



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

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

San Antonio, Texas (October 12, 2022): **Biden’s Decision to Stop Accepting Venezuelans Fleeing the Dictatorship is Unjustifiable Discrimination and a Violation of Asylum Law**

“Effective [today], Venezuelans who enter the United States between ports of entry, without authorization, [will be returned to Mexico](#).” DHS offers no justification for refusing to process these asylum claims, much less for discriminating against Venezuelans in particular.

The Immigration and Nationality Act, [Title 8](#), requires the U.S. government to determine if people expressing a fear of persecution and torture in their home country meet the legal requirements to be given protection in the U.S. DHS’ new policy blatantly violates the law.

Our [amicus brief in *Arizona v. CDC*](#) details some of the extraordinary and unacceptable human costs of Title 42 expulsions to Mexico, whereby public health is used as an [excuse](#) to reject asylum claims, millions of dollars are funneled into the hands of violent drug cartels, national security is undermined, and refugees are subjected to *refoulement*.

Allowing only a subset of 24,000 Venezuelans, those with “supporter[s] in the United States who will provide financial and other support” to come, is no panacea to this policy’s blanket expulsion of all Venezuelan asylum seekers, especially considering the 15,494 average monthly FY 2022 unique encounters (with over 25,000 in August and 33,000 in September).

DHS Secretary Mayorkas’ claim that this policy “make[s] clear that there is a lawful and orderly way for Venezuelans to enter the United States, and lawful entry is the only way” shockingly ignores the situation of tens of thousands fleeing persecution made ineligible for this process and disregards foundational American law that states it is legal to seek asylum in this country [regardless of manner of entry](#).

The Migrant Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides legal services to immigrants detained at the South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall Texas. This facility is the third largest in the country and holds up to 1,900 immigrants on a given day. The Migrant Center works almost exclusively with asylum seekers and has served approximately 2,000 asylum seekers in the last five years.