

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Newark ICE Field Office
970 Broad St, 11th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

October 27, 2025

Dear Deportation Officer of Ali Sajad Faqirzada:

As Ulster County Executive, I respectfully and urgently request the release of Ali Sajad Faqirzada (A# 220841601), a resident of Ulster County and a valued member of our community, who was detained despite following every legal step and despite the determination by immigration authorities that his return to Afghanistan would pose a Credible Fear warranting an asylum hearing. Ali is not a flight risk, and I urge his prompt release and return to his family in New Paltz while he awaits his hearing.

Ali and his family had been allies of the United States and fled to our country under threat from the Taliban. The Faqirzada family eventually re-settled in New Paltz with the assistance of a deep and broad community effort, and they have been valued community members for more than three years. While I have not personally met Ali, I have had the pleasure of getting to know members of his family, including his brother, who works for our Sheriff's Department, and his sister, who works at our community college. This is a family we feel privileged to call community members in our county.

Ali has distinguished himself through his integrity, work ethic, and deep commitment to both his loved ones and the broader community. He is a full-time computer science student at Bard College, attending on a full scholarship, and is employed at a local hospital — balancing academic excellence with meaningful public service. He is very close with his family, including his parents, brother, and sisters, who live in New Paltz.

The separation has devastated his loved ones and our broader community, and we urge his immediate return as he awaits his hearing. Again, there is no flight risk, nor does he pose any threat to the community. He wishes to return to his family, continue his studies, and return to work at the hospital to support himself and his family.

Ulster County is proud to be a welcoming place for those seeking safety and a new beginning, and we feel incredibly fortunate that Ali and the Faqirzada family call our county their home. I urge that he be immediately released and returned to his family and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen Metzger
Ulster County Executive