

I.N.S. Thwarts Basic Justice

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Body

To the Editor:

Anthony Lewis's Sept. 21 and Oct. 5 columns on the Immigration and Naturalization Service's treatment of Hawa Said, a Yemeni immigrant who claims she should be tried as a citizen, only mentions in passing that Ms. Said was convicted of drug trafficking. If she had led a life free of crime, would she have become involved with the ***I.N.S.*** at all?

Mr. Lewis's question, "Why bring a dubious, marginal case like that against Ms. Said?", prompts this reply: A deportation case stemming from a conviction for a criminal act should be moved to the front of the huge backlog of work the ***I.N.S.*** is trying to overcome. The processing of Ms. Said's deportation case arises from her being jailed for the greater evil of drug trafficking; this is a critical, not a marginal, factor.

STEVE DELL'OLIO

Stamford, Conn., Oct. 6, 1999

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