



## **U.S.-Colombia Deportation Agreement**

### **Recap of Trump Administration Actions:**

Following the refusal to accept two repatriation flights by President Gustavo Petro of Colombia, President Trump [announced](#) retaliatory measures, including:

- Emergency 25% tariffs on all goods coming into the United States. In one week, the 25% tariffs will be raised to 50%.
- A Travel Ban and immediate Visa Revocations on the Colombian Government Officials, and all Allies and Supporters.
- Visa Sanctions on all Party Members, Family Members, and Supporters of the Colombian Government.
- Enhanced Customs and Border Protection Inspections of all Colombian Nationals and Cargo on national security grounds.
- International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) Treasury, Banking and Financial Sanctions to be fully imposed.

In enforcing this policy, Secretary of State Rubio immediately [ordered](#) a suspension of visa issuance at the U.S. Embassy Bogota consular section, and authorized travel sanctions on individuals and their families, who were responsible for the interference of U.S. repatriation flight operations. The State Department said in its announcement, “(m)easures will continue until Colombia meets its obligations to accept the return of its own citizens. America will not back down when it comes to defending its national security interests.”

Although Colombia’s President [announced](#) a 25% tariff on U.S. imports, shortly thereafter Colombia’s Foreign Minister [announced](#) that they had accepted “all of President Trump’s terms,” including the “unrestricted acceptance” of immigrants who entered the U.S. illegally.

### **Current State of Play:**

The White House [announced](#), the "Government of Colombia has agreed to all of President Trump's terms, including the unrestricted acceptance of all illegal aliens from Colombia returned from the United States, including on U.S. military aircraft, without limitation or delay.” Based on this agreement, the fully drafted IEEPA tariffs and sanctions will be held in reserve, and not signed, unless Colombia fails to honor this agreement.

## Background:

- Through this policy, President Trump made it clear that it is a central national security interest of the United States for countries to accept the return of their own citizens who are in the U.S. illegally.
- Speaker Mike Johnson has [announced](#) that Congress is prepared to pass new sanctions and other measures against those who do not fully cooperate or follow through on requirements to accept their citizens who are in the U.S. illegally.
- The Colombia Trade Agreement (COTPA) went into [effect](#) on May 15, 2012. Most Colombian goods currently enter the United States free of duty and the merchandise processing fee (MPF), and virtually all will enter free by the time the COTPA is fully implemented in 2028.
- [U.S. goods and services trade with Colombia](#) totaled an estimated \$53.5 billion in 2022. Exports were \$28.7 billion; imports were \$24.8 billion. The U.S. goods and services trade surplus with Colombia was \$3.9 billion in 2022.
- According to the Department of Homeland Security's [most recent estimate](#), there are 240,000 illegal aliens from Colombia in the United States.

## Existing Statutory Authority:

Congress has given multiple authorities to the President to impose economic sanctions, tariffs and visa bans in response to a national security threat:

- The [International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1976](#) gives the President the authority to regulate international commerce, block assets, confiscate property in response to an "unusual and extraordinary threat... to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States."
- [Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962](#) gives the President broad legal authority to impose tariffs on goods in the national security interests of the United States.
- [Section 212\(a\)\(3\)\(C\) of the Immigration and Nationality Act](#) gives the Secretary of State the authority to prohibit the entry of aliens which "would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States."