

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Mullin and Secretary Rubio:

We write to express our grave concern over the detention of Salah Sarsour, a lawful permanent resident, whose only apparent offense is exercising his First Amendment right to free speech. We call for his swift and immediate release.

Mr. Sarsour has lived in the United States for nearly three decades and is a respected leader in the Milwaukee community. As a business owner and president of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's board of directors he is a highly regarded figure of the Islamic community and the broader public. He is also a board member of American Muslims for Palestine, a national advocacy organization, where he has been a leader on national issues, including speaking out passionately regarding the war in Gaza. Besides his engagement in the Milwaukee community, he is a husband, father and grandfather and a primary caregiver for his aging mother prior to his arrest. Yet, on March 30th, 2026, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested Mr. Sarsour and he is currently being detained at the Clay County Jail in Brazil, Indiana.

We are deeply concerned that Mr. Sarsour is being detained because of his views related to the war in Gaza and the plight of Palestinians rather than any violation of federal, state, or local laws. The First Amendment provides in pertinent part that “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech...” The Constitution’s protection covers everyone in this country, including lawful permanent residents.

For example, it has been reported¹ that Secretary of State Marco Rubio identified Mr. Sarsour as potentially presenting a “serious adverse foreign policy” threat yet the Administration has offered no evidence to support that claim, nor any clear definition of what constitutes such a consequence. However, the record clearly shows that this is the same vague rationale the Administration has used to go after its critics.

To sidestep First Amendment concerns, the Administration publicly alleges² that Mr. Sarsour lied on immigration forms to gain legal status regarding an incident that took place when he was a youth and which was reportedly known to U.S., officials not only at the time but since then.

Moreover, we are concerned about Mr. Sarsour’s health and safety in detention. When the federal government takes someone into detention, it becomes responsible for that person's wellbeing. Unfortunately, we have seen a spike in deaths among individuals in ICE detention over the past year due to insufficient oversight and inadequate medical care.

Mr. Sarsour is diabetic and we are concerned about his lack of adequate access to the nutrition, health care, and supplies required to properly manage that condition. A recognized standard of care is for diabetic individuals to check their blood glucose daily or more often if necessary as well as access to a medically-tailored diet. We are

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/03/us/wisconsin-mosque-leader-antisemitism.html>

² <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/04/02/dhs-law-enforcement-arrests-jordanian-national-previous-conviction-throwing-molotov>

concerned that Mr. Sarsour is failing to receive the level of care needed to successfully manage his condition. Without proper management, diabetes can cause irreversible harm to eyes, kidneys, and the heart, among others. We respectfully request that these concerns be urgently addressed and that appropriate medical and nutrition protocols be implemented.

We request that you respond to the following questions no later than May 31, 2026:

- Please provide any documents, including legal memoranda, which ICE, or any other federal agency relied on in making the decision to detain Mr. Sarsour. This includes the specific grounds and documents used by Secretary of State Rubio to determine that Mr. Sarsour’s presence or activities in the United States ... would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States?”
- Please provide information on the specific kinds of medical evaluation, monitoring, or treatment Mr. Sarsour has received since being detained? Does that include regular and routine access to blood testing supplies or a diabetic appropriate diet to manage his condition at the Clay County Jail or any other facilities in which he may be detained?
- Given that Mr. Sarsour suffers from diabetes, how frequently are his blood glucose or blood pressure levels being monitored (e.g. fasting, pre-meal, bedtime)? Given concerns about access to an inadequate diet and medical monitoring in the Clay County facility, what protocols are followed in cases of hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia?
- Who is responsible for overseeing the medical care of detainees at Clay County Jail, and what is ICE's oversight role over that facility's compliance with its own medical standards?
- What are the general conditions of Mr. Sarsour's confinement, including his housing unit, access to outdoor time, and ability to communicate with family and legal counsel?

The Constitution protects an individual’s right to express their political views and the Immigration and Naturalization Act does not negate that. That is why we urge you to immediately release Mr. Sarsour.

Sincerely,



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



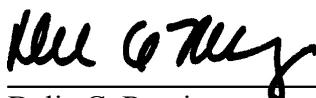
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



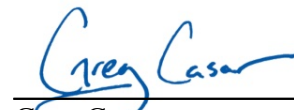
André Carson
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress