



LIVES IN LIMBO

DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF TRUMP'S MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICIES

RESEARCH
BRIEFING

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This briefing presents Amnesty International's findings and observations from a week-long research trip to Tijuana, Mexico, in February 2025, whose purpose was to document the human rights impacts of changes to US migration and asylum policies since President Trump took office on 20 January 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This briefing presents Amnesty International's findings and observations from a week-long research trip to Tijuana, Mexico, in February 2025, whose purpose was to document the human rights impacts of changes to US migration and asylum policies since President Trump took office on 20 January 2025.¹ In particular, it focuses on the end of applying for asylum at the US-Mexico border and the situation of asylum seekers in Mexico. This briefing does not provide detailed information about mass immigration arrests and detentions in the United States, nor an analysis of the discriminatory impacts of these measures. The cumulative effects and harms of the Trump administration's punitive and discriminatory immigration and asylum measures are the subject of Amnesty International's ongoing monitoring and analysis of the situation in the United States.

During the trip to Tijuana, Amnesty International interviewed people seeking safety, met with legal, humanitarian and social service providers, local and international organizations, and visited shelters and spaces where migrants and asylum seekers are staying.

The organization spoke with two Mexican men who had recently been deported from the United States to Mexico, as well as with 35 people seeking safety (almost half of whom were women) from Belarus, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Russia and Venezuela. Amnesty International interviewed local and international organizations operating in Tijuana including Al Otro Lado (AOL), Asylum Access México and Haitian Bridge Alliance. The organization also visited and spoke with those running migrant shelters, including Borderline Crisis Center, Casa de los Migrantes, Casa de los Pobres, El Rubi, Jardín de las Mariposas and Villa Haitiana. The interviews with Spanish-language speakers were conducted in Spanish, while interviews with non-Spanish speakers were conducted in English with interpretation assistance from staff of local organizations and other people seeking safety.

Amnesty International requested meetings with the San Diego offices of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE declined the meeting request and CBP did not respond. The organization's request to visit the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego was denied.

Various individuals and organizations spoke to Amnesty International on the condition of anonymity. Their names have not been included in this report.



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¹ The findings and observations included in this briefing are based on the information that Amnesty International received from people seeking safety, service providers, local and international organizations, and shelters during its visit to Tijuana from 4 to 7 February 2025. It is not an exhaustive analysis of the issues presented in the briefing.

OVERVIEW OF US EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AND POLICIES

Since taking office on 20 January 2025, President Trump has taken multiple measures which severely limit the human rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and the organizations and groups that support them, both inside and outside the United States.

This section presents an overview of executive actions and policies that impact asylum, involvement of the military in migration control, detentions, deportations, other migration statuses, and foreign aid and funding.

■ END OF ASYLUM AT THE US-MEXICO BORDER

In recent years, the United States has implemented a series of migration and asylum policies which have drastically limited access to asylum at the US-Mexico border, resulting in irreparable harm to thousands of individuals seeking safety from persecution or serious human rights violations in their countries of origin.² These include “metering”, the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), Title 42, the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Final Rule, and the Securing the Border Final Rule.³

In accordance with the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Final Rule –in place since May 2023–, people seeking asylum through the US-Mexico border were required to use the CBP One mobile application to schedule a time to arrive at one of eight participating ports of entry along the border to present their asylum claims, unless they met a few limited exceptions.⁴

A June 2024 Presidential Proclamation (later the Securing the Border Final Rule) closed the US-Mexico border for non-US citizens, aside from limited exceptions for unaccompanied children, victims of a severe form of human trafficking, people with valid visas or permanent residency, and individuals who make an appointment to present themselves at a port of entry via the CBP One mobile application.⁵ Entry to anyone else was prohibited, meaning that the only way to seek international protection at the US-Mexico border was by way of a CBP One appointment. Anyone not exempted from the Presidential Proclamation was ineligible for asylum and was only referred for a credible fear screening if they expressly stated fear of being returned to their country.

The CBP One application was only available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Using the application required a mid-to-high-end smartphone, quality internet access, an email address and some basic technological knowledge. Asylum seekers had to register themselves in the application and then log in each day to request an appointment. There were 1,450 appointments available daily. Seventy percent of available appointments were allocated randomly to individuals and 30% were allocated to people with the oldest accounts who have been waiting the longest.⁶ There was also a limit on the number of appointments allocated to Mexican individuals.⁷ Amnesty International has documented the many challenges asylum seekers faced in using CBP One, including an onerous registration process, technological flaws, lack of knowledge about the app and how it worked, and financial, literacy and language proficiency barriers. The application essentially operated as a lottery system creating vastly different experiences for individuals using it, as some people received their appointments quickly while

² Amnesty International, *Americas: Pushback Practices and their Impact on the Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees* (AMR 01/3658/2021) 8 February 2021, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr01/3658/2021/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr01/3658/2021/en/), p. 1; Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 10-19.

³ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 10-19.

⁴ US Federal Register, *Circumvention of Lawful Pathways*, 88 FR 31314, 2023-10146, 16 May 2023, [federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10146/circumvention-of-lawful-pathways](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10146/circumvention-of-lawful-pathways), p. 31322.

⁵ US Federal Register, *Securing the Border*, 89 FR 81156, 2024-22602, 7 October 2024, [federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/07/2024-22602/securing-the-border](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/07/2024-22602/securing-the-border).

⁶ CBP, “CBP Releases January 2024 Monthly Update”, 13 February 2024, [cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-january-2024-monthly-update](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-january-2024-monthly-update); Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 14-19.

⁷ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 14-19.

others waited months.⁸ Further, the wait time for appointments increased over time. When Amnesty International visited Tijuana in November 2023, organizations indicated that most people were waiting three to four months for appointments.⁹ These same organizations shared that, at the end of 2024, most people were waiting between eight to ten months.¹⁰

On 20 January 2025, President Trump declared a national emergency at the US-Mexico border, declared that the situation qualified as an “invasion” and suspended entry of non-citizens and people without valid visas.¹¹ He signed an executive order directing numerous government agencies to take actions to “secure the border, including (1) establishing a wall and other barriers; (2) deterring and preventing entry of illegal aliens; (3) detaining to the maximum extent authorized by law non-citizens apprehended on suspicion of violating federal or state law until they are deported (“catch-and-release”); (4) removing promptly all aliens who enter or remain in violation of Federal law; (5) pursuing criminal charges against non-citizens who violate immigration laws, as well as those who facilitate their unlawful presence; (6) enacting federal-state partnerships to enforce immigration laws; and (7) obtaining complete operational control of US borders.”¹² The CBP One application’s scheduling system for asylum seekers was terminated and all existing appointments were cancelled, including appointments scheduled for the afternoon of January 20.¹³

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reinstated the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), better known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy, under which DHS can return people seeking safety to the country they entered the United States from while their asylum claims are resolved or pending the completion of their removal proceedings.¹⁴ However, Amnesty International does not have information as to whether MPP is actually currently being implemented.

Amnesty International condemns that, under the policies put in place by the Trump administration, there is currently no way for individuals at the US-Mexico border to seek asylum in the United States. This violates the United States’ international human rights and refugee law obligations.

■ MILITARIZATION OF THE US-MEXICO BORDER

As part of the declared national emergency, the US armed forces have been directed to “take all appropriate action to assist the Department of Homeland Security in obtaining full operational control of the southern border”, including constructing additional walls and barriers, and allowing aerial surveillance within 5-miles of the border.¹⁵

■ ARRESTS, DETENTIONS AND DEPORTATIONS

Another executive order signed by President Trump on 20 January 2025 directs DHS and other agencies to take broad action to enforce immigration laws “against all inadmissible and removable non-

⁸ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 30-31.

⁹ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 31-33.

¹⁰ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹¹ Presidential Action, *Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States*, 20 January 2025, iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.01.20_EO_-_Declaring_A_National_Emergency_At_The_Southern_Border.pdf; Presidential Action, *Guaranteeing the States Protection against Invasion*, 20 January 2025, iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/Proclamation_on_Guaranteeing_the_States_Protection_Against_Invasion.pdf;

Executive Action, *Securing our Borders*, 20 January 2025, [whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/).

¹² Executive Action, *Securing our Borders*, 20 January 2025, [whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/).

¹³ CBP, “CBP One™ Mobile Application”, 20 January 2025, iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/CBP_One_Mobile_Application_Website_Update_1.20.25.pdf.

¹⁴ DHS, “DHS Reinstates Migrant Protection Protocols, Allowing Officials to Return Applicants to Neighboring Countries”, 21 January 2025, iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/DHS_Reinstates_Migrant_Protection_Protocols.pdf.

¹⁵ Presidential Action, *Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States*, 20 January 2025, iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.01.20_EO_-_Declaring_A_National_Emergency_At_The_Southern_Border.pdf; Executive Action, *Securing our Borders*, 20 January 2025, [whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/).

citizens”; directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) and DHS to take civil and criminal enforcement actions against “sanctuary jurisdictions” (meaning that sanctuary city officials can be prosecuted if they attempt to stop ICE enforcement actions); directs DOJ and DHS to review, pause, terminate and claw back contracts and/or grants with organizations serving “removable or illegal aliens”; and, directs DHS to use sanctions against countries that refuse or delay the acceptance of their nationals subject to removal from the United States, among other things.¹⁶ A policy that protected certain areas, such as churches, schools and hospitals, from immigration enforcement was rescinded, meaning that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions can now be undertaken in these areas.¹⁷

The Trump administration has begun deporting people to the US detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.¹⁸ Deporting individuals to Guantánamo Bay will cut them off from their families and support systems, will make it difficult for individuals to access and receive effective legal representation, and will result in a lack of transparency around immigration and deportation proceedings. The organization is also concerned about detention conditions at the facility.¹⁹

■ REVOCATION OF TEMPORARY AND HUMANITARIAN PROTECTIONS

Other executive actions have revoked temporary protections for recently arrived people seeking safety who have entered the United States in recent years.²⁰ ICE issued a memo giving its agents the ability to cancel parole statuses using their discretions, impacting individuals who were paroled into the United States via the CBP One application, people who entered the US via the Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, Venezuelan (CHNV) Parole Program, United for Ukraine, and certain Afghans.²¹ The Trump administration ended the CHNV parole program and revoked the humanitarian parole of thousands who had entered the United States through a legal pathway that allowed people to avoid the danger of the border and have two years of temporary safety if they had sponsors in the United States.²² DHS ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuela. Thousands of Venezuelans, who were otherwise shielded from being deported to the human rights crisis in Venezuela, will lose this status in the coming months, and will be targeted for deportation.²³

■ SUSPENSION OF FOREIGN AID AND FUNDING

An executive order on US foreign aid resulted in a 90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance pending “reviews of such programs for programmatic efficiency and consistency with United

¹⁶ Presidential Action, *Guaranteeing the States Protection against Invasion*, 20 January 2025, [iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/Proclamation_on_Guaranteeing_the_States_Protection_Against_Invasion.pdf](https://production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/Proclamation_on_Guaranteeing_the_States_Protection_Against_Invasion.pdf); Executive Action, *Securing our Borders*, 20 January 2025, whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/.

¹⁷ DHS, “Statement from a DHS Spokesperson on Directives Expanding Law Enforcement and Ending the Abuse of Humanitarian Parole”, 21 January 2025, [iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.01.21_DHS_Statement_on_Expanding_Law_Enforcement_and_Humanitarian_Parole.pdf](https://production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.01.21_DHS_Statement_on_Expanding_Law_Enforcement_and_Humanitarian_Parole.pdf); DHS, Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas, 29 January 2025, dhs.gov/guidelines-enforcement-actions-or-near-protected-areas.

¹⁸ Presidential Actions, *Expanding Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Full Capacity*, 29 January 2025, whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/expanding-migrant-operations-center-at-naval-station-guantanamo-bay-to-full-capacity/; DOD, “First Flight of Illegal Aliens Arrives at Guantanamo”, 5 February 2025, defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4055497/first-flight-of-illegal-aliens-arrives-at-guantanamo/.

¹⁹ International Refugee Assistance Project, *Offshoring Human Rights: Detention of Refugees at Guantánamo Bay*, September 2024, refugeerights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Offshoring-Human-Rights-Guantanamo-Bay-English-Report-September-2024-1.pdf.

²⁰ Executive Action, *Securing our Borders*, 20 January 2025, whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/.

²¹ DHS, Memorandum for ICE, CBP & USCIS, 23 January 2025, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25_0123_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf.

²² Executive Action, *Securing our Borders*, 20 January 2025, whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/securing-our-borders/; USCIS, “Update on Form I-134A”, 28 January 2025, uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/update-on-form-i-134a; US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, “The Administration stops temporary humanitarian protection pathways for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans”, 22 January 2025, refugees.org/the-administration-stops-temporary-humanitarian-protection-pathway-for-cubans-haitians-nicaraguans-and-venezuelans/#:~:text=On%20January%202025%2C%20the%20Administration,nationals%20with%20U.S.%20based%20sponsors..

²³ Federal Register, Termination of the October 3, 2023 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 90 FR 9040, 2025-02294, 5 February 2025, federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/05/2025-02294/termination-of-the-october-3-2023-designation-of-venezuela-for-temporary-protected-status.

States foreign policy”.²⁴ The suspension will have devastating impacts on the operations of organizations around the world that promote human rights and provide important services for people in situations of risk, including migrants and people seeking safety.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

All individuals have the universal human right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution and serious human rights violations.²⁵ All individuals also have the right not to be returned to places where their life or freedom may be endangered or where they would be at risk of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, regardless of their migration status.²⁶ This principle, known as *non-refoulement*, is a protection under international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law, and requires states to refrain from returning, removing or transferring anyone to their countries of origin or any other location where there are substantial grounds to believe they would be at risk of serious human rights abuses.²⁷ The principle of *non-refoulement*, a customary norm under international law, is absolute, and admits no derogations. In order to fulfill the obligation not to refool individuals, states must have mechanisms with due process guarantees in place to assess individuals for this risk. Collective expulsions that deprive people from an individual assessment of the risks they would face upon return breach the *principle of non-refoulement*.²⁸

Both the United States²⁹ and Mexico³⁰ have the obligation to ensure the right of individuals to seek asylum, to uphold the principle of *non-refoulement* at all times, and to protect and respect the human rights of all people without exception, including asylum seekers and migrants, who are subject to their state’s authority by being present in their respective jurisdictions and/or in transit through them. This includes the obligation of allowing them access to territory, as well as the protection of their rights to life, personal integrity, equality and non-discrimination, liberty, and to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as adequate shelter, assistance and health care.³¹

The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants has highlighted that the militarization of borders has mainstreamed a security-focused approach that is intrinsically punitive in nature and that has increased the risk of human rights violations against migrants.³² Similarly, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has expressed that the militarization of borders is largely ineffective in discouraging migration and has a negative effect on human rights. The cooperation and participation of the Armed

²⁴ Presidential Actions, *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid*, 20 January 2025, [whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/).

²⁵ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 14; 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees; Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, American Convention on Human Rights, Article 22.7.

²⁶ 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Article 33; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Article 3(1), American Convention on Human Rights, Article 22.8.

²⁷ OHCHR, “The Principle of Non-refoulement Under International Human Rights Law”, 5 July 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Migration/GlobalCompactMigration/ThePrincipleNon-RefoulementUnderInternationalHumanRightsLaw.pdf#:~:text=Under%20international%20human%20rights%20law%2C%20the%20principle%20of,degrading%20treatment%20or%20punishment%20and%20other%20irreparable%20harm.>

²⁸ 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Article 33; Committee against Torture, General Comment No. 4 (2017) on the implementation of article 3 of the Convention in the context of article 22, CAT/C/GC/4, 4 September 2018, [ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/general-comment-no-4-2017-implementation-article-3-convention-context-article-22](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/general-comment-no-4-2017-implementation-article-3-convention-context-article-22), para. 13.

²⁹ The United States is State party to the 1967 United Nations Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and is therefore bound to comply, with the obligations deriving from the 1967 Protocol as well as, by incorporation, articles 2-34 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

³⁰ Mexico is State party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the Convention against Torture. Mexico has also signed the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees.

³¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention against Torture; American Convention on Human Rights; Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Protocol of San Salvador”.

³² Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Felipe González Morales, Report on means to address the human rights impact of pushbacks of migrants on land and at sea, A/HRC/47/30, 12 May 2021, docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/47/30, para. 54.

Forces or other security forces of a military nature to carry out migration controls, monitor or control borders, or exercise force in relation to migrants could run counter to states obligations to protect and guarantee the human rights of people in movement.³³ On the contrary, migration should be of the exclusive domain of appropriately organized and trained non-militarized, specialist professional bodies that are subject to government and judicial oversight.³⁴ Moreover, the use of digital technologies in border management and migration control raises serious privacy, non-discrimination and surveillance concerns.³⁵

In response to the announcement of mass deportations, Amnesty International strongly recalls that migration is never a crime. International standards prohibit collective expulsion or deportations, meaning that all deportations must respect due process, which includes an individual assessment of the risks upon return. Due process guarantees also encompass the right to be heard, translation, information, and the right to appeal.³⁶ Particular consideration needs to be given to any international protection needs.³⁷ Deportations must be assessed on a case by case basis, and only in compliance with a decision made by law. Summary deportations do not comply with due process obligations and deprive individuals from the right to an effective remedy. Likewise, States must refrain from separating families through deportation proceedings.³⁸

Detention solely for migration-related purposes is only allowed in the most exceptional of circumstances. The enjoyment of personal liberty must remain any individual's default condition. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, like anyone else, must benefit from a legal presumption of liberty and, as a consequence, if they are subject to any deprivation of liberty, this must be clearly prescribed by law, strictly justified by a legitimate purpose, necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory.

During the deportation, migrants must have access to food, sanitation, basic health care, psychological care, shelter, and other necessities such as adequate clothing during all stages of travel.³⁹ International law and standards require that restraining measures can only be used when they are strictly necessary and proportionate. Misuse of restraints, such as handcuffs and shackles, can amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.⁴⁰

Finally, States must work together to facilitate return and readmission in conditions of safety and dignity. They must ensure that returnees do not suffer threats to their life, liberty, security and integrity before, during and after return.⁴¹

END OF ASYLUM AT THE US-MEXICO BORDER

There is currently no way to seek international protection at the US-Mexico border. The CBP One application was shut down on 20 January 2025 and all existing appointments were cancelled, including

³³ IACHR, "IACHR calls on states in the Americas to adopt migration and border management policies that incorporate a human rights approach", 1 April 2021, oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2021/082.asp.

³⁴ IACHR, "IACHR calls on states in the Americas to adopt migration and border management policies that incorporate a human rights approach", 1 April 2021, oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2021/082.asp.

³⁵ Amnesty International, *Primer: Defending the Rights of Refugees and Migrants in the Digital Age* (POL 40/7654/2024) 5 February 2024, amnesty.org/en/documents/pol40/7654/2024/en/, p. 12.

³⁶ IACHR, Inter-American Principles of the Human Rights of all Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Personas and Victims of Human Trafficking, Resolution 04/19, 2019, oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf, Principle 73.

³⁷ IACHR, Inter-American Principles of the Human Rights of all Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Personas and Victims of Human Trafficking, Resolution 04/19, 2019, oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf, Principle 72.

³⁸ IACHR, Inter-American Principles of the Human Rights of all Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Personas and Victims of Human Trafficking, Resolution 04/19, 2019, oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf, Principle 61.

³⁹ IACHR, Inter-American Principles of the Human Rights of all Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Personas and Victims of Human Trafficking, Resolution 04/19, 2019, oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf, Principle 74.

⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, A/RES/70/175, 8 January 2016, Rule 47 and 48.

⁴¹ IACHR, Inter-American Principles of the Human Rights of all Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Personas and Victims of Human Trafficking, Resolution 04/19, 2019, oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf, Principle 76.

appointments that were scheduled the afternoon of January 20.⁴² According to publicly available information, approximately 270,000 people had been trying to secure appointments through the application and over 30,000 existing appointments were cancelled.⁴³

Amnesty International spoke with several individuals who had appointments scheduled for 1pm PST/GMT-8 on 20 January. They shared that they went with their families to the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Mexico, and were even told by agents of the Mexican National Migration Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Migración* – INM) that they would be able to enter the United States, only to find out via email one hour before that their appointments had been cancelled.⁴⁴ Staff at the Jardín de Mariposas shelter told Amnesty International, “On Trump’s first day in office, he cancelled not only the application, but all the appointments that had already been scheduled. People lost their hopes and dreams. What he did was cruel and humiliating.”⁴⁵

Amnesty International also spoke with people who had appointments scheduled for the last days of January and first days of February. The majority had been trying to get a CBP One appointment for between 3 and 10 months. Amnesty International has previously stated that the mandatory use of the CBP One application as the exclusive manner of entry into the United States to seek international protection violates international human rights and refugee law.⁴⁶ All of the people seeking safety waiting in Mexico for CBP One appointments should have been able to simply present themselves at ports of entry and claim asylum.

“I left two children in Colombia, I fled because I was directly threatened at my workplace by armed groups, I had already had to move within Colombia. My ex-husband even was attacked and shot five times; luckily he survived. I live in a shelter and wear masks and sunglasses all the time. I’m afraid to meet anyone from where I’m from. I try to be there as little as possible. Since I arrived in Mexico a year ago, I’ve been trying every day to get an appointment with the CBP One application. I finally got an appointment for February 9 at 1 pm; I’d been trying to get it for 10 months. Now that appointment is no good. I was so close. I love my country, it’s beautiful, my dreams were there, but now the dream is more realistic, I just want safety and stability.”⁴⁷ Colombian woman seeking safety

“If you speak out in Russia, you’ll have problems. Two years ago I was arrested for participating in an opposition protest. I fled because the authorities threatened to send me to the war if I continued to speak out against the President, the elections and the war. I tried to get a CBP One appointment for 7 months, but never did. Now that the CBP One application no longer exists, it’s complicated. I feel frustrated and disappointed. It was the only way to ask for asylum in the United States. I hope there will be another way soon. There’s definitely no way I can go back, so I’m trying to think of my future.”⁴⁸ Russian man seeking safety

“I fled with my family from Ecuador. I’m Colombian, my husband is Venezuelan and our children are Ecuadorian and Venezuelan. We waited for the CBP One appointment for 7 months. We finally got it January 20 in the afternoon. We arrived in Tijuana from the State of Mexico on January 18. We came because we had the appointment. When we arrived to Tijuana, I got an email saying that my appointment was now February 9. I thought it was a mistake because the email didn’t explain that the date had changed or why. We still went to the port of entry on January 20. I wanted to go and find out what was happening. We thought they were going to honor the appointments that had been scheduled. When I found out that the appointments had been cancelled, I went cold. We can’t return to Ecuador, Colombia or Venezuela. It’s unfair that we’ve gone through so much when we were doing everything the way they asked us to. My dream is to have

⁴² CBP, “CBP One™ Mobile Application”, 20 January 2025, https://production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/CBP_One_Mobile_Application_Website_Update_1.20.25.pdf.

⁴³ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025; The Guardian, “US asylum seekers in despair after Trump cancels CBP One app: ‘Start from zero again’”, 23 January 2025, theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/23/trump-cbp-one-app-cancelled-mexico.

⁴⁴ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁴⁵ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁴⁶ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), p. 65.

⁴⁷ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁴⁸ In-person interview, 7 February 2025.

peace and security. My family comes from three countries, they're going to separate us. Trump has damaged so many lives. We can't go back to our countries. It's our right to migrate."⁴⁹ Colombian woman seeking safety

Many asylum seekers shared that, without the CBP One application and the ability to show that they are trying to obtain an appointment because their final destination is the United States, they are afraid that they will be detained by Mexican authorities and returned to their countries of origin. Prior to the application being cancelled, asylum seekers who had been allocated a CBP One appointment were generally able to travel throughout Mexico if they were able to show proof that they had confirmed appointments.⁵⁰ A Belorussian man seeking safety said, "We don't have any Mexican documents. Before we felt safe with the CBP One application. It was kind of like a 'status' that allowed us to travel and stay in Mexico. Now without the application, we feel like we're not safe here. I'm worried that the police will stop me because I stand out."⁵¹

Several individuals shared that they had been living in other cities in Mexico, where they had set up homes and had been working. They left everything and travelled to Tijuana a few days before their CBP One appointments which have now been cancelled.⁵² Many shared that they were not sure what to do but were also afraid that they would be stopped by the police or INM if they tried to travel back to the places they had previously been living.⁵³

The fact that it is now impossible to seek asylum at the US-Mexico border places Mexicans seeking safety at particular risk. Unlike individuals of other nationalities (who may consider applying for asylum in Mexico), they are fleeing persecution in Mexico and now have no way of seeking international protection in the United States. Many of the Mexicans that Amnesty International spoke with were fleeing situations of domestic violence, organized crime and corruption by local authorities, with Mexico being unable to protect them. Prior to January 20, the situation was already complicated for Mexican asylum seekers because the CBP One application limited the number of daily appointments allotted to Mexican nationals, meaning that they often waited longer amounts of time in order to secure CBP One appointments.

"I was in a relationship for 20 years with a man who abused me. We never went out. I felt bad all the time. When my daughter was born, he hit me, took her away from me and made me sleep outside, even though I was in pain from having a caesarean section. When I got pregnant with my other son, he hit me with the flat side of a machete. He also strangled me with a belt and wouldn't let go. I felt like he was going to kill me, I was so afraid of losing my baby. When I went for a doctor's appointment, I asked to speak with a psychologist and told her that I was very afraid. She helped me, we reported it, and they put me in a shelter. After a while I went back to my parents' house. Despite the restraining order from the court, he went to look for me, he didn't respect the order. I was working in a pizzeria. He found me, took me to his house and locked me up. Luckily, his parents saw me and let me leave. After that, he tried twice more to take me from my parents' house. They called the police, but the police never came. That's why I came here. A year ago, my sister separated from her husband. Her mother-in-law asked to see the children, so my sister went to her village to meet them. My sister never returned, she was found dead, with four bullets in her body. Even though it was obvious that she had been killed by her ex-partner, the authorities said there wasn't enough evidence. Now the case is closed because they say there is no evidence. That's when I decided to go to the United States. I didn't want to suffer the same fate as my sister. I spent 3 months asking for the CBP One appointment. Finally, I got it on February 9 at the San Ysidro port of entry. My appointment was cancelled and I don't know what we're going to do. I can't go back, I need help. I ask President Trump to give us a chance. We're not going there because we like it, but because we're afraid. The insecurity and violence are horrible. He can save many women. He couldn't save my sister, but he can save me."⁵⁴ Mexican woman seeking safety

⁴⁹ In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

⁵⁰ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁵¹ In-person interview, 7 February 2025.

⁵² In-person interviews with people seeking safety, 4-7 February 2025.

⁵³ In-person interviews with people seeking safety, 4-7 February 2025.

⁵⁴ In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

“I experienced domestic violence that got worse and worse. I filed two complaints with the District Attorney’s Office, but they never took it seriously. The police told me they couldn’t protect me because there were 200 women just like me. They minimized my situation. One day all his threats came true, he attacked me and stabbed me. The police arrived and they called an ambulance. From then on, my nightmare began. I decided to apply for asylum in the United States. I went to the San Ysidro border crossing, but they didn’t let me through. I arrived with all the documents, but the INM and National Guard agents told me that there was no way to cross the border, that the only thing to do was to request an appointment through the CBP One application. The problem is that I live here, my risk is here, so I couldn’t wait. My ex-partner is still looking for me and harassing me terribly. I had been applying for 6 months and now they tell me there are no more appointments. It’s frustrating, you think ‘what’s going to happen, how are we going to get out of this?’. My 5-year-old son has anxiety crises, he prays to God at night for the appointment. I feel very helpless; my health has been very affected. I can’t stay here, I receive threats that terrify me, that say that ‘because of women like me, there are so many disappeared women in Tijuana’. No one protects me.”⁵⁵ Mexican woman seeking safety

LGBTIQ+ people seeking safety and the shelters and organizations that support them told Amnesty International about the particular risks that this population faces now that it is not possible to request asylum in the United States.⁵⁶ LGBTIQ+ individuals face widespread violence and discrimination in Mexico.⁵⁷ Staff at the Jardín de Mariposas shelter said, “We feel like an opportunity has been taken away from LGBTI people from Latin America and the rest of the world to save their lives. Trump’s decisions are going to cost LGBTI people their lives.”⁵⁸ They shared that many of the shelter’s residents are now making the difficult decisions whether to return to the places from where they originally fled violence or stay in Mexico where they also face violence and discrimination.⁵⁹ At the same time, legal protections for LGBTIQ+ people in the United States are deteriorating as a result of executive actions and other policies being put in place by the Trump administration.⁶⁰

Haitians seeking safety and the organizations and shelters that support them also told Amnesty International about the particular risks that this population faces in Mexico.⁶¹ Black people seeking safety are often targets of anti-Black violence, racism and discrimination, in both Mexico and the United States.⁶² They are often deprived of equal access to medical treatment, housing, safer shelters, humanitarian services, language access and protection from law enforcement.⁶³ Haitian Bridge Alliance has identified hundreds of Haitians seeking asylum arriving to the US-Mexico border with significant medical conditions which have, at times, resulted in preventable deaths.⁶⁴ A Haitian man seeking safety

⁵⁵ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁵⁶ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁵⁷ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 60-61; Human Rights First, *Refugee Protection Travesty: Biden Asylum Ban Endangers and Punishes At-Risk Asylum Seekers*, July 2023, [humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Refugee-Protection-Travesty_Asylum-Ban-Report_July-2023-1.pdf](https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Refugee-Protection-Travesty_Asylum-Ban-Report_July-2023-1.pdf), p. 41.

⁵⁸ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁵⁹ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁶⁰ Executive Order, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*, 20 January 2025, [whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/); Executive Order, *Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferring*, 20 January 2025, [whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferring/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferring/).

⁶¹ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁶² Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), p. 60; Human Rights First, *Refugee Protection Travesty: Biden Asylum Ban Endangers and Punishes At-Risk Asylum Seekers*, July 2023, [humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Refugee-Protection-Travesty_Asylum-Ban-Report_July-2023-1.pdf](https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Refugee-Protection-Travesty_Asylum-Ban-Report_July-2023-1.pdf), 38-39; Black Alliance for Just Immigration, “*There is a Target on Us*” – *The Impact of Anti-Black Racism on African Migrants at Mexico’s Southern Border*, 2021, [baji.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Impact-of-Anti-Black-Racism-on-African-Migrants-at-Mexico.pdf](https://www.baji.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Impact-of-Anti-Black-Racism-on-African-Migrants-at-Mexico.pdf); Human Rights First, *Inhumane and Counterproductive: Asylum Ban Inflicts Mounting Harm*, October 2023, [humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Inhumane-and-Counterproductive-final-report.pdf](https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Inhumane-and-Counterproductive-final-report.pdf), pp. 31-32.

⁶³ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), p. 60; Haitian Bridge Alliance et al, *Lives at Risk: Barriers and Harms as Biden Asylum Ban Takes Effect*, May 2023, [humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Barriers-and-Harms-As-Biden-Asylum-Ban-Takes-Effect31.pdf](https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Barriers-and-Harms-As-Biden-Asylum-Ban-Takes-Effect31.pdf), p. 3.

⁶⁴ Human Rights First, *Inhumane and Counterproductive: Asylum Ban Inflicts Mounting Harm*, October 2023, [humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Inhumane-and-Counterproductive-final-report.pdf](https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Inhumane-and-Counterproductive-final-report.pdf), p. 31.

told Amnesty International, “I tried to get a CBP One appointment for eight months but never got one. Life in Mexico is very difficult. We’re discriminated against. It’s difficult for us to get jobs. Imagine having a baby and no job. I have to buy diapers. We can’t live here but we can’t go home. Maybe in four years, something will change.”⁶⁵



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Organizations interviewed by Amnesty International also indicated that they are afraid to accompany unaccompanied children to the port of entry in Tijuana because they are not sure how Customs and Border Protection agents will respond and whether the children will be able to enter the United States.⁶⁶ Staff at Al Otro Lado told the organization, “Nothing can prepare a person to face the system that is meant to fail them – especially a child. The people accountable for this should be the ones who face these kids and tell them that they’re not a priority – they should be the ones to wipe away their tears.”⁶⁷

Both individuals and organizations that Amnesty International spoke with shared the profound mental health impacts that the cancellation of the CBP One application has had on people seeking safety. Many people seeking safety told the organization that they were afraid and felt despair, sadness, anger and frustration.⁶⁸ Many also expressed frustrations that they been following the policies put in place by the United States and had been using the CBP One application trying to get appointments. A Mexican woman seeking safety said, “I was very excited, but then they told me it was cancelled. I went into depression, despair. I’m trying to figure out how to get through this. I cried a lot of tears.”⁶⁹ Staff at the Jardin de Mariposas shelter shared, “The residents of the shelter cried a lot when they found out about the appointments. Now it’s like we’re in mourning. It was a dark, grey week. The feeling was tense. They were robbed of a dream. They had every desire to do things in the right way, following the laws and

⁶⁵ In-person interview, 7 February 2025.

⁶⁶ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁶⁷ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁶⁸ In-person interviews with people seeking safety, 4-7 February 2025.

⁶⁹ In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

rules.”⁷⁰ Another woman said, “I was disappointed when they cancelled the appointments. It was our hope. I lost everything the day they took away the appointments. We were doing things right; we did things the right way. We’re people who need help. Now we have nowhere to go. We need a safe place. It’s a dream gone down the drain.”⁷¹ A Venezuelan woman seeking safety shared, “Trump broke my heart. When our appointments were cancelled, I wanted to cry. I’ve never experienced such a bad feeling.”⁷² A Mexican woman shared, “I was using the app for 10 months and never got the appointment. I feel bad. I had hope; now what are we going to do? We’re hanging by a thread. I go through ups and downs. I’m surviving. It’s exhausting to be surviving all the time.”⁷³ Another added, “I’m very sad, we were hoping to be able to enter the United States legally. Now that the appointments have been cancelled, I don’t know what we are going to do. My children have already missed out on the school year. It’s very hard. My son is desperate, he tells me ‘Mom, when are we going to cross, we’ve been here for a long time?’. It breaks my heart.”⁷⁴

Amnesty International condemns that, under the policies put in place by the Trump administration, there is currently no way for individuals at the US-Mexico border to seek asylum in the United States. This violates the United States’ international human rights and refugee law obligations.

On 21 January 2025, DHS reinstated the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), better known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy, at the US-Mexico border. Amnesty International does not have information as to whether MPP is actually currently being implemented and none of the organizations or shelters that were interviewed had information about this. Even if MPP is being implemented, Amnesty International has documented that INM agents commonly block access to US ports of entry and stop people seeking safety from approaching them, meaning that, in practice, it will likely be difficult for individuals to approach CBP agents to enroll themselves in the program.⁷⁵ Amnesty International considers that MPP, and similar programs, violate the rights of people seeking safety as they limit access to territory, to asylum and result in pushbacks which can lead to violations of the right to *non-refoulement*.⁷⁶

Organizations interviewed by Amnesty International shared that the fact that it is no longer possible to seek asylum at the US-Mexico border will force people seeking safety to attempt more dangerous routes to enter the United States, which will put their lives at risk.⁷⁷ They believe that there will also be an increase in smuggling, and violence against asylum seekers, including extortion, by both state and non-state actors.⁷⁸ Numerous organizations, including Amnesty International, have previously documented how past US migration policies have led to increases in irregular border crossings by at-risk people who cannot safely wait in Mexico.⁷⁹

MILITARIZATION OF BORDERS

As a result of the executive order declaring a national emergency at the US-Mexico border, the US Department of Defense will “begin augmenting its forces at the southwest border with an additional ~1500 ground personnel, as well as helicopters with associated crews, and intelligence analysts to

⁷⁰ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁷¹ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

⁷² In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

⁷³ In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

⁷⁴ In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

⁷⁵ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), p. 24.

⁷⁶ Amnesty International, *Americas: Pushback Practices and their Impact on the Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees* (AMR 01/3658/2021) 8 February 2021, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr01/3658/2021/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr01/3658/2021/en/), p. 1; Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 10-13.

⁷⁷ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁷⁸ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁷⁹ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 62-64.

increased detention and monitoring efforts”, which represents a 60 percent increase in active-duty forces at the border since 20 January.⁸⁰

In response to tariff threats by the United States, in February 2025, Mexico agreed to strengthened militarization measures⁸¹ by sending 10,000 National Guard agents to the US-Mexico border.⁸² In December 2024, Canada began executing a \$1.3 billion CAD border security plan, and following tariff threats, agreed to mobilize additional law enforcement personnel and invest more resources in border security.⁸³

Amnesty International is extremely concerned about the increased militarization of both the United States’ northern and southern borders, as well as the use of armed forces in migration control operations, given their security-centered approach and the risk of human rights violations, including the profile of military personnel and their lack of training and skills to respond appropriately to people in situations of vulnerability and in need of international protection.⁸⁴



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⁸⁰ DOD, “Acting Secretary of Defense Robert Salesses Statement on DOD Actions Responding to President Trump’s Executive Order on Securing our Border”, 22 January 2025, defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/4037500/acting-secretary-of-defense-robert-salesses-statement-on-dod-actions-responding/; DOD, “DOD Orders 1,500 Troops, Additional Assets to Southern Border”, 22 January 2025, defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4037935/dod-orders-1500-troops-additional-assets-to-southern-border/.

⁸¹ The National Guard has migration faculties since 2019 with the National Guard Law, article 9. Militarization of borders also occurred during other administrations, such as the administration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Enrique Peña Nieto. Aminoral Político, “En su cuarto año, AMLO despliega a 46% más militares y guardias para contener a migrante; detenciones llegan a 345 mil”, 2 September 2022, animalpolitico.com/sociedad/mas-militares-guardias-nacionales-detener-migrantes (only available in Spanish).

⁸² White House, “Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Imposes Tariffs on Imports from Canada, Mexico and China”, 1 February 2025, whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-imposes-tariffs-on-imports-from-canada-mexico-and-china/; AP News, “Mexico deploys the first of 10,000 National Guard troops to US border after Trump’s tariff threat”, 5 February 2025, apnews.com/article/national-guard-mexico-border-ciudad-juarez-sheinbaum-b26e9d359f4f17b60925bd3935d169d3.

⁸³ Government of Canada, “Strengthening border security”, 3 February 2025, canada.ca/en/services/defence/securingborder/strengthen-border-security.html?utm_campaign=ps-sp-borders-frontieres-24-25&utm_medium=gc-features&utm_source=web; X, Tweet from Justin Trudeau, 3 February 2025, x.com/JustinTrudeau/status/1886529228193022429.

⁸⁴ Amnesty International, Changing the paradigm: from the militarization of public security to human rights-based citizen security, (AMR 41/8665/2024), 2024, amnistia.org.mx/contenido/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-CAMBIANDO-PARADIGMA-DIGITAL.pdf, p. 23 (only available in Spanish); Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho, Bajo la Bota, militarización de la política migratoria en México, 2022, fundacionjusticia.org/bajo-la-bota-militarizacion-de-la-politica-migratoria-en-mexico/ (only available in Spanish).

CURRENT SITUATION IN MEXICO

■ ACCESS TO ASYLUM IN MEXICO

Since it is now impossible to apply for asylum at the US-Mexico border, many people who cannot return to their countries of origin are deciding to apply for international protection in Mexico. This represents a major challenge as many of these people have been waiting for months for a CBP One appointment to present their cases in the US and now find themselves outside the 30-working-day legal window to apply for asylum in Mexico.⁸⁵

Organizations mentioned to Amnesty International that the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (*Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados* – COMAR) is accepting applications, despite the fact that they are past the 30-day limit, accepting as justification for the late submission of the application that the person was unable to obtain a CBP One appointment prior to the cancellation of the application. Amnesty International recognizes this as a good practice by COMAR in Tijuana. However, because of similar situations in the past, there are fears that this criterion will change, or may not be applied consistently in other states throughout Mexico.⁸⁶ There is a risk that people in need of international protection will be left without protection for failing to apply within the established timeframe.

In addition, organizations mentioned as a challenge the fact that there is only one COMAR office in the state of Baja California (where Tijuana is located), so when people seeking safety want to apply elsewhere in the state, they can do so through the National Migration Institute (INM).⁸⁷ This has presented a challenge for asylum seekers who do not have legal assistance and who present themselves before the INM to request asylum, since, according to civil society testimonies, they are often turned away by the authorities, who do not receive their asylum requests or provide them with any information about it.⁸⁸

Another situation occurring in Tijuana are those of people who started their refugee claim in another state, such as Chiapas and Mexico City, but then abandoned the process and moved to Tijuana with the intention of obtaining a CBP One appointment to seek asylum in the United States. Since it is no longer possible to claim asylum in the US, some of these individuals wish to resume their applications in Tijuana, given that they have now settled in Baja California. This is posing a challenge because COMAR is not transferring proceedings but instead instructing people to wait until the proceedings they initiated are closed and to then start a new one. According to organizations interviewed by Amnesty International this unnecessarily delays processes and creates more bureaucracy that could be avoided so as not to further saturate and delay asylum responses in Mexico.⁸⁹

Finally, organizations expressed concern regarding the presence of the National Guard at the border, as it could lead to human rights violations. They mentioned that, in the past weeks, National Guard agents were surrounding the COMAR office in Tijuana, which generates fear in asylum seekers of approaching authorities and exercising their right to seek asylum.⁹⁰

■ SECURITY SITUATION

The US migration policies described above and the fact that it is no longer possible to claim asylum at the US-Mexico border, mean that asylum seekers who were planning on entering the United States are

⁸⁵ Mexico, Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum (Ley sobre Refugiados, Protección Complementaria y Asilo Político), Art. 18.

⁸⁶ In-person interview, 7 February 2025.

⁸⁷ According to Article 21 of the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum, “any authority having knowledge of the intention of a foreigner to request recognition of refugee status must immediately notify the Secretariat in writing. Failure to comply with the foregoing will be sanctioned in accordance with the applicable provisions on the responsibilities of public servants.”; In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁸⁸ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁸⁹ In-person interviews with people seeking safety and organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

⁹⁰ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

now stranded in Mexico. As documented previously by Amnesty International asylum seekers traveling through Mexico face violence by both state and non-state actors.⁹¹ Many were forced to pay Mexican authorities, members of criminal groups or unknown individuals at roadblocks throughout the country. Others were charged more for bus tickets or were not sold tickets at all because they are migrants.

“We would rather go through the Darién jungle five times than through Mexico. Mexico is the worst thing that can happen to you as migrants, you risk ending up in a coffin. We walked from Chiapas to Mexico City, you go like a crab, you advance a little, migration catches you and takes you back to Tapachula. Taxis or trucks won’t pick us up, if they accept, they charge us double or triple the rate. It’s a very ugly experience.”⁹² Colombian man seeking safety

Amnesty International also documented how people seeking safety were subjected to extortion and kidnappings by both state and non-state actors.⁹³ Additionally, the majority stay in shelters or informal encampments with inadequate living conditions.⁹⁴ People seeking asylum struggle to access healthcare, education and employment opportunities.⁹⁵

“We had a very bad experience in Caborca. We were taken off the train by armed people, they took everything we had and kidnapped us, they took us to a house. We were lucky because at 10am the next day the army rescued us. They took us to file a complaint, but afterwards they didn’t give us any support or any documents. Imagine, we fled because of the war violence in our country and here the same thing is happening to us. Now we’re thinking of taking the risk and crossing however we can, whatever God wants us to do.”⁹⁶ Group of Colombian and Ecuadorian people seeking safety

■ CANCELLATION OF THE ISSUING OF VISITOR CARDS FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS

The majority of asylum seekers do not have any sort of migratory document issued to them by the Mexican Government, which places them at even greater risk of detention and deportation by state authorities, and makes it harder for them to access their rights in Mexico. This happens despite having the right to get a Visitor Card for Humanitarian Reasons (*Tarjeta de visitante por razones humanitarias* – TVRH).

Victims or witnesses of a crime committed in Mexico, children or adolescents, and people seeking international protection are entitled to a TVRH. The authorities may also decide to grant a TVRH for humanitarian reasons or if they determine that it is in the public interest.⁹⁷

This document is essential for people who are at risk in Mexico, as it allows them to integrate into the country. With a TVRH they have a regular migration status and access to rights, such as formal paid work, health, education, and financial services. Despite being a right established by law, the INM decided to cancel the issuance of TVRHs at the beginning of 2024, a situation that continues to date.⁹⁸

According to organizations interviewed by Amnesty International, instead of issuing a TVRH, sometimes the INM only issues a document that consists of a sheet of paper with the duration of the validity of the document; it does not even have a photograph of the person.⁹⁹ Even when this document protects them from detention and deportation and it grants them the right to work, it does not guarantee that people

⁹¹ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 48-61.

⁹² In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

⁹³ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 49-55.

⁹⁴ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 57-58.

⁹⁵ Amnesty International, *USA: CBP One – A blessing or a trap?* (AMR 51/7985/2024) 8 May 2024, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7985/2024/en/), pp. 58-60.

⁹⁶ In-person interview, 5 February 2025.

⁹⁷ Mexico, Migration Law (Ley de Migración), Art. 52.V.

⁹⁸ CMDPDH, “CSOs call for guaranteeing effective access to human rights for people in mobility”, 30 January 2024, cmdpdh.org/2024/01/30/osc-llaman-a-garantizar-el-acceso-efectivo-de-derechos-humanos-de-personas-en-movilidad/ (only available in Spanish).

⁹⁹ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

seeking safety will be able to fully access their rights, as, according to testimonies received by Amnesty International, the document is not accepted by companies that could hire them for formal jobs.¹⁰⁰

“We love our tropical country, but we can’t live in Haiti for insecurity reasons. We also can’t enter the US or live in Mexico. We’re trying to work in Tijuana while we wait, but it’s challenging. There are jobs here, but if you want to work for a factory, they ask for a lot of documents, including the humanitarian visa. We don’t have that document. We give them what we have, but it’s never enough. We also face discrimination; they always prefer to hire Mexicans or white people over black people. Some of us have a lot of experience, I’m a systems engineer, but can’t find a proper job.”¹⁰¹
Haitian man seeking safety

This situation causes even more concern given the current circumstances, in which there is likely to be a significant increase in asylum applications, which may cause a delay in decisions, leaving persons in need of international protection in limbo and with significant difficulties in accessing their rights.

IMPACTS OF CANCELLED FUNDING ON ORGANIZATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS SUPPORTING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

An executive order on US foreign aid resulted in a 90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance pending “reviews of such programs for programmatic efficiency and consistency with United States foreign policy”.¹⁰² Many organizations received “stop work” orders, have had to lay off staff and have had to suspend their operations while this 90-day review takes places.¹⁰³ According to WOLA, “State Department and USAID-managed foreign assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean totaled a little over \$2 billion in FY 2023, the most recent year for which an actual amount is available.”¹⁰⁴

Shelters, national and international organizations told Amnesty International of the immediate impacts they have suffered following the freezing of almost all US funding for overseas support programmes, which also has a direct impact on people on the move in Mexico.¹⁰⁵ Some shelters mentioned that the loss of funding to international organizations has had a direct impact on them, as they are no longer receiving some types of support, such as food, which they used to receive every month, or support for services such as internet, telephone, household appliances, infrastructure, fuel and security measures. Other organizations have been forced to cancel activities they used to carry out in shelters, such as providing legal advice or carrying out recreational activities with children and adolescents. Economic support given directly to asylum seekers by organizations has also been cancelled.¹⁰⁶

“It was already clear that this was going to be chaotic, but we didn’t realise it was going to be like this, we thought it was going to be staggered, with time. We’ve been able to pay for the cut in aid for now, but we’re taking money that was destined for other things, such as hiring more people. These measures directly affect a population that is being hit from all sides, they can’t work in Mexico, they don’t have documents, they don’t have money. Imagine now that it’s more difficult to give them internet, food, a safe place.”¹⁰⁷ Staff, Jardín de Mariposas shelter

¹⁰⁰ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹⁰¹ In-person interview, 7 February 2025.

¹⁰² Presidential Actions, *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid*, 20 January 2025, whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/.

¹⁰³ DOS, “Implementing the President’s Executive Order on Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid”, 26 January 2025, state.gov/implementing-the-presidents-executive-order-on-reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/.

¹⁰⁴ WOLA, Trump’s pause of U.S. Foreign Assistance to Latin America: An “America Last” Policy, 31 January 2025, wola.org/analysis/trumps-pause-of-u-s-foreign-assistance-to-latin-america-an-america-last-policy/.

¹⁰⁵ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025; Presidential Actions, *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid*, 20 January 2025, whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/.

¹⁰⁶ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹⁰⁷ In-person interview, 4 February 2025.

Staff working in shelters that Amnesty International spoke with mentioned that some international organizations have already withdrawn their support in Tijuana and that others have had to close permanently.¹⁰⁸ Shelters are also at risk of closing or asking for financial contributions from the migrants and refugees themselves to cover their expenses.¹⁰⁹ There have also been reports of job losses in the humanitarian sector and the cancellation of contracts that were already underway.¹¹⁰ All of this has a direct impact on the care and services received by people seeking safety, which can further aggravate their situation.



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¹⁰⁸ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹⁰⁹ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹¹⁰ Asylum Access Mexico, "Important notice: update on the recruitment process", 5 February 2025, facebook.com/AsylumAccessMX/photos/comunicadourgente-actualizaci%C3%B3nvacantesestimada-comunidadqueremos-agradecerles-p/677125011305747/?_rdr (only available in Spanish).

LIVES IN LIMBO

DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF TRUMP'S MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICIES

Amnesty International

SITUATION OF DEPORTEES IN MEXICO

According to publicly available information, the Mexican government has received approximately 6,244 deportees in the first two weeks of the Trump administration, including approximately 1,000 individuals of other nationalities.¹¹¹

According to organizations and individuals interviewed by Amnesty International, deportees have special needs and challenges depending on their personal situation.¹¹² They are deported to Mexico without any documents from US authorities. Some of them have spent almost all, if not all, their lives in the US, and do not speak Spanish or have any ties in the country. Some lack Mexican documents, which are crucial for their access to rights, including being able to secure a formal job, access to health care or validating their studies. The majority lack information and come with mental distress and have experienced family separation. Some of them need medical support and help reintegrating into Mexican society.¹¹³



© Lauren Murphy, Amnesty International USA

Amnesty International interviewed a Mexican man who had recently been deported from San Diego to Tijuana. He explained that he was arrested and removed to Mexico the same day. He was not shown a

¹¹¹ Statista, "Trump's second term of mass deportations begins", 10 February 2025, [statista.com/chart/33897/number-of-latin-american-migrants-deported-from-the-us/](https://www.statista.com/chart/33897/number-of-latin-american-migrants-deported-from-the-us/); Forbes, "México ha recibido 6,244 migrantes deportados por Trump incluyendo 1,371 de otros países", 30 January 2025, forbes.com.mx/mexico-ha-recibido-6244-migrantes-deportados-por-trump-incluyendo-1371-de-otros-paises/ (only available in Spanish); La Jornada, "Deportados 4 mil 94 personas en primera semana con Trump: Sheinbaum", 27 January 2025, jornada.com.mx/noticia/2025/01/27/politica/deportados-4-mil-94-personas-en-primera-semana-con-trump-sheinbaum-3318 (only available in Spanish); El País, "A breakdown of the Mexicans deported from the US: 4.4 million in 15 years, from Obama's iron fist to Trump's xenophobia", 24 January 2025, english.elpais.com/usa/2025-01-24/a-breakdown-of-the-mexicans-deported-from-the-us-44-million-in-15-years-from-obamas-iron-fist-to-trumps-xenophobia.html.

¹¹² In-person interviews with organizations and individuals, 4-7 February 2025.

¹¹³ In-person interviews with organizations and individuals, 4-7 February 2025.

deportation order by ICE agents, did not have access to a lawyer throughout the process, did not appear before a judge and was not able to appeal the deportation decision.¹¹⁴

“I’ve been in Tijuana for 3 weeks. I was deported from the United States. They handcuffed my hands, waist and ankles. It’s mistreatment, it’s not fair. I lived in San Diego for 17 years. I was leaving my house to go to work, and they arrested me. They told me I had a deportation order, but I didn’t know anything about it. They arrested me between 12:30pm and 1 pm and by 4 pm I was in Tijuana. I never saw my lawyer or a judge. My car, my house, my things, everything is there. They told me I can’t enter the United States for 10 years. The President is separating families, the economy is also going to suffer, I think all of this is a mistake.”¹¹⁵ Mexican man

Despite the announcement of the mass deportations by President Trump, organizations that Amnesty International spoke with indicated that the number of deportees remains similar to those of previous months in Tijuana. However, in preparation for the possibility of increased numbers, the Mexican Government started a national program to welcome deportees back to Mexico called “Mexico Embraces You” (*México te abraza*). The program includes 10 shelters that will receive deportees with housing, food and access to healthcare.¹¹⁶ The government is also providing a “welfare card” (*Tarjeta de Bienestar*) that has \$2,000 MXN (approximately 97 USD) and free internet, as well as services and help to obtain Mexican identity documents. The government is also providing Mexican deportees with transportation to their places of origin in Mexico.¹¹⁷ In Tijuana, the shelter was set up in an old event hall named “Flamingos Eventos”. Once a person is deported from the US and arrives in Tijuana, they can get into vans that take them to the shelter.¹¹⁸

Organizations interviewed by Amnesty International expressed that the Mexican government developed and is implementing the plan without consulting with organizations that have years of experience and knowledge in identifying and addressing the needs of deportees.¹¹⁹ They shared that they have expressed their willingness to help and to visit the Flamingos shelter, but that access has been denied. Until now, no international or national organization has accessed the shelter. Organizations reported that the shelter is “prison-like” and surrounded by militarized police (National Guard). They also claim that deportees are taken to Flamingos unless someone picks them up from the repatriation station at the PedWest port of entry and that they cannot go outside once they arrive at the shelter, unless they decide to return to their place of origin in Mexico. Further, organizations indicated that if a deportee does not go to the shelter, they do not have access to the support provided by the Mexican government, such as the “welfare card” (*tarjeta del bienestar*).¹²⁰

The only document that deportees are given is a repatriation document provided by the Mexican government, which is not an official identification, but a piece of paper that allows them to travel within the country for one month. Likewise, the “Mexico Embraces You” program only allows deportees to go back to their place of origin in Mexico, even if they do not have any ties or family there.¹²¹ This is especially concerning for individuals who were forcibly displaced by violence and cannot return to their place of origin. The government is not identifying them properly and has no special support for them as internally displaced persons.

¹¹⁴ In-person interview, 5 February 2024.

¹¹⁵ In-person interview, 5 February 2024.

¹¹⁶ Government of Mexico, “Mexico Embraces You” (*México te abraza*), 28 January 2025, gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/971337/28enero25_M_xico_te_abraza.pdf. Two centers in Baja California: Tijuana and Mexicali; two centers in Sonora: Nogales and San Luis del Río Colorado; one center in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua; one center in Nueva Rosita, Coahuila; one center in El Carmen, Nuevo León; and three centers in Tamaulipas: Matamoros, Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo.

¹¹⁷ Government of Mexico, “Mexico Embraces You” (*México te abraza*), 28 January 2025, gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/971337/28enero25_M_xico_te_abraza.pdf.

¹¹⁸ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹¹⁹ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

¹²⁰ In-person interviews with organizations, 4-7 February 2025.

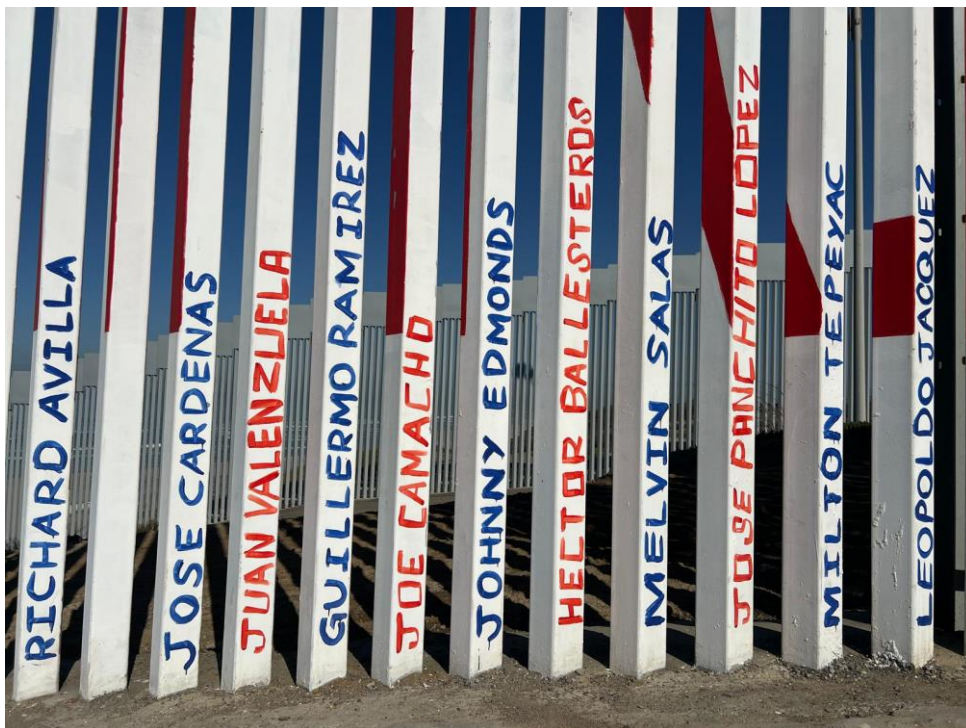
¹²¹ Government of Mexico, “Mexico Embraces You” (*México te abraza*), 28 January 2025, https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/971337/28enero25_M_xico_te_abraza.pdf.

Even when “Mexico Embraces You” is a program that aims to help deportees, the inclusion of a protection perspective towards deportees is essential. Likewise, it could benefit from civil society and international organizations’ experience, feedback and help.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Amnesty International has observed the devastating and immediate impacts of the Trump administration’s migration and asylum policies at the US-Mexico border. These policies violate international human rights and refugee law. Moreover, taken together, Amnesty International is concerned that these policies and the rhetoric and arguments used to justify them and garner support for them, are rooted in white supremacy and perpetuate false narratives about people seeking safety and migrants.¹²²

Amnesty International calls on both the United States and Mexico to guarantee the rights of individuals to seek asylum.



Presumably the names of people lost along the way © Alli McCracken, Amnesty International

Taking into consideration Amnesty International’s independent findings and the United States’ and Mexico’s human rights obligations under international law, the organization makes the following recommendations.

■ TO THE UNITED STATES

Guarantee the right of individuals to seek asylum, including by immediately restoring access to asylum at the US-Mexico border and immediately admitting asylum seekers who had CBP One appointments that were cancelled.

Ensure access to US territory. Ensure that access to US ports of entry is not restricted and refrain from requesting or encouraging Mexican authorities to block access to ports of entry.

¹²² Amnesty International, “Amnesty International USA Reaction to President Trump’s Anti-Immigrant Executive Actions”, 20 January 2025, [amnestyusa.org/press-releases/amnesty-international-usa-reaction-to-president-trumps-anti-immigrant-executive-actions/](https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/amnesty-international-usa-reaction-to-president-trumps-anti-immigrant-executive-actions/).

Respect the principle of non-refoulement at all times and ensure that no one, regardless of status, is returned to a place where their life or safety are at risk. Ensure an assessment of the risk upon return prior to any removal from the United States and the right of individuals to due process, including the right to an effective remedy

Guarantee the right to due process in all immigration and asylum proceedings, including the right to counsel, the right to see a judge, and without the fear of immigration enforcement at courthouses.

End any agreements with the Government of Mexico, or any other countries, that allow or facilitate the return of people seeking safety to places where their lives or safety are at risk.

Immediately revoke the declaration of a national emergency at the US-Mexico border. Immediately rescind the order that the Department of Defense participate in migration control operations.

Stop mass Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in the United States. Immediately reinstate the policies that protected certain areas, including churches, schools and hospitals, from immigration enforcement.

Refrain from using hand, waist and ankle shackles when removing individuals from the United States.

Ensure that any individuals who are deported from the United States to their countries of origin are provided with their US immigration documents and any other relevant documents.

Stop the transfer of migrants and asylum seekers to the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center.

Immediately reinstate US foreign aid. Increase funding available to humanitarian and community-based organizations that provide shelter and services to asylum seekers on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

Invest in the creation of a system of welcome where people seeking safety have safe pathways and access to ports of entry to enter the US and pursue their asylum claims in communities supported by family, lawyers, and case management and social services for those that need them.

■ TO MEXICO

Stop collaborating with the United States Government in the implementation of policies that violate the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

Ensure that asylum seekers who wish to apply for asylum in the US are not prevented from accessing US ports of entry and are able to safely access US territory.

Immediately implement measures to ensure the safety and security of asylum seekers transiting through Mexico. This should include public policies to prevent crimes against them, such as providing security to migrants in high-risk areas and ending impunity. Strengthen the mechanisms to combat corruption.

Guarantee the right of individuals to seek asylum. Continue the good practice observed in Tijuana of allowing persons in need of international protection to initiate their applications in Mexico, despite the expiry of the 30-working day deadline established in national legislation. This good practice should continue to be implemented throughout the country and should not be restricted in time.

Issue TVRHs for migrants and asylum seekers in accordance with the Migration Law. Ensure migrants and asylum seekers have effective access to their economic and social rights.

Ensure that the National Guard is not involved in migration enforcement.

Provide comprehensive assistance to Mexican internally displaced persons who are at the border fleeing violence in their places of origin or habitual residence and who cannot return for security reasons.

Include civil society organizations and international organizations in the policies being implemented for the reception of Mexican nationals deported from the United States. This includes allowing them access to the shelters that the federal government is building at the borders.

Allow Mexican deportees to decide to return to a place other than their place of origin if they have ties, family, or simply a desire to settle in another state. Identify persons who cannot return to their place of origin for protection or security reasons and provide them with adequate care.

Allow deportees to access government support, without conditioning support to their stay in shelters established by the government.

Amnesty International is a movement of 10 million people which mobilizes the humanity in everyone and campaigns for change so we can all enjoy our human rights. Our vision is of a world where those in power keep their promises, respect international law and are held to account. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and individual donations. We believe that acting in solidarity and compassion with people everywhere can change our societies for the better.

Contact


info@amnesty.org


facebook.com/
AmnestyGlobal


@Amnesty


amnesty.org



Amnesty International
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW, UK

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