

## The Voice welcomes its newest members

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## A news revisit: Did you miss it? Last month President Obama ordered ICE to halt millions of deportations

by **Nathalie Rivera**  
Staff Writer

On August 18 President Obama's administration announced they would begin deporting only illegal immigrants with criminal records. The White House was prompted to make this decision due to the high volume of immigration cases waiting to be reviewed.

There are currently some 300,000 deportation cases pending in the courts that are waiting to be individually examined.

The White House deemed this action necessary so that other issues concerning homeland security can receive top priority.

"From a law enforcement and public safety perspective, DHS enforcement resources must continue to be focused on our highest priorities. Doing otherwise hinders our public safety mission, clogging immigration court dockets and diverting DHS enforcement resources away from the individuals that pose a threat to public safety," said Janet Napolitano, secretary of the department of homeland security, in a letter expressing her

support for the new policy.

Under the policy, immigration enforcement officials will be asked not to proceed in any new deportation cases of illegal immigrants without criminal records.

In a memo sent by John Morton, director of U.S. immigration and custom enforcement (ICE), he noted that ICE had a limited amount of funds to use for deportations.

"ICE must prioritize the use of its enforcement personnel, detention space, and removal assets to ensure that the aliens it removes represent, as much as reasonably possible, the agency's enforcement priorities, namely the promotion of national security, border security, public safety, and the integrity of the immigration system."

Because of the agency's heavy load of deportation cases, they will use "prosecutorial discretion" which will allow them to exercise discretion with each case by weighing its circumstances.

Under the new policy, ICE will be able to use their limited funds for removing individuals that pose a threat to the nation's security.

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