

April 10, 2025

Contact:

Press@legal-aid.org

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid Statement on Federal Court Ruling in G.F.F. et al. v. Trump et al.

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to a ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York today issuing a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in the habeas case [G.F.F. et al. v. Trump et al.](#), temporarily halting the summary deportation of Venezuelan noncitizens to El Salvador under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, without due process of law. The litigation was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and New York Civil Liberties Union; Legal Aid clients are plaintiffs:

“This ruling is a critical victory for the people we represent and for the rule of law. The court’s decision affirms that the United States cannot use an arcane, wartime statute during peacetime to sidestep due process and forcibly remove individuals who have come here seeking protection.

“Our clients, G.F.F. and J.G.O., have followed the legal steps required of them in their asylum process. They are survivors of political repression and violence in Venezuela in search of safety and rightfully applying for humanitarian protections in the U.S.

“This court’s decision not only halts their imminent and unlawful deportation to a notorious prison in El Salvador, but it also sends a clear message: the government cannot trample on constitutional rights under the guise of national security.

“We applaud the court for recognizing the grave constitutional and humanitarian concerns at stake and for intervening to prevent irreversible harm. No one should be imprisoned or exiled simply because of where they come from.

“We will continue to fight for justice, for the protection of asylum seekers, and for a system that respects due process and human dignity.”

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For nearly 150 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>