

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 13, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our outrage and grief regarding the death of Jimmy Aldaoud, a Michigan man who was deported to Iraq in June and died on August 6<sup>th</sup> of a diabetic crisis.

Jimmy, who lived with both diabetes and paranoid schizophrenia, was brought to America as a toddler, had never been to Iraq, spoke no Arabic, and was deported without identification, money or a sufficient supply of insulin. He already faced tremendous danger in a country that was completely foreign to him, as he was entirely Americanized and a Chaldean Christian, a religious minority that is highly persecuted in Iraq. However, to force a man living with chronic illnesses into an unknown country without adequate access to life-sustaining medicine is nothing short of a death sentence. Jimmy's death was a direct and predictable result of his deportation, and we are horrified that this cruelty was perpetrated on our watch.

A decision earlier this year by the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals allowed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to begin the detention and deportation of Iraqi nationals like Jimmy – people who, in many cases, came to the U.S. as children and know no other home. Members of Congress from both parties have repeatedly called on your Administration to halt these detentions and deportations:

- In April, more than 20 members of Congress from across the country wrote to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE requesting deferral of detention and deportation of affected Iraqi nationals.
- Also in April, Representatives Andy Levin (D-MI-09), John R. Moolenaar (R-MI-04), Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-08), and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-01) passed the letter on to Vice President Mike Pence, who has advocated for the protection of Christians abroad, following news of the departures of DHS and ICE leadership.
- In June, Representatives Levin and Moolenaar asked for intervention from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who has personally acknowledged the threats faced by religious minorities in Iraq.

All of these requests have gone unanswered beyond a cursory acknowledgment. Your Administration's total failure to act calls into question its stated interest in protecting religious minorities, especially Christians, from persecution, and underscores the horrific consequences of your immigration policies.

National attention is now focused on Jimmy's heartbreaking story. It is incumbent upon us to act, in this moment of tragedy, to ensure that this never happens again. If your Administration continues to deport Iraqi nationals, it knowingly and willingly risks more preventable deaths. As such, we implore you to end the detention and deportation of Iraqi nationals living in the United States without delay.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

  
ANDY LEVIN  
Member of Congress

  
BRENDA LAWRENCE  
Member of Congress

  
VICENTE GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress

  
DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL  
Member of Congress

  
DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress

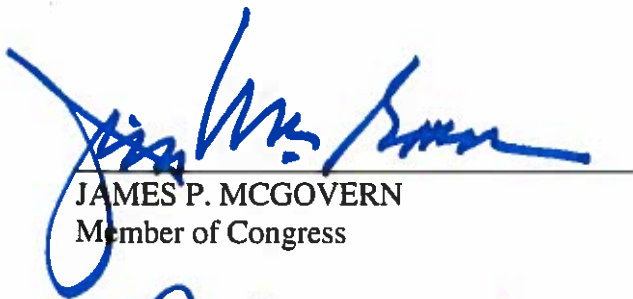
  
ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress

  
DANIEL T. KILDEE  
Member of Congress

  
HALEY STEVENS  
Member of Congress

  
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ  
Member of Congress

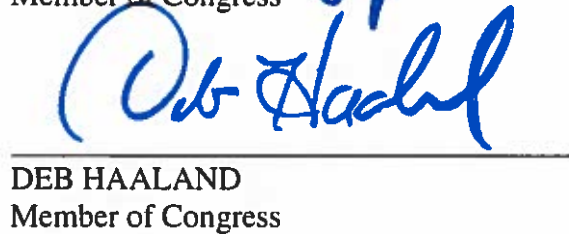
  
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Member of Congress

  
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Member of Congress

  
MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress

  
DONALD S. BEYER, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress

  
DEB HAALAND  
Member of Congress

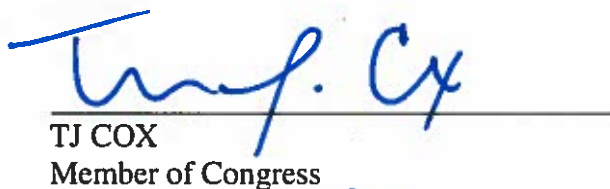
  
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Member of Congress

  
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress

  
RASHIDA TLAIB  
Member of Congress

  
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TJ COX  
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STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

  
DAVID E. PRICE  
Member of Congress

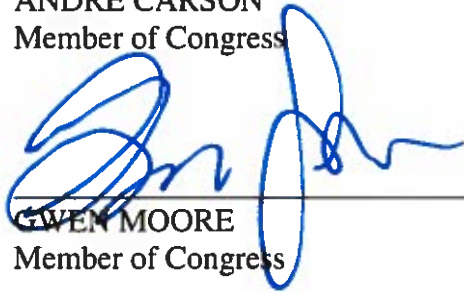
  
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Member of Congress

  
BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress

  
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



ANDRÉ CARSON  
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



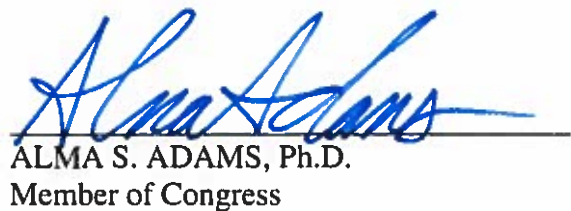
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Member of Congress



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JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA  
Member of Congress



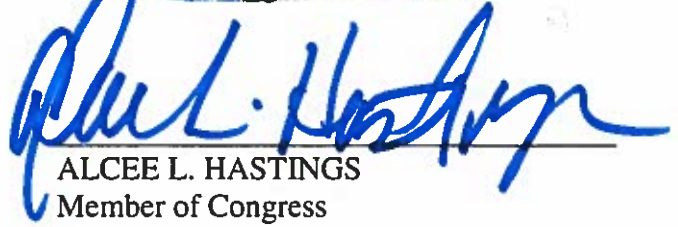
JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress



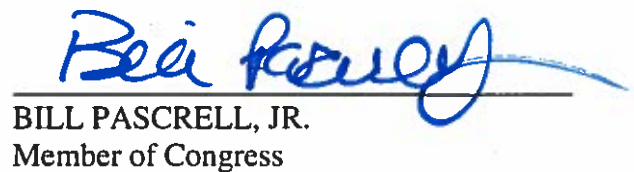
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ  
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ELISSA SLOTKIN  
Member of Congress