

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Milena Mayorga
Embassy of El Salvador
1400 16th Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ambassador Mayorga,

On behalf of our unions and the more than 15 million workers we represent, we write to ask for an urgent meeting to discuss the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and request his immediate release from detention and return to the United States.

Brother Abrego Garcia is a first-year apprentice of Local 100 of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) and has built a family and a life in Maryland, where he was also helping to build our nation's infrastructure. Despite these critical contributions, he was deported by the U.S. government without due process or opportunity for appeal. This miscarriage of justice cannot stand.

Like many, Brother Abrego Garcia was forced to flee El Salvador after enduring threats and extortion from the violent Barrio 18 gang. Those threats were so severe that a U.S. immigration judge granted him legal protection in 2019. Despite this protection, Brother Abrego Garcia was unlawfully detained while driving home from work with his son and forcibly deported by ICE agents on March 12, 2025, without any hearing and in direct violation of the legal protection he had been granted.

This egregious violation of our brother's rights has been acknowledged by federal courts, and the U.S. government has admitted that his removal was an "administrative error." However, he remains in custody in El Salvador, and the U.S. government has failed to take action to bring him home, despite a Supreme Court order to facilitate his return.

We urge the Salvadoran government to clarify its commitment to the fundamental principles of rule of law and due process by returning our trade union brother Abrego Garcia to his family in the United States and ensuring access to justice for all other workers who have been detained or deported without appropriate legal procedures.

As a labor movement, we categorically reject the vicious attacks on immigrant workers like Kilmar Abrego Garcia being carried out by the Trump administration. These dangerous anti-worker, anti-union tactics have been weaponized as a tool to sow fear and division and to distract from the corporate takeover of our democratic and economic systems. They must not be legitimized.

The vilification, dehumanization and erosion of rights and due process for immigrants in the United States is a direct threat to the rights of all working people, and we implore nations around the world to resist rather than aid this lawless agenda. The governments of the United States and El Salvador must immediately heed the order from the U.S. Supreme Court to facilitate Brother Abrego Garcia's return home. Furthermore, we demand release and full due process for all other workers who have been unjustly arrested or deported, and jailed in El Salvador without due process.

These are the urgent matters we hope to discuss with you before the end of next week. We ask that you work with Cathy Feingold, International Director of the AFL-CIO and Deputy President of the International Trade Union Confederation, to schedule this meeting at your earliest convenience.

In closing, we respectfully remind you that democracies are strongest when workers' rights are respected and workers can freely exercise those rights, including the right to free speech and freedom of association, without fear of government repression. In the face of mounting global threats to fundamental rights and principles, trade unions will continue to insist upon fair treatment and access to justice for all working people, whatever their immigration status. We look forward to your swift response.

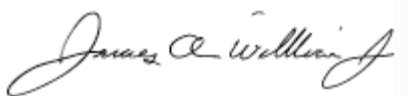
Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Shuler
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of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)



Michael Coleman
General President
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air,
Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)



James Williams Jr.
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