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JAMAICA REPATRIATES ONE OF FIVE U.S. DEPORTEES FROM ESWATINI Four men remain unlawfully imprisoned and without access to counsel

Denver, USA - Orville Isaac Etoria, one of five men deported to Eswatini in mid July under the Trump administration's "third country removal" policy, was returned to Jamaica, his country of birth, on September 22, 2025, according to his family's lawyer. Mr. Etoria's return to Jamaica brings an end to his two months-long unlawful detention in Eswatini. The four other men, citizens of Laos, Vietnam, Yemen, and Cuba, remain imprisoned at the Matsapha Correctional Centre, Eswatini's maximum security prison.

The government of Eswatini has not provided a legal justification for the men's imprisonment and stated in a recent High Court filing that the men have neither been arrested nor charged with a crime in Eswatini. Nonetheless, the Attorney General is strenuously fighting to prevent the men from having access to a local lawyer, Sibusiso Magnificent Nhlabatsi, who was chosen by the deportees' families and U.S.-based attorneys to provide the men with a legal consultation.

"I am so very happy for Mr. Etoria that he is finally free," said Alma David of Novo Legal Group, the U.S.-based attorney for Roberto Mosquera del Peral of Cuba and Kassim Wasil of Yemen, who remain imprisoned in Eswatini. "But his story also highlights why third country deportations must end: the U.S. lied about the Jamaican government refusing to repatriate Mr. Etoria; Eswatini lied about Mr. Etoria refusing to meet with the local attorney selected by his family; as a result Mr. Etoria languished needlessly in prison for over two months, without access to counsel. The U.S. government is basically paying "third countries" to be the henchmen in their deliberate cruelty toward immigrants."

Amnesty International last week launched an <u>urgent action</u>, calling on the government of Eswatini to officially disclose the men's whereabouts, immediately grant them regular and confidential access to their lawyers, and provide legal grounds for their detention. The government of Eswatini, meanwhile, released a <u>statement</u> on Mr. Etoria's release, boasting of the "partnership and collaboration" that it and the government of the United States "happily enjoy" and describing its role under the <u>secretive</u> and <u>controversial</u> third country removal agreement under which it receives payment to detain U.S. deportees as that of a "host."

"The United Nations defines human trafficking as the 'transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit," commented David. "It's difficult to discern the difference between that definition and the transactions between the U.S. and Eswatini governments."