

## Court rebukes judges on ‘alien enemies’

Seven justices back hearing before deportation for Venezuelans in ruling on due process rights.

By DAVID G. SAVAGE  
AND ANDREA CASTILLO

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday told conservative judges in Texas they must offer a hearing to detained Venezuelans whom the Trump administration wants to send to a prison in El Salvador.

The justices, over two dissents, rebuked Texas judges and Trump administration lawyers for moving quickly on a weekend in mid-April to put these men on planes.

That led to a post-midnight order from the high court that told the administration it may “not remove any member of the putative class of detainees.” The administration had argued it had the authority to deport the men as “alien enemies” under a wartime law adopted in 1798.

On Friday, the court issued an unusual eight-page order to explain its earlier decision. In doing so, the justices faulted a federal judge in Lubbock, Texas, and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for taking no action to protect the due process rights of the detained men.

The ruling noted that the government “may remove the named plaintiffs or putative class members under other lawful authorities.”

The order carries a clear message that the justices are troubled by the Trump administration’s pressure to fast-track deportations and by the unwillingness of some judges to protect the rights to due process of law.

After the ruling was issued, President Trump wrote on Truth Social on Friday: “THE SUPREME COURT WON’T ALLOW US TO GET CRIMINALS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY.” He added in a second post: “This decision will let more CRIMINALS pour into our Country, doing great harm to our cherished American public.”

Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the ACLU’s Immigrants’ Rights Project and lead counsel, said in a statement: “The court’s decision to stay removals is a powerful rebuke to the government’s attempt to hurry people away to a Gulag-type prison in El Salvador. The use of a wartime authority during peacetime, without even affording due process, raises issues of profound importance.”

On a Saturday in mid-March, Trump’s immigration [See **Deportations**, A4]



GARY GUITTARD of Guittard Chocolate Co. says news of tariffs “was like a jab after a good hard right.”

## TARIFFS CHIP AT THE CHOCOLATE BUSINESS

Guittard, a family-run company that depends on imported cocoa beans, braces for the impacts of Trump’s trade war

By Stacy Perman

During the Gold Rush of the mid-1850s, Etienne Guittard, a French chocolatier, sailed to California like many others, hoping to strike it rich.

However, he soon realized his fortunes lay not in the mines but in selling the chocolates he brought with him from his uncle’s Tournus factory to trade for mining supplies.

In 1868, after a stint refining his skills back in France, he returned and started a small business, E. Guittard & Co., on San Francisco’s waterfront. In addition to making chocolate, he sold tea, coffee and spices.



GUITTARD CHOCOLATE CO. hopes to limit the effect of tariffs on its customers.

The business became a fixture in the city as it grew into one of the country’s major metropolitan centers. Guittard became the chocolate maker of choice for top chefs such as Thomas Keller and restaurants such as Chez Panisse, and supplier to iconic confectioner See’s Candies since the 1930s.

Over the last century, the family-owned business has survived numerous threats to its existence, including the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the Great Depression, massive sugar price hikes in the 1970s and [See **Guittard**, A12]

## Germans say ‘nein’ to visiting U.S.



TRAVELERS Charlotte Pohl and Maria Lepere were denied U.S. entry.

Fear of being detained during the immigration crackdown is keeping some tourists at bay.

By ERIK KIRSCHBAUM

BERLIN — Jessica Lia Brösche is a Berlin tattoo artist who was escaping the frigid German winter in the sunshine of northern Mexico. She planned to add a short trip across the border to visit a friend in Los Angeles. But she never made it.

Brösche was stopped by Immigration and Customs Enforcement when she tried to enter the United States near San Diego on Jan. 26 — six days after President Trump’s inauguration. The 29-year-old German national was held at the Otay Mesa detention center for six weeks before she was allowed to fly home.

“They treat you at the border like [See **Germans**, A4]

## Months after fires, how safe is it to swim at L.A.’s beaches?

By CORINNE PURTILL

It seems like a straightforward question: Do the tons of toxic material the Los Angeles County fires sent spewing into the ocean pose an ongoing threat to human health?

For nearly five months, public agencies, advocacy groups and scientists have

analyzed samples of seawater and sand in an attempt to determine whether January’s catastrophe has made it less safe to swim, surf or sunbathe at the region’s famous beaches.

Their collective results point to two broad truths.

The first is that neither government agencies nor privately funded groups have found levels of fire-re-

lated contamination in sand or ocean water likely to pose health risks to beachgoers. Although visible fire debris still occasionally washes up on shore and should be avoided, public health officials and advocates say, there is little evidence of fire-related toxic material high enough to sicken visitors through casual recreational [See **Beaches**, A12]



TESTING that informs seawater quality advisories looks for hazards posed by sewage, not fire debris.

## CHARTER TO BUY COX IN CABLE DEAL

The merger would unite big pay-TV and internet providers for the Southland amid industry upheaval.

By MEG JAMES

Charter Communications and Cox Communications plan to merge in a \$34.5-billion deal that would unite Southern California’s two major cable TV and internet providers to sell services under the Spectrum brand.

The proposed consolidation, announced Friday, comes as the industry grapples with accelerating cable customer losses amid the shift to streaming.

The companies could face even more cord-cutting after their longtime programming partner, Walt Disney Co., begins offering its ESPN sports channel directly to fans in a stand-alone streaming service making its debut this fall.

If approved by Charter shareholders and regulators, the merger would end one of the longest TV sports blackouts.

Cox customers in Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and Orange County would finally have the Dodgers’ TV channel available in their lineups. For more than a decade, Cox has refused to carry SportsNet LA because of its high cost.

Charter distributes the Dodgers’ channel as part of an \$8.35-billion television contract signed with the team’s owners in 2013. Charter has bled hundreds of millions of dollars on that arrangement and now offers the channel more widely via a streaming app.

The Atlanta-based Cox is the nation’s third-largest cable company with more than 6.5 million digital cable, internet, telephone and home security customers. Stamford, Conn.-based Charter has more than 32 million customers.

Charter dramatically ex- [See **Deal**, A10]

### New hope for baby, research

Boy with rare illness shows progress after gene editing, seen as a key step in the field. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

### 5 conservatives block Trump bill

As Democrats criticize proposed cuts to services, some House Republicans want steeper reductions. **NATION, A6**

### Coach inks deal with 0-13 Galaxy

GM says an extension for Vanney was in the works long before the defending champions hit a skid. **SPORTS, B12**

### Weather

A morning sprinkle. L.A. Basin: 66/57. **B8**

**Markets ..... A10**  
**Opinion Voices ..... A11**

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