

June 6, 2025
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about chaos.

The ongoing saga of the group immigration goons have trapped in a box in Djibouti speaks to this administration's chaotic mix of inanity, incompetence and cruelty. The episode involves tormenting just eight people - barely enough for a good photo opportunity. It started so suddenly and with so little planning that one lawyer who managed to hear his client was about to be deported got at least four planned destinations before the removal to South Sudan began and landed in Djibouti. Only the decision to follow a court order prevented dumping these people on the streets in a civil war and we are left to guess why ICE continues to keep them and their jailors in a shipping container in Africa rather than just flying them home. Perhaps those with the power to order such a flight worry that abandoning this performative cruelty might be frowned upon by someone higher up.

Please assure me that you will put governance over performance.

My pride in the US derives in part from our competence.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson