

Debate on Facebook with Deb Kay and Tom Theismann on Kabril Abrego Garcia

April 18, 2025

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Mako Nagasawa posted:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10171288765470058>



Diana Butler Bass

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A corrupt, authoritarian government seizes an innocent man, tortures and jails him on trumped-up charges that change during a manipulated "legal" process. The prisoner is left at the mercy of dehumanizing politicians & jailers to do with what they please.

Holy Week then. America now.

April 14, 2025 at 3:11 PM  Everybody can reply

Deb Kay

He beat his wife has affiliation with child trafficking in his part of a gang. What don't you see here

Mako Nagasawa

Deb Kay You're trying to make this about him. It is about us. Trump's team admitted they made a mistake. Deportation to another country is a civil matter, not a criminal matter that calls for life sentencing in a prison known for torture. Every thing else is not relevant. So you are trying to morally justify the unjustifiable. Besides, his wife withdrew the charges and said she had exaggerated, and Garcia was never charged by the FBI or local police for the other accusations, even less proven guilty in a court of law. It's only because Trump's team admitted their mistake that they are trying to save face.

Deb Kay

NO admission to mistake. Just you should stuck with theology??

Erik Hitechew

Deb Kay We have plenty of abusers and murderers who are here, in jail. They didn't need to be deported. Why did this person need to be? These deportations are unbiblical (Lev. 19:34).

Mako Nagasawa

Deb Kay Ethics is part of theology. And yes, admission of "an administrative error" in sending Garcia to El Salvador. What, do you believe Stephen Miller on this issue?

Matthew Peed

Deb Kay There are 200 others whose stories we don't even know, shipped to inhumane conditions without the due process the law requires. Here is the story of one teen who literally did everything right:

<https://people.com/ice-agents-arrested-wrong-teen-take-him-anyway-report-11715749>

After ICE Agents Realized They Arrested the Wrong Teen in N.Y.C., They Were Told to 'Take Him Anyway': Report

PEOPLE.COM

Andrew Wolfe

Deb Kay p.s. Trump beat his wife, too, and rapes women. Why don't you focus on that?

Chris Hampson

Deb, hi, lawyer and law professor here. The theologian is right. The trial court, appeals court, and Supreme Court all said the government violated the law in sending Abrego Garcia to an El

Salvadoran prison. The government admitted it in court. I've reviewed the original court documents myself. Have a good one.

Sonya Stockklausner

Deb Kay this is about due process as guaranteed in the constitution, or in this case (and the cases of all those currently in El Salvadoran concentration camps) about NOT granting due process to people accused of a crime.

April 18, 2025

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Tom Theisman

Comparing this thug to Jesus is truly a blasphemy

Mako Nagasawa

Tom Theisman It's more a comparison between that government and this

Alan Rutherford

Tom Theisman calling this man a "thug" is a violation of God's laws and due process.

Tom Theisman

Alan Rutherford he had hid due process on 2 courts already. He got a stay of withholding from one judge because of a rival gang he feared. That gang no longer exists. Its time for him to go back to El Salvador.

Alan Rutherford

Tom Theisman this is irrelevant. The man is entitled to respect, is he not? And due process?

Tom Theisman

Alan Rutherford he has gotten way more respect than he deserves. Do you know what MS-13 does?

Alan Rutherford

Tom Theisman I do understand your difficulty with the implied comparison to Jesus. This man's character is not that of Jesus, of course. However, the way they were treated by authorities is much the same.

Tom Theisman

Alan Rutherford not in the least. Garcia was given many chances and could have left before he was arrested.

Mako Nagasawa

Tom Theisman Guilty until proven innocent, again, Tom?

Tom Theisman

Mako Nagasawa he is guilty of entering our country illegally. Guilty of domestic abuse and 2 judges said he was in MS-13. He was also accused of trafficking. That is more than enough to deport him.

Mako Nagasawa

Tom Theisman He entered illegally but then followed a legal process so his presence in the US was authorized. Everything else you say about his past is irrelevant to Trump's removal of him. The following is from an immigration lawyer:

Just a bit of background on the legal case of Abrego-Garcia

He originally entered illegally. He applied for asylum but due to technical matters in the law he was not eligible. Instead, the Immigration Judge granted what is called Withholding of Removal.

A few things about Withholding.

1. You have to prove your case at a far higher standard. Asylum- you only have to prove a 10% chance of persecution. Withholding- you have to prove 51%. So you actually have to prove it's more likely than not that you will be persecuted.
2. Withholding allows you to legally live in the U.S. but it is not a path to a greencard or citizenship. Basically, you are protected, but you can not advance your status based on it. Asylum allows you to apply for a greencard after a year and four years later you can apply to be a citizen.
3. The government, by law, may not deport you to the country Withholding was granted. In this case the government was forbidden to deport him to El Salvador. The government could deport him to any other country in the world that would accept him. But by law they were never permitted to send him to ES.

This last point is why the government has acted so illegally. (Plus the lack of due process)

The basis of his withholding was that he was afraid a gang, Barrio 18, would kill him. The allegation he was MS-13 came from a CI who was later exposed as lying about other stuff and who made a non credible allegation.

His wife did file for a TRO after a fight. She says that she filed it as a precaution because she has been abused in the past. they went to counseling and that he never escalated and so she saw no need to pursue the RO further.

It is undisputed the government illegally sent him to the one country in the world a judge forbade them to send.

It is undisputed that they followed no process to try to revoke his Withholding.

It is undisputed (except in the fantasy minds of people who are lying) that a Federal Judge ordered the government to return him. That order stands even after initial appellate review.

It remains to be seen whether the administration will obey that lawful order.

Tom Theisman

Mako Nagasawa quick question, do you think we should deport the millions of immigrants that Biden brought in or should we speed up their pathway to citizenship? If the latter, how will that impact others thinking about entering illegally? How many immigrants should we allow? All? What about those who have followed the process? Finally, Garcia claimed asylum because he was in fear of a rival gang. That gang has since been eliminated.

Tom Theisman

Mako Nagasawa also, do you think everyone deported deserves their day in court? They were allowed in illegally with the wave of a hand. They should be deported the same way, IMO.

April 20, 2025

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Mako Nagasawa

Tom Theisman "That Biden brought in"? That's the way you frame these questions? I want to ask you: Which came first for you? Your partisan animus or your anti-immigrant animus? Which fuels the other? Because your framing and starting point are wrong. We can't even move forward unless I express strong disagreement with your starting point.

First of all, US foreign policy is the single biggest driving force creating the problems for our immigration policy. Migration from various Latin American countries and Haiti has been driven

for a long time now by bipartisan corporate imperialism. US corporations took the best lands and the CIA destabilized their governments. Add to that the Iron River of guns that fuel the violence because US gun makers see Latin America as a profit center and of course people are going to leave their homes. Increasingly, climate change is making Central American farmers leave their homes, too. But do you believe the right-wing discourse that Brown people come here just because they want our stuff and our freedom? I.e. because of their greed? If so, you need to stop flattering yourself and the US. That's not why people leave their homes and communities. We need to deal with the root causes and stop this Monroe Doctrine nonsense that says the U.S. can treat the entire Western hemisphere like its own backyard and dumping ground. We need to integrate our foreign policy and immigration policy.

Second, domestic political concerns contribute to why we have not developed comprehensive immigration reform. The bipartisan border bill authored primarily by Senator Lankford would have passed in Feb 2024. But candidate Trump told Republicans to kill it -- remember that? Because he wanted to run on anti-immigrant animus like yours. So Trump is lying to you and me that this is a "national emergency" because he himself caused it. Not only that, for example, there was bipartisan support for Venezuelan immigration because we thought we were countering China and Russia's support for Maduro, so in 2019, Trump and others backed Guido and recognized him as the leader, then even Trump and many Republicans backed Venezuelan entry to the US because they thought they would vote like Cuban-Americans: reliably red because they were "against socialism." In January 2021, Trump even authorized them and gave them an 18 month stay. Trump's about face on Venezuelans is particularly hypocritical -- he's absolutely used the Venezuelans as a political football.

To your questions.

Do I think Trump should enact a mass deportation strategy? No. Absolutely not. Because:

- We would have to pay a ridiculous amount of money, perhaps close to \$600 billion. The American Action Forum (AAF) in 2016 estimated that removing approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants would cost between \$400 and \$600 billion. This figure includes costs for apprehending individuals, detaining them, processing deportation cases, and transporting people out of the country. According to the Migration Policy Institute, the cost of detention alone is around \$208 per day per person. Legal proceedings for millions of people would increase the total cost considerably due to the need for expanded judicial resources.
- We will face food shortages and massive grocery inflation. Why? Because roughly half of U.S. farm work is done by undocumented workers.
- We will face severe and sudden delays in new housing construction, because of a labor shortage in home construction, repairs, and landscaping. About 1.5 million undocumented workers work in housing construction and repair. Looking for roofers, carpenters, hardwood floor sanders, sheetrock and drywall installers, or landscapers? Prices would shoot up in the short term and they might not come down for years. Trump asserts that deporting people will bring down housing costs, by reducing the demand.

That might be true in some areas but mostly in the low income rental market. It would also put upward cost pressure on housing development and maintenance.

- We will lose a lot of people who are doing *essential work* because about 75% of undocumented workers are in care-giving, food service, and hospitality.
- We will tear families apart, as 1 in 15 Americans lives in a mixed-status household.
- We will turn the U.S. into a police state, with White supremacists drawing a federal paycheck to break into cars and rip people off the street.

I favor a legal path to citizenship for most if not all undocumented people who kept a clean criminal record, as do most Americans who are educated about the alternatives. The progressive American Immigration Council produced a report on the detailed economic and social costs to mass deportation. One finding involves political polling: When you explain to Americans that mass deportation means rounding people up in camps, building new detention prisons, spending billions of dollars, disrupting families and the economy, etc. they ****overwhelmingly**** prefer a legal path to citizenship.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dmfo3atidKE>

I want a strong electronic border much more than a physical border, which I think is ineffective and even counterproductive. Look at all the people who hop over walls or walk right through openings and then walk on the dirt roads made by all the construction vehicles used to build the walls. Instead, I think we should penalize employers 10k per undocumented employee. That would really slow the flow of immigration, protect workers, and provide for better enforcement mechanisms, morally and logistically.

This is why corporate interests on the right and the left, but especially right-wing media, want to keep people in a state of blind, uneducated outrage -- can you see that? Your own hostility to immigrants has made you deny the Constitution on due process and separation of powers, Jesus' love your neighbor as yourself commandment, the commandment to not bear false witness, and the moral and biblical principle of innocent until proven guilty.

And if we can have a rational discussion about immigration, then I'll say that I think that the US can totally afford to welcome many immigrants and asylum seekers and legalize multiple paths to citizenship. I recognize that there are other practical considerations that go with that, like the federal govt should help border states with more resources. Because Trump and other right-wing talking heads have lied to the American public about immigration just like they lied about economics. They scapegoat the wrong people and the wrong issues. A good example of that is the Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio. This video is about Springfield and how the Haitian migrant folks there were scapegoated ("they're eating the pets!" or "they have government benefits we don't!") to distract from the deeper issues: refusal to develop housing policy to help everyone, big corporations that give non-labor union jobs that exhausted people through 12 hour work days and no time off and benefit from a divided, non-unionized workforce, etc. I think it's a great example of what is happening in the U.S. more broadly, and why you and I disagree about how much to blame immigrants. I'd like to discuss it with you anytime.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI66d8e74nM>.

Do I think everyone deported deserves their day in court? Yes. Because entering the country illegally is a civil and not a criminal matter, which is why deportation is a civil and not a criminal process. Because locking a guy up in a foreign prison well known for torture and horrid conditions is not morally or legally justifiable for a civil offense, one single iota. Because deportation still has to follow existing laws and court decisions, like definitely not sending Garcia to the one and only country that he was not supposed to go back to -- i.e. your assertion that the rival gang is disbanded is not the same as a court decision and it is not the same as saying no one left wants to kill Garcia. And as I've said over and over to you, because if we don't uphold due process for everyone, then no one has due process, including you and me. Due process is the only thing that protects me as a US citizen because I live in Asian skin and would be jeopardized if I didn't have the chance to prove my citizenship and my innocence against any of the absurd accusations that this administration has started to level at people. What about that do you not understand? Or do you feel like you have some kind of other protection that I do not have?

Tom Theisman

Mako Nagasawa has Trump accused you or anyone else based on their skin? No. If illegally entering the country is not as easily reversed as their entry was encouraged, the the law needs to change. All it would take is one more Biden and our country would be overrun and even your neighborhood would be a war zone.

Rachel Lei

Tom Theisman if Jesus was not offended to be compared to convicted criminals, why are you upset? This man has never been charged with any crime in the US or El Salvador, much less convicted, but you find it acceptable to put him away for life in a labor camp?

Also, this man was cleared by Trump's own DHS in 2019 for work permits renewable every year with check-ins. The people calling him a "thug" seem to conveniently forget that little detail. Finally, without due process, none of us are safe.

April 22, 2025

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Mako Nagasawa

Tom Theisman "Has Trump accused you or anyone else based on their skin?" You're either naively focused on the wrong question, or knowingly deflecting and making lame excuses. Because that's not how people verbalize their discrimination and prejudice, especially Trump, who was trained by Roy Cohn to always maintain plausible deniability in his doublespeak.

So far, how is ICE managed organizationally? Trump appears to be using at least some White supremacists in ICE to apprehend Brown people. This fits with known studies of White

supremacists infiltrating law enforcement (FBI 2006; ProPublica 2019, SPLC 2020, Brennan Center 2020). In March 2025, the Texas Observer found that an ICE attorney in Texas had been operating an anonymous White supremacist Twitter account since 2012 (<https://www.texasobserver.org/congressman-veasey-ice-response-racist-x-account/>). Surprise, surprise? Trump's government refuses to identify all these people publicly. Yet you and the Trump team claim that we should just take ICE's word for it that they are rounding up "criminal migrants" and not innocent US citizens. Even when they make mistakes and refuse to correct them. Right.

So what could be the impact on the ground, specifically on me? I live in an area where there are organized White supremacists. White supremacist gang graffiti was sprayed in a local public park where my mom and many other people of Asian descent are known to take walks. Also nearby, a White man who resigned in disgrace from his job as a public school teacher because photos showed him taking part in Jan 6 insurrection, ran for a local school board and *won* that seat. So if these locals are drafted into ICE who want to reclaim "their" parks and school boards disappear innocent Asian American US citizens, are you going to personally come out here and defend us? Or track us down and raise a stink? Why not just do the easier thing and support due process instead of railing against it every day? You are now in the position of blaming "Democrats" for supporting due process when the most conservative Supreme Court in decades -- with three Trump appointments! -- supports it. Your willingness to blindly scapegoat and stir the demagoguery pot on Facebook is stunning.

Here are more reasons why your question, "Has Trump accused you...?" is absolute nonsense. There is such a thing as "damned with faint praise" and that is what Trump is doing to non-White people. Look at his actual policies.

Trump protects White supremacists legally, even after they commit political violence. In January 2025, "President Trump's decision to pardon and release members of extremist groups, like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, signals that the administration will directly support white supremacists," especially if they commit political violence on his behalf. Those people had their due process in court and were duly convicted.

(<https://www.amnestyusa.org/blog/president-trumps-first-week-begins-with-rollout-of-white-supremacist-policies-and-pardons/>). Compare that to Trump's 2020 response to people protesting police-on-citizen violence in the BLM protest in DC: He pressured his own military commanders to send in troops to shoot people in the legs -- would you call that balanced? Absolutely not. Those two data points comport with him calling the 2017 Charlottesville White supremacist marchers "very fine people" even after one of those "very fine people" mowed down Heather Heyer with his car.

Moreover, Trump does want immigrants: White immigrants. In March 2025, Trump invited White South Africans to come to the U.S. and receive refugee status to be resettled here (<https://apnews.com/article/trump-white-refugee-afrikaner-south-africa-0fbca411470d3b439886cabc12c7600d>). In 2018, Trump said he would welcome Norwegian immigrants instead of people from "s---hole countries" like Haiti, El Salvador, or African nations

(<https://www.reuters.com/article/world/thanks-but-no-thanks-norwegians-reject-trumps-immigration-offer-idUSKBN1F11QK/>;

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/01/12/577673191/trump-wishes-we-had-more-immigrants-from-norway-turns-out-we-once-did>). Trump does not actually want to stop

immigration, nor does he just want to seek the well-being of the current population of Americans. He wants more, specifically White, people to be Americans.

Trump appeals to White supremacists to be an active part of his political coalition. The most recent evidence? In February 2025, Trump, Vance, and Musk reinstated Marko Elez to the DOGE team. Elez resigned for being discovered as the author of lots of White supremacist posts including the proud declaration that he was a racist before it was cool, even while JD Vance's wife Usha is of Indian descent and Elez spat venomous anti-Indian remarks

(<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/jd-vance/bring-back-vance-says-supports-rehiring-doge-staff-er-resigned-racist-s-rcna191224>) -- how Vance swallowed his own wrongheaded definition of

"ordo amoris" is beyond me. A certain segment of these techbros are the new Brown Shirts.

Actions like these are clear signals from the administration to White supremacists that they are a non-negotiable and valuable part of the base.

Trump equates the U.S. with White people. Trump supports Defense Sec Pete Hegseth erasing all the contributions of non-White people to the US military, even when "DEI policy" and "restoring meritocracy" had nothing to do with the history at hand. Trump knows the military, like the federal workforce, is actually one of the most meritocratic organizations in the US, so he wants to set back the gains of non-White people in those organizations. He has disproportionately kept White people in federal agencies.

Trump wants to deprioritize the rights of non-White people in order to help White people commit crimes against them. In 2020, DOJ whistleblowers said that Trump deprioritized investigations into White supremacist extremism. In 2020, he ran for president by campaigning on the non-prosecution of the Fair Housing Act in clear violation of the Constitution which says the executive must execute the laws -- he was trying to court White suburban women. Now, he is letting White people, especially rich White people, get away with crimes by defunding the police for white collar crimes and tax evasion. He has dissolved or defunded civil rights teams in various govt sectors.

And those are just some of Trump's more recent policy decisions.

You just keep repeating this "Biden, Biden" nonsense and "crime, crime" exaggerations. You can't even engage my points about US foreign policy and immigration? Or Trump's killing the border bill? Or my questions about morality and law? Not a good sign for your position or ability to reason. You sure have a partisan and lopsided focus on crime. Who elected those sexual predators and fraudsters and tax evaders into high offices?

Remember Martin Niemöller:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.

Find your courage, moral compass, and reason again soon, Tom. I and many others want your partnership, and we deserve your partnership, and I will keep reminding you of those facts.

Tom Theisman

Mako Nagasawa I can never finish one of your screeds. You need to learn that in the abundance of words there is error. Yours is filled with it. I stopped with the fine people hoax. Go watch the video where he said that and tell me he is supporting white supremacists with a straight face. Of course he is primarily deporting brown people. They are the primary illegal immigrants. I don't know who Roy Cohn is but I would bet that Trump doesn't listen to him because he doesn't really follow anyone but his own advice. I am sorry you live in an area like you describe. I don't. Most people I know couldn't care less what your skin color is. Our church has every one. The left has truly gone away from color blindness to making everything about race. I feel sorry for you. Btw, were you this upset when Obama deported millions of brown people?

Mako Nagasawa

Tom Theisman Take your time, because you need to either chase down the facts or digest it slowly. Do you always try to deflect from substance with gotcha questions?