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If They Deport Ilhan Omar, Could You Be Next?

America's Gatekeeping Wasn't an Accident. It Was Policy.



William Spivey Follow 8 min read · Oct 19, 2026

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Ilhan Abdullahi Omar (born October 4, 1982, Mogadishu, Somalia) has served as a Democratic congresswoman representing Minnesota's 5th District since 2019. She is the first Somali American and one of the first two Muslim women ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Key identify markers:

- First African refugee elected to Congress.
- First woman of color to represent Minnesota.
- Prominent progressive voice on immigration, economic justice, and foreign policy.

She served in the Minnesota House (2017–2019) before winning her congressional seat in 2018.

Conditions Under Which She Came to the United States

1. Somalia's Civil War (1991)

The collapse of the Siad Barre regime and the outbreak of the Somali Civil War shaped Omar's childhood. Her family fled Mogadishu when she was eight.

2. Refugee Camp in Kenya (1991–1995)

Her family spent four years in the Utange refugee camp in Kenya under harsh conditions — disease outbreaks, limited resources, and instability. This period is widely cited as formative for her later refugee advocacy.

3. U.S. Asylum and Resettlement (1995)

In 1995, the United States granted her family asylum, allowing them to resettle first in Virginia and later in Minneapolis, Minnesota — home to one of the largest Somali diasporas in the country.

4. Integration and Education

Omar learned English quickly, attended Edison High School, and later earned a BA in political science and international studies from North Dakota State University. I grew up in Minneapolis, and at Edison High, in Northeast Minneapolis, Omar would have faced a high level of discrimination. When my school played against Edison, students lined up and yelled “niggers” at our team bus, even though our school was only 15% Black.

The Investigation

The Trump administration launched a federal criminal probe into Rep. Ilhan Omar's immigration status in 2026, focused on whether her family made false statements or committed fraud in refugee and naturalization paperwork decades ago. The inquiry has escalated unusually aggressively,

including a predawn raid on her Washington, D.C. home and grand jury subpoenas issued to multiple relatives.

Federal investigators are examining whether Omar or her late father misrepresented her age on immigration documents in the mid-1990s.

- The core allegation: Omar may have been 18, not 17, when her father was naturalized.
- If she were 18, she would not have automatically derived citizenship from him and would have needed to apply independently.
- This theory is explicitly described as "unsubstantiated" by former President Obama and has not been supported by released evidence.

Investigators are also reviewing:

- Possible false statements on refugee entry paperwork.
- Possible conspiracy related to family immigration documents.
- Possible immigration fraud, according to sealed warrant language.

Fruit of the Poisonous Tree

The legal principle of "fruit of the poisonous tree") is a core doctrine in American constitutional criminal procedure. It usually protects defendants and governs what happens when the government obtains evidence after violating someone's constitutional rights. For example, if a search warrant is based on false premises, any evidence collected cannot be used because it came from an illegal search.

Ask yourself: Is it beyond the Trump Administration to determine that if any immigrant gained their citizenship based on an incorrect statement

anywhere in their application, might all of their children, even those born in America, be deemed “poisonous fruit” and deported?

Omar was eight years old when she fled her home country, spent years in a refugee camp, and several years in America under asylum before obtaining her citizenship. Donald Trump is seeking to find flaws in her father’s application so that he might deport her. Might then her three children, all born in America, be deported as well?

Major Question Categories on a Citizenship Application (N-400)

These are the types of questions Omar’s father would have answered.

1. Identity and Biographical Information

- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Country of birth
- Country of nationality
- Gender
- Marital status
- Names of spouse and children
- Residential history (addresses for the past 5 years)
- Employment history

2. Immigration History

- Date of arrival in the United States
- Port of entry

- Immigration category (e.g., refugee, asylee, family-based)
- Alien Registration Number (A-number)
- Date permanent residency was granted
- Whether he ever violated immigration laws

3. Family Information Relevant to Derivative Citizenship

This section is relevant to the current investigation into Ilhan Omar's derivative citizenship.

He would have been asked:

- Names and dates of birth of all children
- Whether each child was living with him
- Whether each child was a permanent resident
- Whether each child was unmarried
- Whether each child was under 18 at the time of their naturalization

These questions determine whether a child automatically becomes a U.S. citizen when a parent naturalizes.

4. Good Moral Character Questions

These are extensive and include:

- Have you ever committed a crime?
- Have you ever been arrested, cited, or detained?
- Have you ever lied to a U.S. official?
- Have you ever used controlled substances?

- Have you ever failed to pay taxes?
- Have you ever failed to support dependents?
- Have you ever been involved in prostitution, gambling, or smuggling?

5. Security and Allegiance Questions

- Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?
- Have you ever persecuted anyone?
- Have you ever participated in genocide?
- Have you ever been involved with terrorist organizations?
- Do you support the U.S. Constitution?
- Are you willing to bear arms or perform civilian service if required?

6. Continuous Residence and Physical Presence

- Dates of all trips outside the U.S.
- Length of each trip
- Whether any trip lasted more than 6 months

7. English and Civics Requirements

He would have been required to:

- Demonstrate basic English proficiency
- Answer civics questions during an interview

If any of those conditions were misrepresented, investigators may argue that her citizenship was improperly derived — though no evidence has been released to support that claim.

What About Melania Trump?

Suppose Donald Trump wants to find an immigrant who lied to government officials to gain entry to America. He needs look no farther than the separate bedroom his wife sleeps in. Melania Trump has been the subject of credible investigative reporting suggesting she worked illegally in the U.S. before receiving a proper work visa — but no U.S. government agency has ever formally accused her of lying to obtain a visa.

What About You?

In an amazing twist, the only immigrants in American history who didn't have to apply for citizenship were Black people and others covered under the 14th Amendment, which took effect in 1868. In 1790, Congress created the first federal naturalization law. From that year forward, any immigrant who wanted to become a citizen had to file paperwork — but only if they were legally classified as "free white persons."

Asians could not apply for U.S. citizenship until 1943, and they were not fully eligible until 1952. For more than 150 years of American history, Asian immigrants were legally barred from naturalization.

Native Americans became citizens through a century-long, fragmented process:

- Before 1866: Almost no path to citizenship
- 1866–1888: Citizenship through treaties
- 1887: Dawes Act (allotment-based citizenship)
- 1888–1919: Citizenship through military service
- 1924: Universal citizenship under the Indian Citizenship Act
- 1948–1962: States finally forced to allow Native Americans to vote

Caribbean immigrants

Citizenship eligibility depended on racial classification:

- Afro-Caribbean immigrants → eligible after 1870
- Others → eligible earlier under “white” classification

Hispanic People

Hispanic people born in:

- the continental U.S.
- Puerto Rico (after 1917)
- other U.S. territories

were citizens at birth under the 14th Amendment (1868) or territorial statutes.

U.S. naturalization law classified most Latin American immigrants as “white.” Because of this classification:

- Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican (pre-1917), Dominican, and other Latin American immigrants could apply for citizenship as early as 1790, the same year white Europeans could.

The Bottom Line

Unless you are a descendant of Black people in America or Hispanics born in U.S. territory and covered by the 14th Amendment, someone in your family had to file for American citizenship, and there’s a chance that someone filled out something wrong and, according to Trump, entered the country illegally.

If one follows the forbidden fruit principle, every living descendant of the person who gained illegal entry could be deported, though some may have married legitimate citizens and be able to remain after applying individually, assuming they've never smoked a joint and know the correct ages and the correct spelling of the names of all who have come before them.

Why Name Changes are Important

Immigrants routinely shortened or "Americanized" their names without filing any legal name-change paperwork. This was extremely common from the mid-1800s through the early 20th century, and it happened after arrival, typically in a courthouse, and not at Ellis Island.

11. Famous Immigrants Who Informally Changed Their Names

1. Irving Berlin

Born: Israel Isidore Beilin (Russia) Informal change: Began using Irving Berlin professionally. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1918.

2. Cary Grant

Born: Archibald Alexander Leach (England). Informal change: Adopted the stage name Cary Grant. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1942.

3. Kirk Douglas

Born: Issur Danielovitch (Belarus). Informal change: Shortened to Kirk Douglas for acting. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1950.

4. Hedy Lamarr

Born: Hedwig Eva Kiesler (Austria). Informal change: Became Hedy Lamarr in Hollywood. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1953.

5. Bela Lugosi

Born: Béla Ferenc Dezső Blaskó (Hungary). Informal change: Shortened to Bela Lugosi. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1931.

6. Bob Hope

Born: Leslie Townes Hope (England). Informal change: Dropped “Leslie” and used Bob Hope professionally. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1920.

7. Gene Simmons

Born: Chaim Witz (Israel). Informal change: Adopted the stage name Gene Simmons. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1963.

8. Salma Hayek

Born: Salma Valgarma Hayek Jiménez (Mexico). Informal change: Shortened professionally to Salma Hayek. Citizenship: Naturalized in 2013.

9. Arnold Schwarzenegger

Born: Arnold Alois Schwarzenegger (Austria). Informal change: Dropped middle name socially; Americanized pronunciation. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1983.

10. Albert Einstein

Born: Albert Einstein (Germany). Informal change: Informally dropped middle names and variations; used Albert Einstein consistently. Citizenship: Naturalized in 1940.

11. Melania Knavs (Trump)

Born: Melania Knavs (Slovenia). Informal change: Became Melania Knauss. Citizenship: Naturalized in 2006.

It wasn't illegal for any of these people to informally alter their names. They run afoul of U.S. Citizenship requirements when they lie to a U.S. Official, the same thing Ilhan Omar is being investigated for. I'm betting that people have used their new name when filling out an I-9 form, a passport application, or applying for a Social Security card. The government typically distinguishes between lies and mistakes, but these are atypical times.

If Ilhan Omar is charged and deported, which of you are safe from the possibility that the first person in your family to become a citizen lied somewhere, making you fruit of the poisonous tree? All it takes is running afoul of a President who wants to see you gone. Trump already tried once to get rid of Birthright Citizenship, this could be another end run. Can you really depend on Todd Blanche and Stephen Miller to save you?

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Written by William Spivey

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Tom Mitchell

What are your thoughts?

John Wakefield he
Oct 19

> which of you are safe from the possibility that the first person in your family to become a citizen lied somewhere,

Extremely scary - thank you from a proud (legal) immigrant. A loyal MAGA acquaintance of mine belated applied for a passport for his Hispanic American wife only to discover she is an illegal immigrant. Confusion ensued.

6 Reply

Bertroch
6 days ago

" Watcha goin do when they come for you." This story should be screaming headlines everywhere.

57 1 reply Reply

Author Sherrie Miranda
6 days ago

> Immigrants routinely shortened or “Americanized” their names without filing any legal name-change paperwork. This was extremely common from the mid-1800s through the early 20th century,...

Often done by the agents filing the paperwork, not by the family. Some family members have different names because of this!

3 Reply

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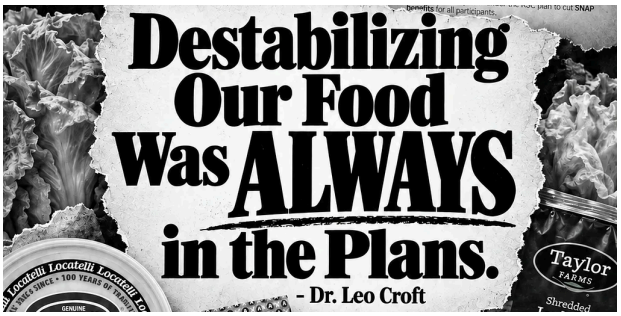


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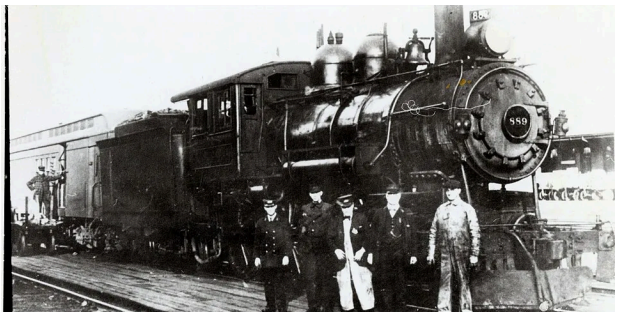
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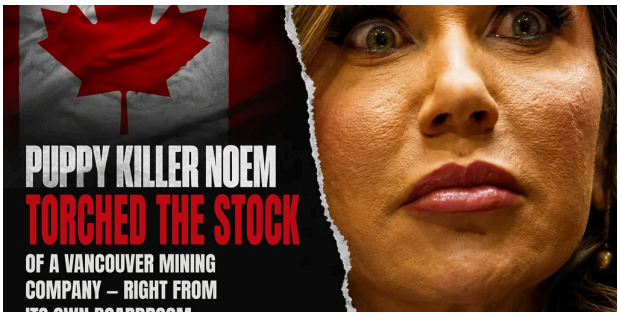


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