STOP DEATH DEPORTATIONS OF IRAQI REFUGEES

NO MORE DEPORTATION FLIGHTS - WE MUST DEFEND OUR NEIGHBORS

Last April, Oliver Awshana, an Iraqi refugee who fled genocide in Iraq over a decade ago, heroically fought and stopped his own deportation when ICE agents attempted to force him onto a plane to Iraq. They first took Oliver to Detroit Metro airport where he was put on a Delta Airlines flight to Chicago where he was to get on a Turkish Airlines flight to Istanbul on his way to Iraq. At that point, he protested, fought and screamed that he was being deported to his death, as a group of I.C.E. officers and police brutalized and threatened him with tasers. When the pilot saw this, he refused to fly with him on the plane. ICE was forced to return Oliver back to Michigan where he continued to fight his deportation. His case was reopened within a week.

Oliver's fight that saved his life is an inspiration and model for every other Iraqi refugee facing imminent deportation, and an expression of the direction of the whole immigrant rights struggle. Increasingly, major international airports have become a center for struggle for immigrant rights as a last line of defense in the fight to stop deportations after the courts and other official avenues have failed to protect the fundamental human right to stay alive.

In the first months of Trump's presidency, some of the most important of the mass mobilizations against Trump's anti-immigrant policies were the mass occupations that shut down airports across the country and refused to leave until everyone who was detained was released. Those actions defeated Trump's first attempt at the Muslim ban and made the airports a focal point of the immigrant rights movement in the fight against deportations and other human rights abuses, particularly against Muslim travelers. Trump is now planning to add 7 more countries to the travel ban - our movement must mobilize to force every commercial airline rethink their policy and get on the right side of history.

NO MORE DELTA DEATH FLIGHTS! TELL DELTA & TURKISH AIRLINES TO STOP HELPING WITH DEPORTATIONS

YOU can help stop a deportation in progress:

1. **TAKE A STAND, SAVE A LIFE:** If someone on your flight is being deported, passengers can refuse to sit down or put on their seatbelts, and the plane cannot take off.
2. **The pilot** has discretion to refuse to fly the plane with someone being deported.
3. **Flight crew**, mechanics can refuse to work and make it impossible for the flight to take off.
4. **Call/Fax/Email Delta Airlines and Turkish Airlines** to Demand they stop cooperating in Deportations:

DELTA AIRLINES:

CALL: 404-715-2554
FAX: (404) 715-5042
EMAIL: DeltaAirLines@e.delta.com
EXECUTIVE EMAILS:
victoria.forbesroberts@delta.com,
heidi.gould@delta.com
ed.bastian@delta.com

TURKISH AIRLINES:

Pressline: 212-463-6444
24hr Customer Service Phone: 1-800-874-8875
EMAIL: yustun@thy.com
basinortak@thy.com
press@thy.com
CEO: Bilal Eksi
Twitter: @BilalEksiTHY
Email beksi@thy.com



Occupation of San Fransisco International Airport in 2017 against Trump's Muslim ban.



BAMN's sister organization in London, the Movement for Justice By Any Means Necessary (MFJ), demonstrates against deportations and defends asylum seekers in Britain.

DELTA & TURKISH AIRLINES: BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS - NO MORE DEATH BY DEPORTATION

In 2018, in response to Trump's family separation policy, Frontier, Southwest and United airlines announced their refusal to fly immigrant children separated from their parents for the federal government. In the U.S., Europe and Australia, Airlines have adopted a policy of non-cooperation with deportations in response to protests and pressure from unions like the Association of Flight Attendants (CWA) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). Delta Airlines and Turkish Airlines must join them or face boycotts and escalating disruptions on their flights and at their airports as immigrants facing deportations are forced to make the fight of their lives.

The deportations scheduled for dozens of Iraqi refugees from metro Detroit were scheduled by ICE for deportation flights via Delta Airlines from Detroit Metro Airport to Turkish Airlines from Chicago, O'Hare or JFK, New York, to Istanbul, then via Gulf Air to Bahrain, continuing on to Baghdad. This was how Jimmy Al-Daoud was deported to Iraq and he died two months later. Jimmy Al-Daoud was a member of our community. He lived in Detroit since he was a baby. He was born in Greece after his family fled Iraq. He never stepped foot in Iraq until ICE deported him there with two weeks worth of insulin for his diabetes, and no identification so he could not pass a checkpoint, get medical care or a place to live. He died just weeks after his video pleading for help went viral. Other members of our community have been shot, had arms chopped off or have disappeared after being deported. Even as Trump escalates violence in the Middle East, he continues to pursue deportations of Iraqi refugees who have been in the U.S. for decades and face increasing danger in Iraq because they are American.

Delta Airlines is the main carrier of DTW which is operated by the Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA). Southeast Michigan is home to a longstanding and the largest Iraqi and Middle Eastern community outside of the Middle East. Delta Airlines website claims "Delta continually strives to be a respected community partner in the neighborhoods where we do business and live." But Delta already has blood on their hands, profiting from being the only airline in Detroit carrying out deportations of our Iraqi community members. King County in Washington State has banned ICE from carrying out any deportation flights from their airport. Wayne County Airport Authority must follow their example and stop being complicit in the murder of our family, friends and neighbors. The issue of immigrant rights is now at the center of whether entire regimes will rise or fall. It is in reality the most important question to the movement to impeach and remove Trump.

THE LIVES AT STAKE; IMMIGRANTS AND YOUTH LEAD THE WAY



Ali Al-Sadoon's children leading a protest at Detroit airport to stop Delta deportation flights.

Ali Al-Sadoon and Wisam Hamana are among the heroes and leaders of the immigrant rights movement who have taken matters into their own hands to save their own lives. In June, Wisam and Ali were two of the Iraqi refugees who were scheduled for deportation flights on Delta Airlines and told at their check-ins at the ICE office to meet an ICE agent at the Detroit metro airport. Instead, they cut off their tethers, determined to remain here with their families in the only home they have ever known, and hoping to buy time for something to change to stop this murderous policy. Their example inspired more Iraqi refugees to do the same throughout the summer. Some made it to safety in Canada through the new Underground Railroad.


Ali Al Sadoon with his family

Seeking to make an example of Ali and Wisam, ICE hunted them down in July. On July 25, ICE agents pulled up in mass onto the Al-Sadoons' front lawn, broke down their door, held guns on Ali's wife and young children and violently dragged him out of his house as his terrified children clung to his leg. Two days earlier ICE had arrested Wisam. The federal government charged them both with "hampering a deportation" to which they pled not guilty. Ali and Wisam represented by BAMN attorney and leader Shanta Driver, prepared to go to trial with the confidence they could convince a jury that cutting their tethers and refusing to cooperate in their own deportations was self-defense. Just days before each of their pre-trial hearings, the prosecutor dropped the charges, afraid to let the truth of this murderous deportation policy come out in the trial. They are both still being held in ICE custody. Through relentless persistence we won a stay that has stopped Ali's deportation. We must now win the same protection for Wisam who is still in danger of deportation, and fight to get them free from the nightmare of ICE detention. Ali and Wisam are waging a public fight not only for their own lives and liberation, but fighting for every immigrant in the U.S. who lives in fear of what the future holds, everyone suffering the physical and mental torture of indefinite detention, every family living in constant fear of being torn apart. Their fight has shown that when we fight we can win.



Wisam Hamana speaking at a press conference in June 2019 declaring his determination to fight against his death deportation to Iraq

Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration & Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary
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