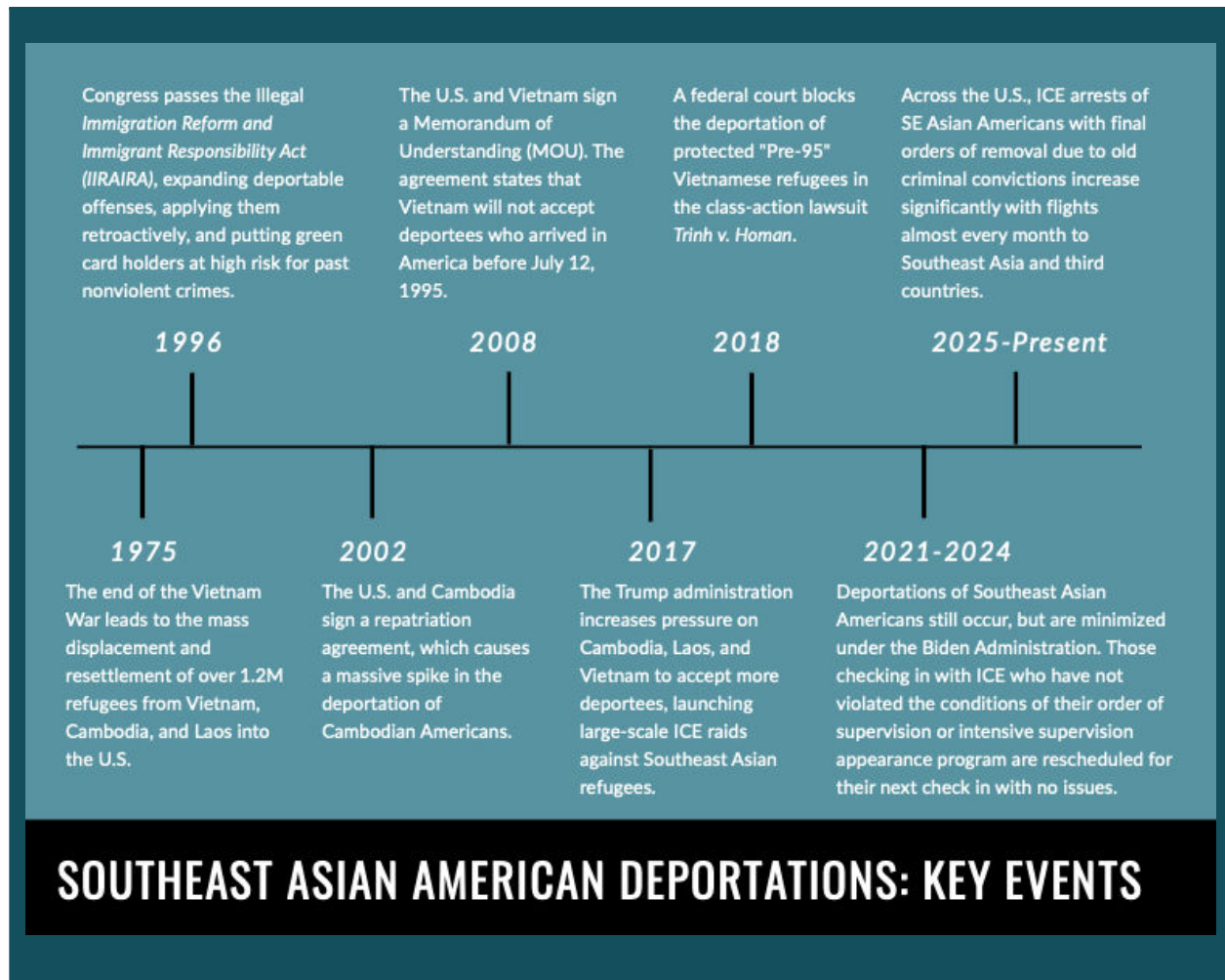


Kites to Southeast Asia 2026

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

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

Organizations & Other Resources

- 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](#).
- [KVAO](#) (Phnom Penh, Cambodia): an NGO that provides transitional and reentry support to individuals deported to Cambodia. They lost USAID funding in 2025 and have had to scale down, but they're still trying to do what they can to help folks with getting identification cards and other necessary documents to live and work in the country.
- Asian Law Caucus: [Resources for Southeast Asian Refugees Facing Deportation](#)
- SEARAC: [Immigration](#)

- SEARR Campaign: [Southeast Asian Relief & Responsibility \(SEARR\) Campaign](#)

Kites to Southeast Asia Coalition

Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions or would like to learn more about supporting those who have been deported.

Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC)

www.asianprisonersupport.com

Contact: John Lam, john@asianprisonersupport.org

Center for Empowering Refugees & Immigrants (CERI)

www.cerieastbay.org

Contact: Kanley Souet-Pich, kanley.spich@cerieastbay.org

Collective Freedom

www.collective-freedom.org

Contact: Dr. Thao Ha, thaoha@collective-freedom.org

Khmer Anti-Deportation & Advocacy (KhAAG)

www.khaagwa.org

Contact: Montha Chum, montha@minnesota8.org

Minnesota 8

www.minnesota8.org

Contact: Montha Chum, montha@minnesota8.org

New Breath Foundation

www.new-breath.org

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

New Light Wellness

www.newlightwellness.org

Contact: Elijah Chhum, elijah@newlightwellness.org

Seattle Clemency Project

www.seattleclemencyproject.org

Contact: Brooke Kaufman, brooke@seattleclemencyproject.org

**Kites to Southeast Asia (SEA) is a coalition of the Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC), Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI), Collective Freedom, Khmer Anti-Deportation & Advocacy (KhAAG), Minnesota 8, New Breath Foundation, New Light Wellness, and the Seattle Clemency Project. On our journey to collective healing, Kites to SEA aims to learn about the needs of deported community members, listen to their wisdom, and strengthen our solidarity.*