

On January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14165, *Securing Our Borders*, in which he highlighted that “catch-and-release policies undermine the rule of law and our sovereignty, create substantial risks to public safety and security, and divert critical resources away from stopping the entry of contraband and fugitives into the United States” and directed “the appropriate and consistent use of lawful detention authority under the INA, including the termination of the practice commonly known as ‘catch-and-release,’ whereby illegal aliens are routinely released into the United States shortly after their apprehension for violations of immigration law.” 90 Fed. Reg. 8467, 8468.

Unprocessed Cases

ERO officers should consider for expedited removal (ER) all aliens previously released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) who have not affirmatively filed an application for asylum with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, when they report to an ERO Field Office. This includes: (1) paroled arriving aliens; (2) aliens issued a CBP “Notice to Report” (NTR); and (3) aliens processed for “Parole + ATD” or “Parole with Conditions” (PWC).

Arriving Aliens

ERO officers may process for ER any arriving alien (i.e., encountered at a port of entry) who CBP determined to be inadmissible and released, as long as the alien is inadmissible under INA § 212(a)(6)(C) (fraud or willful misrepresentation) or 212(a)(7) (lack of valid immigration documents). There is no time limit on the ability to process such aliens for ER.

NTR Cases, Parole + ATD, and PWC Cases

Under the NTR process, certain aliens encountered at the Southwest Border were released into the United States without a Notice to Appear (NTA) or parole. Parole + ATD and PWC were two processes whereby aliens encountered at the Southwest Border were paroled without an NTA and instructed to report to ICE for further processing.

Aliens identified as having been subject to any of these processes are subject to ER if they are inadmissible under INA § 212(a)(6)(C) or (a)(7) and either (1) the initial CBP encounter was within 14 days and 100 air miles of the border; or (2) the alien has not been continuously physically present in the United States for two years prior to the finding of inadmissibility by ERO.

If an alien identified above is not processed for ER, he or she should be processed for section 240 removal proceedings with issuance of an NTA.

If the alien is on an active parole, the NTA or ER charging document will terminate the parole.

Non-detained Reporting Generally

Recognizing the unprecedented strides the Administration has made with regard to removal cooperation, ERO should carefully review for removal all cases reporting on the non-detained docket.

Aliens Granted Withholding of Removal or CAT Protection

Withholding of removal under the INA and under the regulations implementing U.S. obligations under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and CAT deferral of removal (DCAT) are country-specific protections from removal. Accordingly, when an alien granted such protection reports on the non-detained docket, ERO officers should review the case to determine the viability of removal to a third country and accordingly whether the alien should be re-detained.

Aliens Previously Released for Lack of SLRRFF

ERO officers should review for re-detention the case of any alien reporting on the non-detained docket who was previously released due to no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future (SLRRFF) in light of the Administration's significant gains with regard to previously recalcitrant countries and the potential for third country removals. Revocation of release is authorized for removal or to enforce conditions of release and is provided for in 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4 and 241.13. If removal appears significantly likely in the reasonably foreseeable future, the arrest may proceed without further investigation. At the time of arrest, the alien should be provided written notification of the reason for his or her detention. Promptly, ideally, within two days, the arresting officer or another officer, if necessary, should conduct an informal interview of the alien and provide an opportunity for the alien to ask questions and tell the interviewer anything that the alien wishes in support of why he or she should be released.