



## **Migrant Center for Human Rights** **Protecting the Persecuted**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

San Antonio, Texas (October 17, 2018): **Trump Threatens to Cut Aid to Central America unless Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador Stop Asylum Seekers and Other Migrants**

The Migrant Center for Human Rights calls on the governments of Central America to stand up for the international human rights of all migrants, including the right to seek asylum, regardless of what the U.S. government suggests. Trump's threat to cut off millions of dollars in aid to Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador unless these countries meet his demand to stop all migration to the U.S. erroneously assumes that no one traveling from Central America or elsewhere is fleeing deadly violence. This assumption is contradicted by the many personal stories our team at the Migrant Center hears weekly from Central American asylum seekers detained in Texas, as well as the country reports published by the U.S. Department of State, and reputable journalism.

We call on Central American countries to not give any credence to the U.S. government's suggestion that they can and should turn away asylum seekers without having their claims for protection heard. This could constitute a violation of the [Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#), the [Convention against Torture](#), the [American Convention](#) and [American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man](#), and other international law, as well as domestic legislation.

Trump also suggests that countries can and should prevent their own citizens from leaving, effectively locking them inside their country, which not only would violate the right to freedom of movement enshrined in the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) but may also make governments complicit in any continuing harm asylum seekers would experience in their home country.

Such policies would push more people into the hands of unscrupulous smugglers, who will take people on more dangerous routes. Additionally, it would also unnecessarily threaten the health and well-being of migrants to [process people individually, or otherwise act, in such a way as to break up a migrant caravan](#), wherein people travel together for safety, legitimately exercising their rights to freedom of association and assembly. We call on the governments of Central America to ensure that migrant caravans are allowed to remain together.

The Migrant Center for Human Rights works with detained asylum seekers in the San Antonio area. We advocate for their rights through litigation, community engagement, and public policy.

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