

NBC's *Today*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: ICE Raids Spread to New Cities]

CRAIG MELVIN: Also this morning, there are new developments in President Trump's sweeping immigration crackdown with raids now spreading to even more cities. The latest? New Orleans and Minneapolis. NBC's Maggie Vespa has that story and the fallout as well. Maggie, good morning.

MAGGIE VESPA: Hey, Craig, good morning. Yeah, as you said, NBC News now confirming that raids are indeed under way in New Orleans and here in Minneapolis. Meanwhile, President Trump, once again yesterday, taking aim at the large Somali community here, stoking widespread anger and fear.

PASSERBY: Leave them alone.

VESPA: This morning two new major American cities in the cross hairs of President Trump's ongoing crusade against illegal immigration.

CBP OFFICER: Can you put handcuffs on him, please

VESPA: The Department of Homeland Security saying raids in New Orleans are targeting people specifically released after arrests for violent crimes like home invasions and armed robberies. In Minneapolis, a senior law enforcement administration official telling NBC News ICE officers are not specifically targeting the city's large Somali population, though on Wednesday President Trump again taking aim at the group.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: The Somalians should be out of here. They've destroyed our country.

MINNEAPOLIS COUNCILMAN JAMAL OSMAN: So, anyone who looks like me? That's who ICE is hunting in Minneapolis.

VESPA [TO OSMAN]: Hunting?

OSMAN: Hunting.

VESPA [TO OSMAN]: You feel hunted?

OSMAN: We feel hunted.

VESPA: Minneapolis City Councilman Jamal Osman was born in Somalia. [TO OSMAN] How

did it hit you in you heard what the President had to say?

OSMAN: You know, the hard part for me was just trying to answer my daughters and say, why are we being singled out?

VESPA: The Minneapolis area is home to America's largest Somali population. According to census data, a large majority, 87 percent of them, are U.S. citizens. The Trump administration's fixation on the group seemingly rooted in federal charges filed against dozens in the community for allegedly stealing hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer money, including some from public programs intended to feed low-income children.

TOM HOMAN [on FNC's *Jesse Watters PrimeTime*, 12/01/25]: Focus is on those Twin Cities more because of the criminal activities been uncovered by DOJ and DHS.

VESPA: This man, who did not want to give us his name, is the son of Somali immigrants. He says people in his community are afraid to leave their homes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because of that one percent, you know, he's using the whole Somali community in Minnesota as basically a scapegoat to do whatever he wants.

VESPA: Now, city and state officials here are blasting both the raids and the President's rhetoric and also encouraging Somalis who are U.S. citizens to carry their passports at all times. In New Orleans, it's a very different story. The FBI announcing federal agents and state police there will work to protect and "deter attempts to obstruct immigration officers" on the ground there. Craig?

MELVIN: Maggie Vespa for us there in Minneapolis. Maggie, thank you.