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**Subject:** Urgent: Albert Khamitov Case – ICE Detainee in state prison

To the Members of the Alaska House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Anna Shumova, and I am writing on behalf of *Russian Seattle for Freedom*, a community advocacy group supporting Russian asylum seekers and immigrants in Washington state.

We are reaching out ahead of your fact-finding hearing on the detention of ICE detainees in Alaska state facilities to draw urgent attention to the case of **Albert Khamitov**, a political asylum seeker who was **transferred from the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, to the Anchorage Correctional Complex** on the night of June 7–8, 2025.

His case represents not only an individual injustice but a critical example of how this transfer might violate legal and human rights standards.

Albert is a gay man who fled Russia in 2023 after surviving a violent homophobic attack that left him seriously injured. He legally applied for asylum at a U.S. port of entry using the CBP One application and was detained upon arrival. In August 2024, he **won his asylum case in immigration court**, with the judge recognizing “clear evidence of state-sponsored persecution.” However, despite this decision, the government appealed, and Albert has remained in ICE detention for over a year.

His story has been publicly documented, including in *The Seattle Times* (available on [the website](#) with a PDF copy attached for your reference).

We are extremely concerned about Albert’s **current incarceration in a state prison intended for criminal convicts**, despite having no criminal record and a pending appeal of his asylum case. Conditions at Anchorage Correctional Complex have been reported to us as inhumane: extended confinement without fresh air, with limited access to basic hygiene, including clean underwear only once every three days, and exposure to chemical agents during an incident involving armed security. Albert is HIV-positive and recently **fainted during the medical exam**, yet was returned to his cell without a proper medical explanation. He continues to experience respiratory illness and inadequate care.

All of Albert's personal belongings remain in Tacoma, and he was not informed or allowed to prepare for the transfer. We have received no justification for this action and believe this may represent a violation of his due process and human rights.

We respectfully ask the committee to:

1. **Investigate the circumstances and legality of Albert Khamitov's transfer** from Tacoma to Alaska, as well as the broader practice of transferring asylum seekers to criminal facilities, and whether such actions meet constitutional, human rights, and procedural standards. Particular attention should be given to the legality and coordination of using military aircraft for the transfer of detainees held in.
2. **Help facilitate Albert's immediate return to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma**, where he previously had access to appropriate medical care and access to his legal counsel and support network, along with the return of other asylum seekers who have no criminal background and should not be held in a state prison.
3. **Ensure that the Alaska Department of Corrections treats Albert Khamitov and other asylum seekers in accordance with U.S. law** and international human rights standards, and not as criminal detainees, recognizing their legal status and specific protection needs.

For additional legal information, you may contact Albert's attorney, **Nicolas Olano**, who is actively working on his case: [info@nationslawak.com](mailto:info@nationslawak.com), 907-770-0909. You may also contact me, **Anna Shumova**, directly if you need further information or clarification regarding Albert's case or related concerns.

We strongly believe Albert's case deserves specific attention during the upcoming hearing. His situation is not only a matter of personal safety but a test of whether our institutions will uphold the rights of those who lawfully seek protection in the United States.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to justice.

06/16/2025

Sincerely,  
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