[Date]

[Full Name]

[Address]

Dear [First Name],

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to you because you may have heard in the news that the government is increasing its power to deport people without court hearings. I want to explain more about this and send you some materials that you can carry with you in case you [or your family members] are approached by an immigration officer.

On July 22, 2019, the federal government announced that it’s expanding something called “expedited removal” to include more people. This new process was stopped by a court, but now will take effect on August 14, 2020.

Expedited removal is the power of immigration officers to deport certain people without the person having the right to see an immigration judge and fight deportation. Before August 14, 2020, the only people who were deported this way were people who:

* had been in the U.S. for less than 14 days and
* who were found by immigration within 100 miles of the border
* and who entered the U.S. without permission or by committing fraud or lying to get into the U.S.

**What has changed?**

Starting August 14, 2020, more people than those I describe above can be deported under expedited removal. Now, it also includes people who:

* has been in the U.S. for less than 2 years
* are found by immigration anywhere in the U.S. and
* Who entered the U.S. without permission or by committing fraud or lying to get into the U.S.

**Are there exceptions?**

Expedited removal does not apply to people who are:

* U.S. citizens
* Lawful permanent residents (people with green cards)
* People who have won asylum
* Children who came to the U.S. without a parent or guardian (unaccompanied children)
* People who entered the U.S. with permission (“admitted” or “paroled,” even if their visa is expired
* People who have already been put in the immigration court system

**If you are afraid to return to your home country**, and tell the officer this, they must allow you to have an interview with an asylum officer called a “credible fear interview.” If the asylum officer finds that you have a credible fear of going back to your home country, you will have the chance to ask for asylum in front of an immigration judge. If the asylum officer finds that you do not have a credible fear of return, you can request to see a judge to reconsider the officer’s decision.

If you believe the new expanded expedited removal policy applies to you, I encourage you to contact me for a telephone consultation. With this letter I am including:

* A flyer of resources to learn more about your legal rights during an ICE raid, what to do if you or your loved one is detained, and things to consider in a family preparation plan for your children if you are deported.
* A “red card” that explains what your legal rights are if you are detained by an ICE/CBP officer. I recommend that you carry the red card in your wallet/purse at all times.
* My business card that has my telephone number and email address. I recommend that you carry my business card in your wallet/purse at all times.
* A letter written in English to an ICE/CBP officer stating that you choose to remain silent and not answer any of the officer’s questions, that you request the opportunity to contact your attorney, that you will not sign any document until you speak to an attorney, and (if this applies to you) that you have documentation proving you have been in the United States for at least two years available. I recommend that you carry this letter in your wallet/purse at all times and to show the letter to an ICE/CBP officer if you are detained.

You may also want to take precautions to avoid being subject to the expanded expedited removal policy. You may choose to place specific documentation in a safe place (such as at home, with a trusted person, or with your attorney) or carry the documentation with you. Such documentation may consist of:

* Proof of having been lawfully admitted into the United States (such as a copy your stamped passport that you used to enter the United States);
* Copy of documentation showing that you have a pending application, such as a pending U visa, VAWA, asylum, or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status application;
* (If this applies to you) Proof of two years’ residence in the United States such as a lease, bills, school records, or tax returns;
* Proof of any serious medical conditions that you or your children might have; and/or
* Proof of substantial connection to the United States (for example, the birth certificate of your U.S. citizen child).

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Although this new policy may cause some understandable anxiety, please remember that we at the Tahirih Justice Center are here to support and help you as much as we can. You are not alone.

Sincerely,

[ATTORNEY NAME]

[TITLE]

[FIRM OR ORGANIZATION NAME]