

Administration fires 2 immigration judges who ruled against deporting Palestinian rights advocates

[ABC News](#)

The two judges dismissed the cases against Rumeysa Ozturk and Mohsen Mahdawi.



Columbia student released by ICE feared citizenship interview was a 'trap' The Columbia University student Mohsen Mahdawi was arrested at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Vermont, where he was taking his last step in the process to become a U.S. citizen.

The [Trump administration](#) has fired two immigration judges who earlier this year dismissed the deportation cases of students advocating for Palestinian rights, the union representing immigration judges confirmed Monday.

Roopal Patel, who was appointed as an immigration judge in 2024, ruled in February that there were no grounds to deport [Rumeysa Ozturk](#), a graduate student at Tufts University. Ozturk was held in detention in Louisiana for 45 days.

Nina Froes, who was also appointed as a judge in 2024, dismissed deportation proceedings against [Mohsen Mahdawi](#), a Columbia University student who was arrested by immigration authorities immediately following his citizenship interview last April.

Froes and Patel are among 113 immigration judges who have been fired during the current Trump administration. According to the National Association of Immigration Judges, six judges were terminated this past weekend alone.

It's unclear if the two judges were terminated directly because of their rulings in the deportation cases of the students.

News of the dismissals was first reported by [The New York Times](#).

A spokesperson for the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees immigration court judges, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from ABC News.

Tufts University doctoral student Rumeysa Ozturk reads from a prepared statement following a court hearing outside the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, in Boston. Mohsen Mahdawi speaks outside the courthouse after a judge released the Palestinian student activist on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 in Burlington, Vt.

AP Photo

Rep. Dan Goldman, D-N.Y., said on social media that the firings "violated every basic due process."

"Donald Trump is purging immigration judges who aren't rubber stamps for his cruel, inhumane mass deportation agenda," Goldman said. "In just over a year in office, he has fired more than 100 judges and threatened

others who refused to comply with his wishes."

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