

## A step up in a fight against deportation

by UPI

CINCINNATI -- A member of Ohio's congressional delegation plans to introduce legislation to head off the deportation of Maha Dakar of Green Township, Ohio. Dakar faces deportation to Jordan without her family, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Sunday. U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, will introduce a "private bill" on Dakar's behalf, the newspaper said. The measure is intended to keep Dakar in the United States -- and keep her family together, the newspaper said. "It's really just a tragic situation," Chabot told the newspaper. "As far as we can tell, the family has done nothing wrong. I just don't think they should be penalized." Dakar faces deportation to Jordan in October, but her husband, Bassam Garadah, cannot accompany her. Her four daughters, all American citizens, have a difficult choice -- they can stay with their father or leave with their mother, the Enquirer said. After Dakar and Garadah entered the United States legally in 1997, they applied for asylum but were denied. They have applied for residency status, but the approval process could take up to seven years. The couple have said they would move to another country, but they haven't found one willing to take the entire family.

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