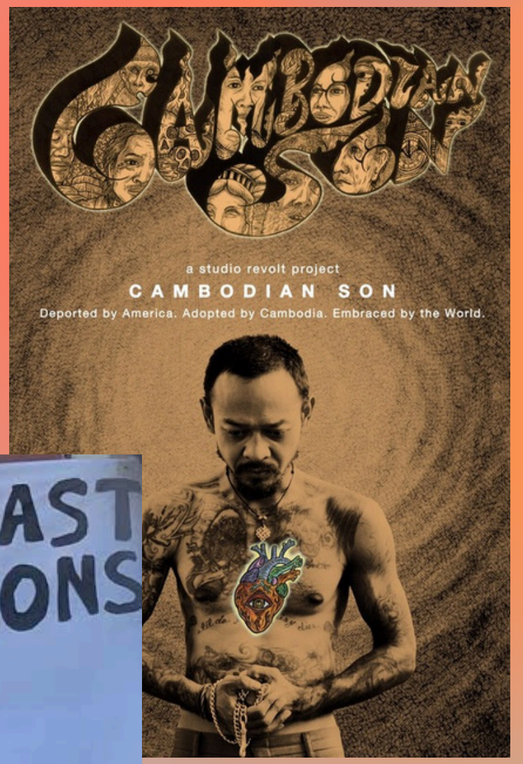
SOUTHEAST ASIANS AND CRIMMIGRATION

CAL DEFENSE
FRESNO IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE MINISTRIES
LAOTIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF FRESNO

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- 1996 immigration laws expanded definition of aggravated felonies (deportable offenses) and made the process retroactive
- Deportation of SEA refugees with decades old criminal conviction
- Community members take accountability, transformed their lives, contribute to family and community
- ICE arrests among AAPIs increased 10x in 2025





Source: https://www.immigrantdataca.org/data-hub/data-snapshots/aapi-ice-arrests-2025?mc_cid=94c1ec97e6&mc_eid=4e639486d2

WHAT'S HAPPENING

IMPACT ON IMPACTED INDIVIDUAL

- Lost of livelihood
- Deteriorating physical and mental health + overall wellbeing
- Surveilled and kidnapped
- Violent enforcement and harmful ICE detention conditions

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

- Deportation punishes entire families
- Mental and financial stressors on family members

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- Loss of a vital community member
- Increases fear and isolation
- Sows divisions (us versus them)



DEPORTED & VULNERABLE





RETURNEE EXPERIENCE

- Mandatory family sponsorship
- Stateless status; subjected to surveillance
- Health conditions and outcomes worsen
- Families continue to experience adversity

STRAINED SYSTEMS

- Countries pressured to receive returnees with no infrastructure
- International relations deteriorate

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

AS INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Know your rights presentations
- Navigating legal services
- Pardon campaigns
- Post conviction relief (PCR) support

AS A COLLECTIVE

- Building infrastructure and power together
- Foster strong relationships with trusted community leaders, elected officials and organizations
- Prompt response to community actions or needs

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

- Check in on SEA community and beyond
- Donate
- Volunteer
- Follow on social media, newsletters, website, etc

BRIDGING POWER TO STRENGTHEN THE MOVEMENT

NARRATIVE

- Include us in your conversations and strategy meetings - we're ready for partnership!
- Expand the narrative of who is impacted by immigration enforcement

PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEPORTATION RELIEF AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

- Legal service providers for pro-bono consultations - immigration and criminal defense
- Fresno County Public Defender office - work with us and support Post Conviction Relief for our communities
- Support pardon campaigns
  - How to get information on existing pardon campaign efforts
  - Governor to pardon refugee communities
- Accompany at check-ins and interviews

EXPAND ACCESS

- Language justice - inclusion of more languages when it comes to accessing immigration information; hire bilingual SEA navigators and lawyers
- Fund us / subcontract with our agencies

THANK YOU!

connect with us

Nkauj Iab Yang, Cal Defense, niyang@caldef.org

David Bouttavong, LACF, david@lacfresno.org

Vicki Khampa, FIRM, vicki@firminc.org