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What is BAJI-

[Black Alliance for Just Immigration \(BAJI\)](#). BAJI was founded in April 2006 and is a US-based Black national, racial justice, and immigrant rights organization with offices and or staff in New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Miami, Houston, Minneapolis, Wichita, Oakland, and DC, and members across the country. We educate and engage Black immigrant and African American communities to organize and advocate for racial, social, and economic justice.

Key Black Migrant Statistical Data:

- Nearly 4.4 million Black non-citizens live in the U.S., which is 20% of the nation's Black population
- Jamaica was the top country of origin in 2019, with over 772,200 Black immigrants in the US, accounting for 15% of the national total.
- The number of Black African immigrants in the U.S. increased 180% from 881,300 in 2000 to nearly 2.5 million in 2019. (Nigeria and Ethiopia are the two leading countries).
- 8.2% of the population of Immigrant Women and Girls in the United States are Black

Black Migrants Disproportionately Experience Racist Criminalization:

- More than 1 out of every five non-citizens facing deportation on criminal grounds before the Executive Office of Immigration Review is Black.
- 76% of Black Immigrants are deported because of contact with the police
- Black immigrants make up only 5.4% of the undocumented population in the U.S. but make up 20.3% of immigrants facing removal based on criminal convictions.
- Black immigrants with a criminal conviction have a 76% chance of being deported compared to 45% of the immigrant population overall. If you're Caribbean, it goes up to 83%.

Black Migrants Disproportionately Endure Tortious Detention Conditions:

- One study found that from 2012 to 2017, detained individuals from predominantly Black countries—who made up less than 4% of people in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody—comprised more than 24% of all people in solitary confinement.
- Envision Freedom found that 70% of the people arrested by ICE are subjected to mandatory detention, and 30% of the immigrants in detention who get an initial bond hearing in front of a judge face the median bond, which nationwide is between \$5,000-\$15,000. According to RAICES, the average bond paid by Black immigrants (Haitians) is \$16,700, 54% higher than what the bond is for other immigrants.
- Black LGBTQ migrants experience heightened physical, emotional, and mental violence in detention, including longer detention periods.

Pew Research Report 2022

- One-in-ten Black people in the U.S. are immigrants. One-in five Black people are either immigrants or children of immigrants.
- The number of black immigrants reached 4.6 million in 2019, accounting for 19% of the growth in the overall Black population.
- The Black immigrant population is projected to account for roughly a third of the U.S. Black population's growth through 2060.
- Africa has accounted for the fastest growth in the U.S. Black immigrant population, with a growth rate of 246% between 2000 and 2019.
- The Caribbean is the largest origin region for Black immigrants (46%). The data also suggests a growing diversity among Black immigrants (due to fast growth of African immigrant population)
 - Top Countries of Origin (in order): Jamaica, Haiti, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, Guyana, Somalia.
- A growing share of Black immigrants have a college degree or higher. Nearly a third of Black immigrants ages 25 and older (31%) had at least a bachelor's degree in 2019, up from 21% in 2000.
- New York City has the largest Black immigrant population of any metropolitan area, followed by Miami, Washington DC, Atlanta, Boston, Houston and Dallas.
 - Regionally, the vast majority of Black immigrants lived in either the South (42%) or Northeast (36%) in 2019.

Samples of BAJI's Recent Related Work:

1. [ICE jail transfers are violent-](#)
 - a. Monday, July 25th, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began [transferring](#) immigrants detained at Orange County Jail in Goshen, NY, to Mississippi and other unknown facilities outside the state of New York. It is estimated over 75 immigrants have disappeared and transferred by ICE without notice to their families or attorneys of the people detained there.
2. [BAJI Protests the 2022 Summit of the Americas](#)
 - a. In early June 2022, BAJI joined hundreds of organizations from around the world to protest the ninth Summit of the Americas. We attended the People's Summit, a counter convening, in solidarity with our comrades addressing issues facing the Black diaspora across the Americas. We demanded that world leaders [respond humanely to migration and not criminalize migrants.](#)
3. [Work to Abolish Detention](#)
 - a. On February 24th, 2020, about 80 Cameroonian women staged a sit-in inside the T. Don Hutto detention center in Taylor, Texas. The women were protesting serious medical neglect. In 2020, the mean monthly COVID-19 case ratio for ICE detainees was 13.4 times that of the general U.S. population. As of July 2022, ICE reports that the Stewart Detention Center (SDC) surpassed 1,662 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and four people who were detained at SDC died due to related complications.
 - b. There lies the point: the Cameroonians in Hutto and the Black migrants in SDC are being tortured because the simple truth is that detention is torture. The US is caging Black and brown human beings because they dare to seek refuge here.