ICE owns no planes of their own and must contract out air travel for deportation flights. Research has shown that through a web of private air travel contractors and subcontractors, ICE works with the same companies, like Omni Air and Swift/iAero, that are also used by many professional and collegiate sports teams. Eight Texas schools and universities have flown on planes that have been used to deport Haitian refugees.

**Haiti**

Since taking office, Joe Biden has deported more than 26,000 Haitians, most of them since mass deportations began in fall 2021. In recognition of widespread poverty, food insecurity, and violence in Haiti, DHS’s own civil rights office, Congress, senior Biden administration officials, and human rights organizations have all cited the deportations of Haitian asylum-seekers as inhumane. Yet the flights continue—most of them operated by Swift/iAero for a contract granted to a single bidder, GEO Group, in September 2021.

**Why Does This Matter?**

Most athletes are unaware they may be sitting in a seat occupied just days earlier by a person being brutalized, or deported to face possible death; they, and the universities they play for, are not intentionally causing harm. But university travel helps keep these companies in business. There are other options. Since the US government has failed at every level to ensure safety and justice in its treatment of migrants, it’s time for our communities to stop sustaining a system that reaps profit from human suffering.