

Kites to Southeast Asia 2023

Background Resources



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the history of Southeast Asian refugees and the U.S. prison-to-deportation pipeline. Below, you'll find a list of resources about Southeast Asian deportations. This is not exhaustive, and we will continue to refresh this content as we come across new information.

Articles

- [California prisons illegally send prisoners' info to ICE, including those who merely look 'foreign,' lawsuit says](#) (SF Chronicle)
- [Decades After Resettling in America, Southeast Asians Continue to Fight for Basic Rights](#) (Prism Report)
- [He grew up in California. Now, he's forced to live in his birth country — a place he's never known](#) (SF Chronicle)

- [The woman confronting the US prison-to-deportation pipeline](#) (Survived and Punished)
- [Student Danny Thongsy: We can look within ourselves to find strength and persevere](#) (UC Berkeley News)

Reports & Briefs

from *The Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)*

- [The Devastating Impact of Deportation on Southeast Asian Americans](#)
A one-pager exploring the status of at least 14,000 people who face potential deportation.
- [SEARAC Media Messaging Guide on Southeast Asian American Criminal Deportation](#)
Basic facts, top-line messages, and tips to address media inquiries.
- [How Family-Based Immigration Benefits Southeast Asian Americans—Standing Up for Families and Our Rights](#)
A memo that discusses the current backlog for immigration visas and the ramifications of ending family-based sponsorship.
- [Southeast Asian Americans and the School-to-Prison-to-Deportation Pipeline](#)
Poverty, mental health, criminalization, and other statistics surrounding the largest refugee community in US history.
- [Southeast Asian Americans and Deportation Policy](#)
A primer on laws responsible for the mandatory detention and deportation of Southeast Asian refugees and SEARAC’s recommendations on legislative fixes.
- [Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Behind Bars](#)
This 2015 report exposes the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline and offers recommendations for addressing mass incarceration and deportation.

Videos

- [“Deportation would mean losing my loved ones” Choy Pangthong](#)
- [Nowhere But Here \(Documentary\)](#)
- [Taking Root: Southeast Asian Stories of Resettlement in Philadelphia](#)
- [Deported: Forced Family Separation](#) (NBC Asian America)

Campaigns

- **APSC4:** Borey “Peejay” Ai, Nghiep “Ke” Lam, Chanthon Bun, and Maria Legarda make up the APSC 4 and are at risk of deportation. Tell Governor Newsom to pardon them NOW so they can remain home with their families and community. The APSC 4 are childhood survivors of violence and trauma. As youth, they were subjected to bullying, poverty, war, and domestic violence. As a result, they were funneled into the criminal legal system. During their incarceration, they became positive leaders inside, completed several self-help programs, and even got educational certificates. They all earned their release from the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR). After the Board of Parole Hearings and the Governor affirmed that all members were suitable for release, CDCR contacted Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) to attempt to deport them instead of allowing them to come home to their communities.
- **HomeAct (AB1306):** AB 1306, the Harmonizing Our Measures for Equality (HOME) Act, authored by Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, would ensure that Californians are not excluded based on where they were born from benefiting from criminal justice reforms that were passed by this

legislature. The HOME Act would prevent the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from transferring to federal immigration authorities individuals who have earned release through these reforms.

Organizations

- **Tiny Toones (Phnom Penh, Cambodia):** has made a huge difference in the lives of local underserved Khmer youth, but the organization is having difficulty securing funding. If you're interested in supporting, you can donate at <http://www.tinytoones.org/donate/> or contact them [here](#).
- **SEAC Village (North Carolina, US):** SEAC exists to amplify a voice for the quickly growing Asian American population in the Carolinas; SEAC cultivates grassroots power through community engagement, social justice, and youth organizing; SEAC exists to add an Asian American voice to the collective movement for justice and equity in North Carolina. <http://www.seacvillage.org/>

2023 Kites to Southeast Asia Delegation

Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC)

www.asianprisonersupport.com

Contact: Nate Tan, nate@asianprisonersupport.org

New Light/CERI

www.cerieastbay.org

Contact: Elijah Chhum, elijah.chhum@cerieastbay.org

MN8

www.minnesota8.org

Contact: Montha Chum, montha@minnesota8.org

New Breath Foundation

www.new-breath.org

Contact: Stephanie Gee, stephanie@new-breath.org