



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

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

San Antonio, Texas (December 20, 2018): **Trump Issues Policy to Return Asylum Seekers to Mexico for Case Processing**

The Migrant Center for Human Rights opposes the Trump Administration's [policy](#) released today to return asylum seekers to Mexico while they await and prepare for their Immigration Court hearing. Not only will this make hundreds of refugees homeless for months on end as well as make them vulnerable to extortion, kidnapping and other types of crime, it will also result in serious due process issues.

The U.S. Constitution allows for the right to a fair hearing, which includes the right to have access to the legal counsel necessary to adequately prepare a case. Despite what the Administration asserts, refugees living in Mexico will have almost no access to U.S. immigration lawyers. It is crucial for case preparation that refugees be able to meet in person with their lawyer on multiple occasions as many of them have suffered traumatic persecution that is not something people can easily and confidentially discuss over the phone or televideo, even if the government were to pay for this communication.

Furthermore, most U.S. lawyers will not be able to regularly travel to Mexico to prepare the cases. Even where this is possible, many refugees do not have the additional thousands of dollars it would take to pay for a lawyer to fly back and forth from Mexico.

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The Migrant Center for Human Rights works with detained asylum seekers at the South Texas Detention Complex in Pearsall, Texas, the third largest detention center in the U.S. We have represented dozens of refugees before the Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals, and 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. We advocate for their rights through know-your-rights education, litigation, community engagement, and public policy advocacy.

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