

Trump administration ‘looking at’ revoking citizenship of Somali Americans caught up in fraud scheme

 thehill.com/homenews/administration/5667727-trump-administration-denaturalization-somali-minnesota

Max Rego

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White House press secretary [Karoline Leavitt](#) said Wednesday that the Trump administration is reviewing cases for denaturalization of U.S. citizens who came to the country from Somalia and were convicted of fraud in the Minnesota social services controversy.

Leavitt said on “Fox and Friends” that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the State Department are “looking at” revoking the citizenship of people of Somali descent if they are convicted in the sweeping federal probe in Minnesota.

DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin told the Hill on Wednesday that “under U.S. law, if an individual procures citizenship on a fraudulent basis, that is grounds for denaturalization.”

More than 240,000 people of Somali descent lived in the U.S. as of 2024, including [more than 100,000 in Minnesota](#), according to the Census Bureau’s [American Community Survey](#).

Somalis in Minnesota have been at the center of a fraud scheme.

Of the 98 people charged by the Department of Justice in its sweeping fraud probe [dating to 2022](#), 85 are of Somali descent. The convicted ringleader of the Feeding our Future fraud scheme, Aimee Bock, is white.

Rep. [Tom Emmer](#) (R-Minn.) also [called for the deportation](#) of all Somalis linked to fraud in Minnesota on Tuesday.

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The Minnesota fraud scandal has been bubbling for years, but it made national headlines this week as Trump administration officials attacked Minnesota Gov. [Tim Walz’s](#) (D) handling of the issue. A video about the issue by a [MAGA-friendly](#) independent journalist, Nick Shirley, also gained hundreds of millions of views online and [applause from Trump officials](#).

Trump has made a number of xenophobic attacks on the Somali population in Minnesota as he has discussed the fraud scandal.

He also [ended temporary legal protections](#) for Somali residents of Minnesota last month, citing the fraud scandal.

Earlier this month, the president [railed against Somali migrants](#), saying they “are completely taking over the once great State of Minnesota.” He also called Rep. [Ilhan Omar](#) (D-Minn.) “garbage” during a [Dec. 2 Cabinet meeting](#).

Omar, a U.S. citizen who fled Somalia amid civil war over two decades ago, [responded on the social platform X](#) that Trump’s “obsession with me is creepy.”

“Much of the Minnesota Fraud, up to 90%, is caused by people that came into our Country, illegally, from Somalia,” Trump [said in a Truth Social post on Wednesday morning](#) while continuing his criticism of Omar.

“Lowlifes like this can only be a liability to our Country’s greatness,” Trump added. “Send them back from where they came, Somalia, perhaps the worst, and most corrupt, country on earth.”

Trump’s battle with Minnesota comes as his administration has sought to strengthen restrictions on immigration and increase deportations.

The administration [began reexamining green cards](#) linked to 19 countries, including Somalia, after two West Virginia National Guard members were [shot outside a metro station](#) blocks from the White House.

The [alleged gunman](#), Rahmanullah Lakanwal, is an Afghan national who entered the country in September 2021 [via a program](#) for those who assisted the U.S. during its two-decade war in the region.

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