

Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)

Written by Woody Guthrie & Martin Hoffman

The [D] crops are all [D] in and the [G] peaches are [D] rotting [D]
The [D] oranges [D] piled in their [G] creosote [D] dumps [D]
They're [G] flying you [G] back to the [D] Mexico [Bm] border [Bm]
To [D] pay all your [Bm] money, to [G] wade back a- [D] gain [D]

My [D] Father's own [D] father, he [G] waded that [D] river [D]
They [D] took all the [D] money he [G] made in his [D] life [D]
My [G] brothers and [G] sisters come [D] working the [Bm] fruit
trees [Bm]
And [D] they rode the big [Bm] trucks till they [G] dropped down
and [D] died [D]

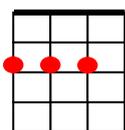
Good- [G] bye to my [G] Juan, good- [D] bye Rosa- [D] lita
Adi- [A7] os mis a- [A7] migos, Je- [D] sus y Ma- [D7] ria
You [G] won't have a [G] name when you [D] ride the big [Bm]
airplane [Bm]
[D] All they will [Bm] call you will [G] be [G] depor- [D] tee [D] [D]
[D]

[D] Some of us ill- [D] egal, but [G] all are not [D] wanted [D]
When our [D] work contract's [D] out we [G] have to move [D] on
[D]
[G] Six hundred [G] miles to the [D] Mexico [Bm] border [Bm]
They [D] chase us like [Bm] outlaws, like [G] rustlers and [D]
thieves [D]

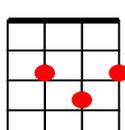
We [D] died in your [D] hills, we [G] died in your [D] deserts [D]
We [D] died in your [D] valleys, and [G] died on your [D] plains [D]
We [G] died 'neath your [G] trees, and we [D] died in your [Bm]
bushes [Bm]
Both [D] sides of the [Bm] river, we [G] died just the [D] same [D]

Good- [G] bye to my [G] Juan, good- [D] bye Rosa- [D] lita
Adi- [A7] os mis a- [A7] migos, Je- [D] sus y Ma- [D7] ria
You [G] won't have a [G] name when you [D] ride the big [Bm]
airplane [Bm]
[D] All they will [Bm] call you will [G] be [G] depor- [D] tee [D] [D]
[D]

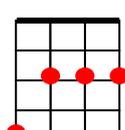
D



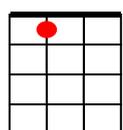
G



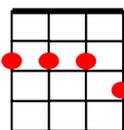
Bm



A7



D7



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The [D] sky plane caught [D] fire over [G] Los Gatos [D] canyon [D]
Like a [D] fireball of [D] lightning it [G] shook all our [D] hills [D]
[G] Who are these [G] friends, all [D] scattered like [Bm] dry
leaves? [Bm]

The [D] radio [Bm] says they are [G] just [G] deport- [D] ees [D]

Is [D] this the best [D] way we can [G] grow our big [D] orchards?
[D]

Is [D] this the best [D] way we can [G] grow our good [D] fruit? [D]
To [G] fall, like [G] dry leaves and [D] rot on your [Bm] topsoil [Bm]
And to [D] be called no [Bm] name, ex-[G] cept [G] depor-[D] tee
[D]

Good- [G] bye to my [G] Juan, good- [D] bye Rosa- [D] lita
Adi- [A7] os mis a- [A7] migos, Je- [D] sus y Ma- [D7] ria
You [G] won't have a [G] name when you [D] ride the big [Bm]
airplane [Bm]
[D] All they will [Bm] call you will [G] be [G] depor- [D] tee [D] [D]
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[D] All they will [Bm] call you will [G] be [G] depor- [D] tee [D]
[D] All they will [Bm] call you will [G] be [G] [G] [G] depor- [D] tee
[D] [D] [D]X

Also performed by Arlo Guthrie, Richard Shindell, Old Crow Medicine Show, Kingston Trio, Julie Felix, Judy Collins, The Byrds, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Dolly Parton, Christy Moore, Peter, Paul & Mary, Bruce Springsteen, Deacon Blue, KT Tunstall, Nana Mouskouri, etc. etc.

It's a protest song detailing the crash of a plane on 28 January 1948 near Los Gatos Canyon, California. Guthrie was inspired by what he considered the racist mistreatment of the passengers before and after the accident. The crash resulted in the deaths of four Americans and 28 migrant farm workers who were being deported from California back to Mexico. Guthrie was struck by the fact that radio and newspaper coverage in New York City where he lived at the time did not give the victims' names, but instead referred to them merely as "deportees." Only those of the flight crew and the security guard were given.