-first-deportation-flight-venezuela-years-2023-10-18/). Authorities verify travel documents issued for the flight (passports or laissez-passer) and check identities against national databases, including for outstanding warrants. (Reuters: First US deportation flight in years lands in Venezuela | Reuters; HRW World Report 2024—Venezuela: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch).Questioning and security screening

- Some arrivals undergo questioning by security agencies (SEBIN or DGCIM) about time abroad, activities, and contacts. Those with profiles linked to opposition, protests, military, or journalism face heightened scrutiny. (HRW 2024: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch; Amnesty International 2023/2024—Venezuela: Human rights in Venezuela Amnesty International
- Reports note instances of short-term detention for additional screening. Duration and frequency vary and are not systematically documented. (HRW 2024: https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/venezuela; Amnesty 2024: https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/americas/south-america/venezuela/report-venezuela/; Reuters follow-ups 2023–2024: https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/).

Searches and Device/luggage reviews

- Luggage is routinely inspected. Journalistic accounts from the first flights mention some phone checks. Practices are inconsistent across flights. (Reuters, Oct. 19, 2023: First U.S. deportation flight lands in Venezuela under new Biden crackdown | Reuters; AP, Oct. 2023: US resumes deportation flights to Venezuela with more than 100 migrants on board | AP News).

Outcome after processing

- Many people are released on the same day from the airport area once checks are completed. Migrants are typically released to family or self-arranged transportation. (Reuters, Oct. 19, 2023: First U.S. deportation flight lands in Venezuela under new Biden crackdown | Reuters; AP, Oct. 2023: US resumes deportation flights to Venezuela with more than 100 migrants on board | AP News).
- Individuals flagged for investigation may be held for further questioning by security bodies. Some rights groups document risks of arbitrary detention and ill-treatment in broader country-conditions reporting, through data specific to US deportees is limited. (HRW 2024: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch; Amnesty 2024: Human rights in Venezuela Amnesty International).

Documentation and Immediate Practicalities

- Migrants often lack current Venezuelan IDs or passports due to issuance backlogs, complicating immediate access to services or travel onward from Caracas. (HRW 2024: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human

Rights Watch; IOM Venezuela snapshots 2023: IOM 2023 Snapshot | International Organization for Migration) No transparent, standarized government reintegration program for deportees at the airport. Official messaging has sometimes framed arrivals within "Vuelta a la Patria" geared to voluntary returns, not deportations. (IOM 2023: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) Crisis Response Plan 2023 | Global Crisis Response Platform; Venezuelan Plan Vuelta a la Patria: Gran Mision vuelta a la Patria (@vueltalapatria) • Instagram photos and videos).

Travel from the airport

- People traveling to other states often pass through checkpoints where authorities (or in some regions, armed groups) may conduct additional checks. NGOs report risks of extortion or harassment in some corridors. (HRW 2024: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch; Insight Crime 2024: Venezuela Organized Crime News.
- Given shortages and service disruptions, arranging transport, lodging, and healthcare can be challenging immediately post-arrival (PAHO/WHO 2023: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); HRW 2024: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch).

NGOs with additional useful information:

Human Rights Watch (HRW) — country-conditions and return risks

- Summarizes arrival-stage risks (screening by security forces, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment risks for perceived opponents) and documentation barriers that affect deportees upon return (HRW World Report 2024—Venezuela: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch).
- While not a procedural "how-to," HRW's reporting is often cited to describe what returnees can face at and after the airport.

Amnesty International — arrival screening, detention risk, and due process concerns

- Provides a concise overview of how state security agencies treat perceived dissenters, which informs risk assessments for deported returnees during airport processing and shortly after (Amnesty International, Annual Report 2023/2024—Venezuela: Human rights in Venezuela Amnesty International).

International Organization for Migration (IOM) — returns/reintegration context

- Offers snapshots on documentation hurdles, service access, and reintegration challenges that deportees encounter on arrival; includes references to official "Vuelta a la Patria" framing vs. forced returns (IOM Venezuela country page: Venezuela | International Organization for Migration; IOM Venezuela Situation Report (example, Aug. 2023): Over Four Million Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants Struggle to Meet Basic Needs across the Americas | International Organization for Migration).

UNHCR — protection guidance on returns to Venezuela

- Advises on non-refoulement risks and profiles at heightened risk upon return, which helps interpret airport screening and potential detention for certain groups (UNHCR Guidance Note on the Outflow of Venezuelans, 2023: Guidance Note on the Outflow of Venezuelans | Refworld).

Refugees International — policy briefs on deportations and protection gaps

- Summarizes the implications of resumed U.S. deportation flights, including likely arrival screening and risks for specific profiles; not a procedural manual but a succinct overview (Refugees International commentary on U.S.–Venezuela deportations, , Oct. 2025: Let Them Stay Update #6 - Refugees International).

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) — analysis of removals and arrival risks

- Provides policy analysis on the reactivation of removals to Venezuela, with descriptions of airport processing, security-service questioning, and broader human rights context (WOLA analysis hub on migration and Venezuela; example overview: Policy Research and Analysis in Latin America | WOLA).

International Crisis Group — security environment affecting returnees

- Describes the role of Venezuelan security services and armed groups that returnees may encounter at checkpoints after airport release; helpful for understanding post-arrival movement (Crisis Group Venezuela briefings: Venezuela | International Crisis Group).

Insight Crime — checkpoints and extortion risks on onward travel

- Synthesizes how security forces and non-state actors control corridors that deportees may traverse after arrival, informing practical risk during onward travel (Insight Crime Venezuela country page: Venezuela Organized Crime News).

2. Resources: Explain the resources and support available to deported individuals in this country.

Resources and support in Venezuela varies by location and over time, and services can be limited due to Venezuela's humanitarian context:

Government Programs and Official Support

- "Plan Vuelta a la Patria" (government-run returns program): Provides limited assistance primarily for voluntary returns (transport, some reception), not specifically tailored to deportees. (Venezuelan Plan Vuelve a la Patria: Gran Mision vuelta a la Patria (@vueltalapatria) • Instagram photos and videos; IOM country page: Venezuela | International Organization for Migration).
- Civil registries and IDs (SAIME): Returnees need valid IDs/passports to access services and formal work. Obtaining or renewing documents can be slow and costly due to backlogs, which limits practical access to government support (HRW World Report 2024—Venezuela: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch; IOM Situation Report example, Aug. 2023: Over Four Million Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants Struggle to Meet Basic Needs across the Americas | International Organization for Migration).
- Social service programs (Carnet de la Patria ecosystem): Some returnees may access subsidized food (CLAP boxes), health services, and social missions upon re-enrollment at local community councils. Access varies by locality and documentation status. (Government portal on social missions: https://www.patria.org.ve).

International organizations and NGO assistance

- UNHCR: Focuses on protection services (legal orientation, documentation support for statelessness/at-risk cases), cash-based assistance for vulnerable households, and referrals to shelter/health services via partner NGOs; availability is location-dependent (UNHCR Venezuela operations: Venezuela situation | UNHCR, UNHCR Venezuela - Help for refugees and asylum-seekers).
- Caritas Venezuela: Provides food assistance, nutrition screening, limited health services, and casework for vulnerable families; widely cited as a key civil society provider amid shortages (Caritas Venezuela overview via Caritas Internationalis: Venezuela - Caritas).
- Pan American Health Organization/WHO: Coordinates health system support and vaccination campaigns; can guide access points for primary care and essential medicines through Ministry of Health facilities. [PAHO Venezuela: Venezuela (República Bolivariana de) - OPS/OMS | Organización Panamericana de la Salud).

Local Orgs

- Local NGOs and legal aid groups (vary by city): Offer guidance on documentation, victims' assistance, or human rights accompaniment—examples include Provea and Foro Penal for rights defense and monitoring, which may advise individuals who face arbitrary detention or abuses on return (Provea: Inicio - PROVEA; Foro Penal: Home - Foro Penal).
- Catholic charities and Caritas Venezuela: Provides food assistance, malnutrition screening, medical referrals, and casework in parishes and diocesan centers nationwide; can be a first entry point for basic needs. (Cáritas de Venezuela: Home - Caritas de Venezuela).
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Fe y Alegría: Offer legal orientation, psychosocial support, education, and protection services for migrants and returnees in border states and urban centers. (JRS LAC: Venezuela - JRS).
- HIAS Venezuela: Provides legal aid, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence services, and economic inclusion programs to displaced and vulnerable people, including returnees, in several regions. (HIAS Venezuela: HIAS Venezuela | Support For Refugees In Venezuela | HIAS).
- Save the Children, World Vision, and local CSOs: Child protection, education, and household assistance for families with

children; services vary by location and funding cycles. (Save the Children Venezuela: HIAS Venezuela | Support For Refugees In Venezuela | HIAS; World Vision: Venezuela crisis: Facts, FAQs, and how to help | World Vision).

Documentation and Civil Registry

- Re-obtaining IDs: Deported persons who lost IDs can apply for a new cédula at SAIME; requirements typically include birth certificate or copies, and police report if lost/stolen. Processing times vary and may require online appointments. (SAIME: SAIME).
- Birth/marriage certificates and records: Civil registries (Registro Civil) in municipalities issue certified copies needed for IDs and benefits. (Registro Civil: Registro Civil - Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela).
- Consular records for children born abroad: If returning with foreign-born children, register birth with Venezuelan civil registry using consular certificates. (Registro Civil guidance: https://www.venez.pl/registro-civil/).

Health Care and Psychosocial Support

- Public health network (Ministry of Popular Power for Health): Primary care is nominally free; access points include Ambulatorios, Centros de Diagnóstico Integral (CDI), and hospitals. Bring any medical reports from the deportation process. (MPPS: MPPS; PAHO country page: Venezuela (República Bolivariana de) - OPS/OMS | Organización Panamericana de la Salud).
- Mental health and psychosocial support: UNHCR partners, HIAS, JRS, and Caritas provide counseling, group support, and referrals for trauma and stress related to forced return. (HIAS Venezuela: HIAS Venezuela | Support For Refugees In Venezuela | HIAS; JRS Venezuela - JRS).

Livelihoods, education, and reintegration

- Cash and voucher assistance: IOM and NGOs periodically provide multipurpose cash to highly vulnerable households; enrollment often requires a vulnerability assessment. (IOM AVRR/CBI: Cash-based interventions | International Organization for Migration).
- Employment and training: Limited formal programs exist; some NGOs run vocational training, entrepreneurship coaching, and small grants for microbusiness. Check HIAS, JRS, and Fe y Alegría centers locally. (HIAS Venezuela: above; JRS LAC page; Fe y Alegría: Inicio FyA Internacional - #SomosFeyAlegria en el Mundo).
- Education re-entry: Public schools can enroll children without immediate full documentation, with later regularization through the school and civil registry, according to Ministry circulars implemented with UNICEF support. (UNICEF Venezuela education support: UNICEF Venezuela).
- Housing/shelter: Emergency shelters are limited; faith-based shelters and NGOs sometimes offer short-term accommodation in border areas.

Border and Transit Assistance

- Humanitarian support at entry points: At major border crossings (e.g., with Colombia), humanitarian organizations run assistance points providing water, food, medical checks, information, and referrals. (OCHA Venezuela humanitarian snapshots: Venezuela | OCHA).
- Restoring Family Links: ICRC and Venezuelan Red Cross can help contact relatives or trace separated family members. (ICRC RFL: Restoring Family Links | Restoring Family Links; Venezuelan Red Cross: Cruz Roja Venezolana).

Legal orientation and protection

From question 2.3- Blas Ichaso work product

1. National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)

   Offers Know Your Rights workshops, legal consultations, and representation for:

   Asylum seekers

   Detained immigrants

   DACA recipients

   LGBTQ+ migrants

   Victims of trafficking

   Runs an Immigration Court Helpdesk and DACA renewal clinics.

   NIJC: Immigrant Rights and Immigration Legal Services

2. United We Dream (UWD)

   The largest immigrant youth-led network in the U.S.

   Provides:

   Deportation Defense Guides

   Leadership training

   Legal preparedness packets

   Know Your Rights resources by state

   Offers community organizing and advocacy tools.

   Deportation Defense | Protect Yourself and Know Your Rights

3. Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

   Develops legal education materials for immigrants and attorneys.

   Offers community workshops and legal orientation sessions.

   Focuses on deportation defense, immigration relief, and policy advocacy.

   Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC |

4. Immigration Advocates Network

   Network and directory of organizations providing support to immigrants and migrants in the U.S.

   Immigration Advocates Network

5. Families for Freedom

   It specializes in deportation defense education in New York.

   Offers hotlines, legal strategy guides, and community support for families affected by deportation.

   Families For Freedom

6. Immigrant Defense Project.

   Immigrant Defense Project - Fighting for Justice & Human Rights for ALL

Within Venezuela, we found no organizations specifically addressing returned or deported migrants. However, the following organizations provide legal advice related to human rights violations and other human rights issues, and could be helpful for returning migrants:

1. Foro Penal:

   Provides legal assistance in criminal law issues in Venezuela, particularly in cases of arbitrary detention (some migrants may be subject to detention in Venezuela after being repatriated due to criminal records.

   Home - Foro Penal

   Caritas Venezuela

   Catholic charity that provides support to migrants.

   Home - Foro Penal

2. PROVEA (Programa Venezolana de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos):

   Longstanding Venezuelan NGO that provides legal and human rights support to Venezuelans facing human rights violations.

   Home - PROVEA

3. Convite AC:

   Provides humanitarian and medical aid to senior citizens in Venezuela.

   Inicio - Convite

4. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):

   Provide humanitarian, food, medical and legal aid to Venezuelan refugees, migrants and individuals within the country.

   NRC in Venezuela | NRC

5. CECODAP:

   Provides legal and psychological support to minors, and supports issues involving children, adolescents and minors in general.

   https://cecodap.org/

6. Defiende Venezuela:

   Provides legal advice related to human rights and human rights violations affecting Venezuelans. Defiende Venezuela specializes in taking legal action before local courts, international organizations such as applications for precautionary measures before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and human rights litigation before the Inter-American Court of Human

Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee and the International Criminal Court.

Defiende Venezuela (@defiendeve) • Instagram photos and videos

Home - Defiende Venezuela

7. Clínica Jurídica UCAB:

   The Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, a Jesuit university in Caracas, provides free legal advice to individuals in Venezuela on a wide range of issues.

   Clínica Jurídica UCAB (@cjuridicaucab) • Instagram photos and videos

Practical Tips

Keep copies (digital and paper) of all documents from the deportation process and previous IDs; present them at SAIME and civil registries. (SAIME: SAIME).

Register with local community councils and health posts quickly to reconnect with social programs. (Inscripción del Comité de Salud :: COMITÉS DE SALUD - MPPS; and INICIO | OBPP).

Use official helplines and verified NGO offices; beware of scams offering "express" documents. (IOM Venezuela page and UNHCR Help Venezuela page above).

3. Lack of Resources: Highlight any gaps or lack of resources available to deported individuals in this country.

There are many resource gaps to deported individuals:

1. Limited, delayed, or costly access to civil identification. (Human Rights Watch, 2022; "Venezuela: Systemic Human Rights Violations" (on documentation barriers): World Report 2022: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch).

2. Sparse reintegration programming specifically for deported returnees. Most aid targets internal needs or outward migration- ad hoc and short-term assistance rather than sustained reintegration. (Home | R4V).

3. Insufficient cash assistance and livelihood support- programs are small-scale, time-bound, and often require vulnerability assessments many returnees struggle to pass. (Venezuela | ReliefWeb Response).

4. Limited emergency shelter/short-term accommodation, especially outside border hubs; shelters are often faith-based with few beds and short stays. (OCHA Venezuela humanitarian snapshots and situation reports (shelter/NFI sector): Venezuela | OCHA; Caritas Venezuela program briefs (capacity constraints): Home - Caritas de Venezuela).

The remaining information has not been checked for quality or validity

1. Health system constraints: shortages of medicines, intermittent services, and out-of-pocket costs for diagnostics; mental health services are limited and concentrated in urban centers. (PAHO/WHO Venezuela country cooperation and health updates: Venezuela (República Bolivariana de) - OPS/OMS | Organización Panamericana de la Salud; HRW health system reporting: World Report 2024: Venezuela | Human Rights Watch).

2. Protection gaps for people at risk (e.g., GBV survivors, LGBTIQ+ persons, people facing extortion/crime), including limited safe housing and specialized services; underreporting due to fear and weak institutions. (UNHCR Venezuela protection updates: ACNUR Venezuela - Ayuda para refugiados y solicitantes de asilo and country page: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | UNHCR; Amnesty International reports on impunity and protection risks: Human rights in Venezuela Amnesty International).

3. Geographic disparities: Services cluster in Caracas and a few border states (Táchira, Zulia), with fewer options in interior regions; transport costs and insecurity limit access. (R4V 5W (Who-What-Where) and sector mapping for Venezuela: Home | R4V).

4. Legal aid capacity is thin; few free providers, long wait times, and limited coverage outside major cities; specialized support for labor rights, family law, or documentation is inconsistent. [HIAS Venezuela country page (scope of services vs. demand): (HIAS Venezuela country page (scope of services vs. demand): HIAS Venezuela | Support For Refugees In Venezuela | HIAS; JRS LAC country operations (limited coverage): Where We Work - JRS LAC).

5. Barriers to school re-enrollment for children without documents despite flexible policies; schools may still request paperwork or fees and learning materials/transport are often unaffordable. (UNICEF Venezuela education

briefs and situation reports: UNICEF Venezuela).

6. Weak referral pathways and information gaps at points of entry; many returnees are unaware of available services or face inconsistent triage and follow-up. (OCHA Venezuela situation reports (coordination and information gaps): Venezuela | OCHA; IOM Venezuela border assistance updates: Regional response to the situation of Venezuelan migrants and refugees | International Organization for Migration).

7. Banking/financial inclusion barriers: Without valid IDs or with expired documents, opening accounts and accessing formal financial services is difficult; digital payment systems may require "Carnet de la Patria" or national IDs. (Venezuela Central Bank regulations overview via BCV and government portals: Banco Central de Venezuela |; IOM/UNHCR cash assistance guidance notes (ID requirements): Multipurpose Cash Assistance | Venezuela (RMRP) | Humanitarian Action).Limited pathways for formal employment and recognition of skills/credentials obtained abroad; weak labor demand and informality dominate. (World Bank Venezuela economic updates (labor market/informality): Venezuela Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank; ILO regional briefs on informality in Venezuela: Latin America and the Caribbean | International Labour Organization).

8. Security and extortion risks during transit and in high-crime neighborhoods, with constrained police/prosecutorial response capacity; victims often avoid reporting. (ICG (International Crisis Group) reports on Venezuela's security environment: Venezuela | International Crisis Group; Ministerio Público reporting limitations noted by NGOs: PROVEA annual reports: Inicio - PROVEA).

9. Energy, water, and connectivity outages disrupt service delivery (appointments, e-health, remote casework) and livelihoods activities. (OCHA and R4V sector reports on infrastructure/operational constraints: https://www.r4v.info/en; OCHA Venezuela humanitarian updates: https://www.unocha.org/venezuela).

10. Limited services for people with disabilities and older adults, including assistive devices, accessible transport, and tailored case management. (R4V Protection and Health sector analyses highlighting specific needs: Home | R4V; PAHO age/disability inclusion notes in Venezuela: Venezuela (República Bolivariana de) - OPS/OMS | Organización Panamericana de la Salud).

4. Efforts Being Considered: Describe any efforts or initiatives being considered or recently launched by this country to assist deported individuals.

There are no programs launched specifically for deportees, but we have identified some that are commonly used by them and serve as support.

1. Government-Run Return Program
   Plan Vuelta a la Patria: Provides limited support for voluntary returns, including transportation and reception. Not specifically designed for deportees. Plan Vuelta a la Patria - Visa - Embajada de la Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela en Argentina

2. Caritas Venezuela - Food aid, nutrition screening, health services, and casework. Home - Caritas de Venezuela

5. National Law: Identify laws, regulations, or policies in this country that govern the reception or reintegration of deported individuals.

There is no specific law in Venezuela that governs the reintegration of deported individuals. However, there are legal frameworks that address related issues either directly or indirectly. One such example is the Ley Orgánica sobre Refugiados o Refugiadas y Asilados o Asiladas (LORRAA), which guarantees non-refoulement, prohibits discrimination, and ensures access to legal procedures and protection for vulnerable groups, including children and families. Additionally, Article 69 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela prohibits the extradition of Venezuelan nationals and affirms the right to asylum and refuge, reinforcing the state's obligation to protect its citizens returning from abroad.

Ley Orgánica sobre refugiados o refugiadas y asilados o asiladas del 13 de septiembre del 200

http://www.defiendete.org/docs/de_interes/Leyes/CONSTITUCION%20

6. Legal Protections: Determine whether this country has specific legal protections for deported individuals regarding access to health, housing, employment, or education.

There are no specific legal protections for returned migrants in Venezuela. While the Venezuelan constitution provides rights to free universa

7. Detention or Procedures: Assess whether deported individuals face detention, or screening, upon arrival in this country.

Generally, Venezuelans deported or returned to Venezuela have no issues with their legal status or residency in the country, since they are Venezuelan nationals. However, there are reports of some Venezuelan migrants deported to the country in coordination with the United States having been subject to arbitrary detention, prosecution and in some cases, forced disappearances upon their arrival to Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetía (near Caracas), on flights chartered by the US or Venezuelan governments.

While the Venezuelan government alleges that those prosecuted are accused of ordinary crimes such as theft, there are documented cases of migrants who had fled Venezuela due to political persecution or prior arbitrary detention being rearrested upon their arrival on deportation flights; other migrants who while in the US were active on social media criticizing the Venezuelan government have been subject to arbitrary detention upon arriving in Venezuela in retaliation for their criticism of the government. In summary, migrants who have been politically persecuted in Venezuela or at risk of persecution face a critical risk of arbitrary detention, forced disappearance and torture upon arrival in Venezuela.

"Una dinámica perversa de puerta giratoria": las denuncias de nuevos arrestos en Venezuela tras la liberación de un grupo de presos - BBC News Mundo

8. Identity Documents: Review what legal mechanisms exist in this country for deported individuals to recover or renew their national identification documents.

The Venezuelan government entity in charge of issuing identity documents is the *Servicio Administrativo de Identificación, Migración y Extranjería* (SAIME). Generally, renewing and issuing national ID documents (Cédula de Identidad and Passports) is much easier within the country than outside it. The SAIME website lists the requirements and procedures:

SAIME

Below is a link to the procedures and requirements to obtain or renew a national ID card (*cédula de identidad*), which is required for basically every bureaucratic proceeding and day-to-day affairs in the country.

Trámites en línea – SAIME

And below the same for passports:

Trámites en línea – SAIME

For complex cases, returned migrants should visit a SAIME office. There are many offices across the country, however, most complex cases require visiting the central office in downtown Caracas: Avenida Baralt, Edificio 1000. Sede SAIME. Planta Baja, Caracas.

9. Legal Status: What is the legal status of individuals upon deportation to this country? Are they subject to any administrative or judicial procedures?

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Legal Aid and Non-Legal Resources

1. Organizations: Identify all the organizations in this country that provide legal or non-legal assistance to deported individuals. Include:
   - Name of organization
   - Mission
   - Type of service and resources they provide
   - Data on the number of individuals helped
   - Other organizations they partner with

Foro Penal:

Provides legal assistance in criminal law issues in Venezuela, particularly in cases of arbitrary detention (some migrants may be subject to detention in Venezuela after being repatriated due to criminal records.

https://foropenal.com/

Caritas Venezuela

Catholic charity that provides support to migrants.

https://caritasvenezuela.org/

PROVEA (Programa Venezolana de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos):

Longstanding Venezuelan NGO that provides legal and human rights support to Venezuelans facing human rights violations.

https://provea.org/en/

Convite AC:

Provides humanitarian and medical aid to senior citizens in Venezuela.

https://conviteac.org/

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):

Provide humanitarian, food, medical and legal aid to Venezuelan refugees, migrants and individuals within the country.

https://www.nrc.no/countries/south-america/venezuela

CECODAP:

Provides legal and psychological support to minors, and supports issues involving children, adolescents and minors in general.

https://cecodap.org/

IOM Venezuela

IOM Venezuela implements activities, projects, and programs to provide assistance and technical support on migration-related topics and human rights to the Government, migrants, civil society organizations and other partners.

Venezuela | International Organization for Migration

2. Right to Legal Aid: Does this country recognize a legal right to free or state-supported legal aid for deported individuals?

The Venezuelan Constitution provides for a right to free legal assistance in criminal judicial proceedings, through State-appointed public defenders. However, there is no legal right to legal aid for migrants outside the context of legal criminal proceedings (i.e., trials).

However, there are organizations that provide free legal assistance to persons in Venezuela, such as the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB) Clínica Jurídica: https://www.instagram.com/cjuridicaucab/?hl=en

3. International Norms: Has this country incorporated international human rights or refugee law standards into its legal framework for deported or returned individuals?

There is no specific Venezuelan legal framework relating to deported or returned individuals. However, article 23 of the Venezuelan constitution provides constitutional rank to treaties, pacts and conventions related to human rights signed and ratified by Venezuela, and provide for their preferential application whenever they are more favorable to the enjoyment and exercise of human rights:

"Article 23. Treaties, pacts, and conventions related to human rights, which have been signed and ratified by Venezuela, have constitutional rank and prevail within the domestic legal system, to the extent that they contain provisions more favorable to the enjoyment and exercise of such rights than those established by this Constitution and the laws of the Republic. They are of immediate and direct application by the courts and other organs of Public Power."

http://www.defiendete.org/docs/de_interes/Leyes/CONSTITUCION%20

Venezuela is a signatory of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees: The 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees | UNHCR

4. Are there legal education or rights-awareness programs available for deported individuals?

We have found the following programs within the US:

1. National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)

   Offers Know Your Rights workshops, legal consultations, and representation for:

   Asylum seekers

   Detained immigrants

   DACA recipients

   LGBTQ+ migrants

   Victims of trafficking

   Runs an Immigration Court Helpdesk and DACA renewal clinics.

   NIJC: Immigrant Rights and Immigration Legal Services

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   Leadership training

   Legal preparedness packets

   Know Your Rights resources by state

   Offers community organizing and advocacy tools.

   Deportation Defense | Protect Yourself and Know Your Rights

3. Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

   Develops legal education materials for immigrants and attorneys.

   Offers community workshops and legal orientation sessions.

   Focuses on deportation defense, immigration relief, and policy advocacy.

   Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC |

4. Immigration Advocates Network

   Network and directory of organizations providing support to immigrants and migrants in the US.

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   Home - Foro Penal

   Caritas Venezuela

   Catholic charity that provides support to migrants.

   Home - Caritas de Venezuela

2. PROVEA (Programa Venezolana de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos):

   Longstanding Venezuelan NGOs that provides legal and human rights support to Venezuelans facing human rights violations.

   Home - PROVEA

3. Convite AC:

   Provides humanitarian and medical aid to senior citizens in Venezuela.

   Inicio - Convite

4. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):

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   NRC in Venezuela | NRC

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   Defiende Venezuela (@defiendeve) • Instagram photos and videos

   Home - Defiende Venezuela

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   Clínica Jurídica UCAB (@cjuridicaucab) • Instagram photos and videos

Multilateral Cooperation

1. Access to Belongings: Identify programs or resources that allow deported individuals to recover belongings left behind in the US

Some charities, such as the ones listed below, may assist with personal property recovery, but we will need to call each to confirm. From their website they assist with immigrant issues but what exact services they provide is not listed:

- Catholic Charities: (305) 754-2444 / info@ccadm.org
- National Immigrant Justice Center: (312) 583-9721 / immigrantjustice.org

2. Are there formal legal mechanisms for deported individuals to recover property, wages, or financial assets from the US after returning to this country?

No Formal Mechanism for U.S.-Based Asset Recovery

- Venezuela does not have a formal legal process to help deported individuals reclaim property or wages lost in the U.S.
- Recovery must be pursued through U.S. legal channels, often requiring:
  - U.S.-based attorneys

- Remote court filings
- Coordination with consulates or legal representatives

Practical Steps for Deportees

1. Document Ownership: Keep records of deeds, bank accounts, and business assets.
2. Assign Legal Representation: Use Power of Attorney or trusts.
3. Consult U.S. Immigration & Property Attorneys: Especially for contesting asset forfeiture.
4. Engage Consulates: They may offer limited support or referrals.

Risks and Challenges

- Civil Asset Forfeiture: ICE can seize assets if linked to alleged illegal activity, even without criminal charges. Owners must prove the property's innocence to reclaim it. VisaVerge
- Frozen Accounts & Foreclosures: Deportees often lose access to bank accounts or face foreclosure due to missed payments. cibercuba
- Management from Abroad: Handling assets remotely is difficult without legal tools like Power of Attorney or Living Trusts. legalclarity

3. Bilateral Agreements: Identify bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding between the US and this country on repatriation, and summarize their key provisions.

There are no bilateral agreements that I could find. I did find this US Department of Homeland Security agency announcement terminating Venezuela's Temporary Protected Status which has enabled renewed US deportation efforts (see DHS Terminates 2021 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status).

4. Safe Repatriation Obligations: Review this country's international obligations for ensuring safe and dignified repatriation.

Venezuela is a party to:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- UN refugee convention of 1951 and 1967 protocol
- American Convention on Human Rights
- Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR) -- the following information needs to be verified as the sprint did not provide sufficient time. According to AI: While the VCCR primarily binds the United States regarding notification and access while Venezuelans are in U.S. custody, Venezuela has correlative duties:
  1. Provide consular assistance to nationals facing removal, including travel documents, identity verification, and information on return procedures.
  2. On return, facilitate prompt issuance/renewal of passports, ID cards, birth registration for children, and civil status documents to enable reintegration and access to services.

5. Consular Role: Assess the role of this country's consulates in the US in supporting deported nationals prior to and after removal.

Venezuela does not have a consular presence in the US. Venezuela's government has established a program called "Plan vuelta a la patria" to assist citizens returning to Venezuela.

Deportation Data

1. Numbers of Individuals: Provide data on the number of individuals deported from the US to this country from November 2024 to present.

Miami Herald reported on May 21, 2025 that more than 4,600 Venezuelans have returned home in recent months and that 3,078 were deported directly from the US.

Reuters reported in March 23, 2025 the arrival of 199 Venezuelan deportees flown into Venezuela (single-flight arrival).

ICE reports the following for the year 2024 through November 2024:

- Enforcement and Removal Operations - 3,260
- DHS Removals by Citizenship - 3,540

ICE reports the following for November-December 2024:

- 112 Removals
- 1,543 Detentions

2. Deportation Flights: Identify the airports or locations in this country where deportation flights from the US are arriving during the same period.

1. Simón Bolívar International Airport near Caracas (for example see Vuelven 207 venezolanos repatriados desde EE. UU.) Located in Maiquetía, Vargas state, serving Caracas. This is the primary reported arrival point for U.S. deportation flights to Venezuela.
2. News reports from February 2025 and July 2025 Some indicate that removal operations have been routed through third countries, specifically El Salvador and Honduras, before reaching Venezuela.

3. Major Cities Receiving Individuals: List the major cities in this country where deported individuals are resettled after arrival.

In Venezuela, primarily Maiquetia (Caracas region) (see 4.2). Some individuals are taken to third countries such as Honduras and El Salvador before reaching Venezuela (see 4.2).

The Miami Herald reports that Venezuelans make up the largest share of migrants recently deported to third countries. Out of roughly 7,900 individuals deported to countries where they were neither born nor are citizens of, over one-third are from Venezuela.

4. Demographics: Summarize demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the US of deported individuals to this country, if available.

The demographic data (age, gender, family status, education level, years in the U.S.) for deported individuals to Venezuela is not readily available. However, The Latin Times has reported some information about the deportees: “More than 30% of those deported in 2024 had criminal charges or convictions, averaging over five offenses per individual. Among them were 3,706 suspected gang members and 237 individuals flagged for potential terrorist ties.”

Another news outlet Texas Tribune reported that the 238 Venezuelan deportees sent from the US to El Salvador were all men.

5. Grounds for Deportation: Identify the main legal or administrative grounds for deportations to this country (e.g., visa overstay, criminal records, border detention).

1. Unlawful presence / entry without authorization
   - The most common ground: Venezuelans (like many other migrants) who crossed the U.S. border without inspection or a visa can be placed in removal proceedings under INA §212(a)(6)(A)(i).
   - Some are subject to expedited removal if caught near the border.
2. Visa overstays / status violations
   - Venezuelans who entered legally (e.g., tourist or humanitarian parole) but overstayed their visa or violated terms of status (like working without authorization) may be deportable under INA §237(a)(1)(B).
3. Criminal convictions
   - Certain criminal offenses make a noncitizen deportable:
     - Aggravated felonies (INA §237(a)(2)(A)(iii))
     - Crimes involving moral turpitude (CIMTs)

- Drug-related offenses
- Domestic violence / firearms violations

- These apply regardless of nationality.

4. Security / terrorism grounds
   - Rare, but if someone is found inadmissible on national security grounds, they can be removed under INA §§212(a)(3) and 237(a)(4).
5. Failure of asylum or immigration claims
   - Many Venezuelans request asylum, TPS (Temporary Protected Status), or parole. If those claims are denied or expire, and no other legal relief is granted, they may be deportable. The United States Department of Homeland Security announced the termination of the 2021 designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuela, which will expire on Sept. 10, 2025. DHS Terminates 2021 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status | Homeland Security.

6. Transparency Rules: Determine whether this country has laws requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

Venezuela does not currently have legislation requiring the publication or public reporting of deportation data.

7. Government Sources: Identify which agencies in this country are legally responsible for collecting and publishing deportation data.

Ministry of People's Power for Interior Relations, Justice and Peace (MPPRIJP)

Core public-security and migration policy ministry. Oversees immigration control, police bodies, and coordinates removal/return operations. Official communiqués and statistics, when released, often come via this ministry.

Sources:

MPPRIJP official site and press room: http://www.mpprijp.gob.ve (also mirrored via their social channels)

Gaceta Oficial (Official Gazette) for ministerial attributions and reorganizations.

Administrative Service for Identification, Migration and Foreigners (SAIME)

Venezuela's immigration authority (under MPPRIJP). Responsible for entry/exit controls, visas, passports, and foreign nationals' status. SAIME is the logical custodian for migration movement data and may release figures or statements on returns/deportations.

Sources:

SAIME official site: https://www.saime.gob.ve/

SAIME communications/social feeds referencing migration operations and data.

Bolivarian National Police / Migration Control units and Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) at ports of entry

Operate checkpoints and support custody/transfer at airports and borders. They generate operational records; public disclosures usually flow through MPPRIJP rather than directly.

Sources:

MPPRIJP communiqués describing joint operations with GNB/PNB at airports and borders.

National Institute of Civil Aviation (INAC)

Regulates civil aviation and airports. While not an immigration authority, INAC can issue notices about special flights and airport operations and occasionally provides operational confirmations for arrival points.

Sources:

INAC official site: https://www.inac.gob.ve/

NOTAMs and operational communiqués published by INAC.

Public Ministry (Attorney General's Office)

May report on criminal removals or judicial actions linked to removals/expulsions. Not a routine publisher of migration statistics but it can release case-based data.

National Institute of Statistics (INE) is responsible for official statistics across sectors. In practice, migration/deportation figures, if published, usually come from MPPRIJP/SAIME; INE might aggregate or reference them in broader demographic products.

8. Freedom of Information: Assess whether deportation data can be obtained through access-to-information laws in this country.

Although Venezuela has a law from 2021, in practice it is unlikely it will serve to obtain deportation data there.

An anti-corruption coalition, UNCAC Coalition, reported on these limitations in October 2024: "On September 17, 2021, the National Assembly approved the Law of Transparency and Access to Information of Public Interest. The Law does not include active transparency and limits access to public information to what is necessary "for the active participation of the people in the design, formulation, and monitoring of public management.". The law does not establish a body to guarantee access to information, maximum periods of confidentiality of information, or sanctions for officials who deny access to information."

Articles 58 and 143 of the Venezuelan Constitution also address the matter, recognizing a right to information and transparency in public administration.

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