

HOTNIR Current Events Digest — August 24, 2026

A PhD student at Baylor University has lost her visa in the fallout over her husband's arrest on drug trafficking charges that have since been dismissed for lack of evidence. Gideon Ezech was traveling from Nigeria to the United States and was detained in Qatar for six weeks.

<https://www.change.org/p/justice-for-gideon-ezech-falsely-accused-imprisoned-and-abandoned>

Immigration agents continue to be blocked from conducting enforcement actions in houses of worship for Cooperative Baptists, Quakers, and Sikhs. The federal appeals court noted the administration's policy interferes with the free exercise of religion. Lake Shore Baptist Church of Waco, which supports HOTNIR through its Refugia ministry, is associated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/appeals-court-blocks-immigration-arrests-houses-worship/>

<https://democracyforward.org/news/press-releases/fourth-circuit-upholds-order-protecting-houses-of-worship-from-unlawful-immigration-enforcement/>

<https://baptistnews.com/article/fourth-circuit-upholds-order-protecting-houses-of-worship-from-ice/>

Religious groups are asking a federal judge to hold U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials in contempt for violating a court order barring immigration enforcement actions in houses of worship. ICE agents reportedly conducted surveillance at University Baptist Church in Dinkytown, Minnesota. It was discovered after an undercover agent's recording device fell during a martial arts training session at the church.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2026/08/20/immigration-enforcement-churches-contempt>

A federal judge this week found that officials at immigration detention centers in Texas and California had likely housed children and other detainees at unsafe temperatures and had denied them soap and adequate sleeping conditions.

https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/18/us/judge-children-immigration-detention-order.html?unlocked_article_code=1.6IA.Ospq.0TnujcEm4FZb&smid=url-share&fbclid=IwY2xjawT48AJwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2IkEDlYmJAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR7FaSAkyEWCuq7SKQGbtX-xBTEx8R594sb7xvk_KcolUA4VsIEq-UF0G2u1tQ_aem_Vxyc0ns5wT63c-72LqoYEA

Some children are being held in detention centers five times longer than the law allows.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/08/12/texas-immigration-ice-detention-children-dilley/>

The Trump administration's ban on issuing immigrant visas to people from 75 countries was struck down by a federal judge on Friday. A District Judge in the Southern District of New York ruled the policy violated federal immigration law because it discriminates based on nationality.

<https://www.npr.org/2026/08/22/nx-s1-5941765/trump-immigration-visa-ban-75-countries>

ICE agents apparently working directly with Iranian government officials deported more than 100 Iranian nationals as the U.S. prepared to bomb their home country.

<https://theintercept.com/2026/08/18/iran-trump-deportation-flights-ice/>

The end of Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from 12 countries means about 1 million have lost their status and are eligible for deportation. Countries are: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Haiti, Honduras, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen.

<https://baptistnews.com/article/fueled-by-supreme-court-trump-admin-sending-more-tps-holders-away/>

Oswaldo Pirela, the San Diego Padres' minor-league catching coordinator, was detained last week at the El Paso airport. He reportedly entered the U.S. legally from Venezuela in 2014 and applied for asylum. He had previously played with the Texas Rangers from 2008 to 2011.

<https://abcnews.com/US/padres-minor-league-coach-detained-ice-el-paso/story?id=135743270>

<https://www.fox4news.com/news/san-diego-padres-coach-oswaldo-pirela-arrested-ice-airport>

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2026/aug/18/padres-coach-oswaldo-pirela-detained-ice-el-paso>

Joshua Aviles, serving on the USS Abraham Lincoln, has worked 12-hour shifts for more than 250 days without a break. Although the ship is due to come home, Aviles won't find his father waiting for him. Luis Aviles, came to the U.S. 19 years ago from Nicaragua and had a work permit. Immigration authorities detained him as he left home to take his car to the mechanic.

<https://apnews.com/article/uss-lincoln-soldier-immigrant-detention-trump-8697cd00f0b3099a0c03932e40f674db>

After ICE agents shot and detained Carlitos Ricardo Parias last October, the Los Angeles-based journalist was due to reach 300 days in ICE detention last week.

<https://theintercept.com/2026/08/16/ricardo-parias-ice-detention-journalist-los-angeles/>

The administration has been quietly deporting migrants from Mexico to different countries in Central America, including Guatemala and Honduras.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-deportations-mexican-migrants-guatemala-honduras/>

DHS argues in court filings that it was justified in warning and investigating a man from Rochester, New York, over an email he sent in the wake of the deaths of two observers in Minneapolis. In his email, David Streever compared former acting ICE director Todd Lyons to a Nazi and predicted he would be tormented by his conscience. Streever has sued, claiming violation of his First Amendment right to free speech.

<https://www.npr.org/2026/08/17/nx-s1-5934692/dhs-free-speech-investigations>

Sen. Jim Banks, R-Indiana, wants Congress to pass seven immigration bills to codify President Trump's policies in case the Republicans loses power in the mid-term election in November.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/senator-launches-assault-illegal-immigration-gaps-gop-races-midterm-clock-lock-key-wins>

ICE agent Tommy Bailey is in jail based on allegations he broke into a woman's apartment.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/aug/22/ice-agent-jailed-louisiana>