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August 13, 2014

Emilio Alvarez Icaza
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
1889 F Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: REQUEST FOR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
MINORS FROM GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS AND MEXICO

Dear Secretary Alvarez Icaza,

Petitioners Mary Meg McCarthy, National Immigrant Justice Center; and Oscar Chacon, National Association of Latin American & Caribbean Communities submit this request for precautionary measures on behalf of the Beneficiaries, minors from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico who are fleeing violence and other serious threats to their lives and personal security in their home countries, and who have been, are or will be apprehended on U.S. territory or near the U.S.-Mexico border by U.S. authorities.

Since October 2013, close to 60,000 unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico have been apprehended by U.S. authorities at or near the U.S.-Mexico border.¹ On July 14, 2014, the United States deported a group of 38 children to Honduras.²

¹ According to U.S. government statistics compiled by the Pew Research Center, between October 2013 and June 2014, 57,525 children from Mexico and the three Central American countries of the “Northern Triangle” were apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border. Jens Manuel Krogstad, Ana Gonzalez-Barrera and Mark Hugo Lopez, “Children 12 and under are fastest growing group of unaccompanied minors at U.S. border,” Pew Research Center *Fact Tank*, July 22, 2014, at <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/22/children-12-and-under-arefastest-growing-group-of-unaccompanied-minors-at-u-s-border/>.

² Dudley Althaus & Laura Meckler, “U.S. Flies 38 to Honduras as Part of Expedited Deportations,” *Wall Street*

Efforts to accelerate the deportations of children, particularly those who have been apprehended with their parents, are continuing and constitute a grave threat to human rights.³

Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, we seek precautionary measures which are urgently needed to protect the lives and security of the Beneficiaries who have been, are, or will be apprehended by United States authorities at or near the U.S.- Mexico border and subjected to expulsion and return to their home countries, without due consideration of their rights to protection to their lives, to humane treatment, the rights of children, and the right to asylum, established in articles I, VII, XXVII of the American Declaration of Rights and Duties of Man.

The Petitioners have a strong interest in the protection of the Beneficiaries' rights to due process and claims for protection against expulsion under U.S. and international law, as follows:

- Mary Meg McCarthy is the executive director of Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), one of the nation's leading immigrant and human rights advocacy organizations with offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, DC. NIJC provides legal advice and representation to approximately 10,000 immigrants each year through its own staff and more than 1,000 *pro bono* attorneys. Through direct service, impact litigation, and advocacy, NIJC promotes due process protections before the U.S. Supreme Court, Congress, and the Executive branch. NIJC is currently representing dozens of Central American and Mexican children, potential beneficiaries of this precautionary measures request, and their families apprehended by the U.S. government.
- Oscar Chacon is President of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, a network of U.S.-based immigrant-led organizations. Member organizations include informal migrant associations, as well as non-profit institutions. The majority of NALACC members represent Mexican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Honduran nationalities. Many NALACC-affiliated organizations have members whose children, potential beneficiaries of this precautionary measures request, or other relatives, are among the Beneficiary migrants and refugees.

The Beneficiaries are a determinable group of children. They include thousands of minors, both unaccompanied or traveling with family members, who are citizens of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico who are currently in custody, have been in custody and were released, or will be apprehended by U.S. authorities upon arriving to the United States in the coming months. All these children are subject to expulsion proceedings.

Depending on whether they are apprehended while crossing the border unaccompanied or with their parents, or are citizens of a Central American country or Mexico, U.S. law subjects these classes of children to distinct legal regimes with respect to their detention and procedures to consider their claims against expulsion, as explained below.

Journal, 7/14/2014, available at <http://online.wsj.com/articles/u-s-flies-38-to-honduras-as-part-of-expedited-deportations-1405381419>.

³ Julia Preston, "As U.S. Speeds the Path to Deportation, Distress Fills New Family Detention Centers," *New York Times*, 8/7/2014, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/us/seeking-to-stop-migrants-from-risking-trip-us-speeds-the-path-to-deportation-for-families.html>

Central American children

- Unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras may be held in detention centers for a limited amount of time, after which they are released to less-restrictive shelters or to live with family members. Once they have been released from custody, they are under the jurisdiction of the immigration authorities and must appear at hearings if summoned. There is no right to appointed counsel in immigration hearings. In recent weeks, many released children have been summoned to appear at hearings far from their places of residence. Failure to appear can result in an *in absentia* deportation order.⁴
- Children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who are apprehended in the company of family members are held in detention centers with their family members, often under severely restricted conditions of confinement. At the present time, dozens of families with children are housed in a detention center in Artesia, New Mexico, a remote rural area. Parents detained with their children must pass a “credible fear” interview within days of their arrest in order to be permitted to present a claim for asylum (or any other humanitarian claim) to an immigration judge. There is no right to appointed counsel in credible fear interviews. Limited review of negative decisions in credible fear interviews is done by judges in telephonic hearings with detained parents of Beneficiaries. Almost no parents of Beneficiaries have been successful in establishing “credible fear” in hearings held in recent months. There is no provision for separate consideration of asylum or Convention Against Torture claims by children who are detained with their parents.⁵

Mexican children

The Beneficiaries also include thousands of unaccompanied minors who are citizens of Mexico who are currently in custody or will be apprehended by U.S. authorities along the U.S.-Mexico border in the coming months. Mexican children are subjected to non-reviewable summary proceedings, in which the participation of counsel is not permitted, to determine their need for protection (so-called “credible fear” interviews).⁶ The vast majority of apprehended Mexican

⁴ Molly Hennesey-Fiske, "Young immigrants must risk deportation for chance to gain legal status," Los Angeles Times, 8/3/2014, at <http://www.latimes.com/nation/immigration/la-na-immigration-law-20140803-story.html#page=1> Reporting on “fast-track” policy of scheduling Central American children’s hearings within 21 days of their release, ahead of all other pending immigration hearings.

⁵ Procedures and conditions in the Artesia, New Mexico, detention center make it extremely difficult for detained children and their mothers to know their legal rights or assert them to be able to apply for political asylum or other forms of humanitarian relief. Meghan Jordi, “Children in Jail: What It’s Like for Immigrants Held at Artesia Center” American Immigrant Council, *Immigration Impact*, at: <http://immigrationimpact.com/2014/08/06/children-in-jail-what-its-like-for-immigrants-held-at-artesia-center/#sthash.ebdDdNFF.dpuf> On July 18, 2014 the U.S. deported three groups of mothers and children detained in the Artesia, New Mexico, detention center to their countries of origin: to Honduras, thirty minor children, six months to fifteen years old, and twenty six mothers; to Guatemala, seven minor children ages two to sixteen years and five mothers; and to El Salvador, four minor children, ages four to fourteen years and four mothers. Gabriel Stargardter, “U.S. steps up deportation of Central American child migrants,” *Reuters*, 7/18/2014, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/19/us-usa-immigration-flights-idUSKBN0FN2L120140719>; See, also, See Julia Preston, *infra*, note 3.

⁶ In the 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, children from “contiguous countries” (Mexico and Canada) are

children are immediately returned to Mexico with no meaningful opportunity to seek protection. The U.S. Government has indicated that it may try to expand these summary proceedings to children of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.⁷

All Beneficiaries

All Beneficiaries are in grave danger of being subjected to summary expulsion procedures which would deprive them of their rights to protection as refugees, children, and unaccompanied minors under the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and to protection under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and other treaties to which the United States is a party, as well as other forms of protection (for victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and for abandoned children) under U.S. law.

The Beneficiaries are in danger of being sent back to their countries of origin, where the security of their persons and their lives are at severe risk. Their situation is serious and urgent. An order from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to the United States in the form of precautionary measures – to refrain from deporting Beneficiaries until their right to remain in the U.S. has been given meaningful consideration, including the right to counsel - will prevent irreparable harm to the Beneficiaries.

Petitioners urgently submit this Request for Precautionary Measures on behalf of the Beneficiaries pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to protect the rights of Beneficiaries to a meaningful opportunity to seek protection in the United States. This is a serious situation in which the Beneficiaries' rights to life, security of person, rights of children and right to asylum (established in articles I, VII, XXVII of the American Declaration of Rights and Duties of Man) are at risk. The threat is imminent, as deportations of Beneficiaries have already begun. Beneficiaries are at risk of irreparable harm if deported to their home countries. The Petitioners respectfully request that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights order the United States to refrain from deporting Beneficiaries until their right to remain in the U.S. has been given meaningful consideration, including the right to counsel.

subjected to a brief interview and returned directly to Mexico if they have not convinced a Border Patrol officer that they have a “credible fear” of return. 8 U.S.C. § 1232(a)(2)(A).

⁷ The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to remove the special procedures for unaccompanied immigrant children in TVPRA. Derek Wallbank and Michael C. Bender, “House Passes \$694 Million U.S. Border Plan Amid Criticism,” Bloomberg News, at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-02/house-passes-694-million-u-s-border-plan-amid-criticism.html>

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Since October 2013, almost 60,000 children, citizens of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, have been arrested by U.S. immigration authorities at or near the U.S.-Mexico border. The U.S. Government acknowledges that the recent influx of children is a humanitarian crisis.⁸ Many of these children are fleeing systemic violence in their home countries which has been directed at them and other children similarly situated. The forms of violence include pervasive, coercive gang recruitment accompanied by threats of torture or death, rape and other physical abuses at the hands of criminal gang members, as well as threats of kidnapping for ransom which often include torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment such as sexual assault and mutilations.⁹ Some children are fleeing from serious domestic violence.¹⁰

Due to flourishing transnational street gangs, drug cartels, and other criminal armed groups, these three Central American countries and Mexico have suffered an explosion of societal violence over the past decade. The dangers faced by children in the region has been well-documented by journalists, human rights non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.¹¹ These dangers render many of the children eligible for protection as refugees, and from protection against deportation under the Convention Against Torture, or for U.S. protection as victims of trafficking, domestic violence, or as abused, abandoned and neglected children.¹²

In each country, criminal groups battle for control of drug trafficking routes, residential neighborhoods, public transportation systems, highways, and human-smuggling operations. Gang members often extract “protection money” from ordinary civilians and owners of small businesses. Beneficiary children are particularly vulnerable to these groups’ acts of violence. As UNHCR recently reported, street gangs target young males for forced recruitment and young females as “girlfriends” for sexual exploitation. Petitioners’ resistance to recruitment is often met with violent reprisals. Street gangs target these youth during their daily activities, such as attending school and commuting on buses. In short, there is no escaping the threat.

Similarly, children are targeted for kidnapping for ransom, often because local criminals are aware that the children have relatives in the United States with access to money.¹³ Local law enforcement in all four countries is ineffective to protect citizen security – and in some cases cooperative with criminal gangs.¹⁴ Children who are kidnapped are often raped or mutilated;

⁸ Michael Shear & Jeremy W. Peters, “Obama Asks for \$3.7 Billion to Aid Border,” *New York Times*, 7/8/2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/09/us/obama-seeks-billions-for-children-immigration-crisis.html?_r=

⁹ Funes, Freddy, Removal of Central American Gang Members: How Immigration Laws Fail to Reflect Global Reality, 63 U. Miami L. Rev. 301 (2008-2009); and Wim Savenije, Las pandillas transnacionales o “maras”: violencia urbana en Centroamérica, *Foro Internacional* Vol. 47, No. 3 (189) (Jul. - Sep., 2007), pp. 637-659.

¹⁰ UN High Commission for Refugees, US, *Children on the Run*, 2014, <http://unhcrwashington.org/children>.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Unaccompanied children may be eligible to remain in the U.S. under several possible forms of legal status including: Refugee/asylum status 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42)(A) and 8 U.S.C. § 1158; withholding of deportation under Convention Against Torture 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(3), visas for victims of trafficking 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(T); visas for victims of crimes 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(U); permanent residence for abused or neglected children 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J).

¹³ *Children on the Run*, *infra*, note 10.

¹⁴ Peter J. Meyer, Clare Ribando Seelke, *Central America Regional Security Initiative: Background and Policy*

both activities are violations of their rights to be free from torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Children in all four countries also suffer from domestic violence and cannot secure protection from local law enforcement, a threat recognized under U.S. law as a ground for refugee status.¹⁵

For the majority of these children, the reasons for their flight constitute valid bases for international protection under the United Nations Refugee Convention and Protocol, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman and Degrading Treatment, and other international and regional human rights instruments, that interpret the right to asylum, as a protection to the right to life, personal security and the rights of children.¹⁶ Some travel with their parents while others are seeking reunification with parents living and working in the United States, who seek to protect their children from grievous threats of harm in their home countries.¹⁷

Yet, despite their need for protection as children fleeing danger, the U.S. Government seeks to implement policies which would fail to give adequate consideration to these children's claims for protection, with the goal of deterring future flight of more children from the countries of the region.¹⁸

Unaccompanied children from Mexico who are arrested by U.S. immigration authorities are, under present procedures, merely given a screening interview, without benefit of counsel, which fails to effectively detect possible protection claims under international or U.S. law.¹⁹ The vast majority of such children are immediately returned to Mexico with no possibility of claiming protection under U.S. law regarding the right to asylum under the American Declaration and the Refugee Convention or the Convention Against Torture.

Unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are, under present statutory procedures, released to the custody of family members or housed in supervised shelters, subsequent to their arrest by U.S. authorities.²⁰ They are placed in proceedings for removal from the United States, in which they can assert claims for protection under U.S. law regarding political asylum or the Convention Against Torture. However, there is no guaranteed right to government appointed counsel for these hearings. Efforts to provide legal assistance to children

Issues for Congress, Congressional Research Service, May 6, 2014, <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41731> and Human Rights Watch, *Mexico's Disappeared*, 2/20/2013, <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2013/02/20/mexicos-disappeared-0>

¹⁵ The U.S. Department of Homeland Security currently takes the position that domestic violence can be grounds for refugee status in the U.S. See, http://immigrantjustice.org/sites/immigrantjustice.org/files/Matter%20of%20ACG_DHS%20Motion%20to%20Remand.pdf.

¹⁶ UNHCR, *Children on the Run*, *infra*, note 10.

¹⁷ *Ibid*

¹⁸ Shear and Peters, *NYTimes*, *infra*, note 8; Preston, *NY Times*, *infra*, note 3

¹⁹ Credible fear interviews are described by the U.S. government at <http://www.uscis.gov/faq-page/credible-fear-faq>; For a critique of the conduct of credible fear interviews by the American Immigration Council, see: "Mexican and Central American Asylum and Credible Fear Claims: Background and Context, 5/21/2014, <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/special-reports/mexican-and-central-american-asylum-and-credible-fear-claims-background-and-context>.

²⁰ See provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), explained at Congressional Research Service, *Unaccompanied Alien Children: An Overview*, June 2014, at. p. 5, <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/R43599.pdf>

depend heavily on private sector funding and volunteers.²¹ A recent study based on Government data found that 47% of children represented by attorneys in removal proceedings were permitted to stay in the United States, as opposed to just 10% of unrepresented children.²²

Among both Mexican and Central American children, the majority who appear at hearings to determine their eligibility for protection are not represented by counsel. Facing immigration judges alone, they are easily pressured into “voluntarily” waiving their rights to seek protection, through a failure to understand their rights, an incapacity to assert those rights, or the intimidation and pressures of being detained.²³ Without legal representation, their right to due process is severely diminished, resulting in the risk of a violation to a right to life, security of the person and the rights of children, as stated by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.²⁴ Many of the children suffer from untreated psychological effects of the violence and trauma they fled from in their home countries and experienced on their paths to the United States. Such children may be unable to assert claims for protection without legal counsel and without prior psychological or medical treatment, precisely because of the damage done to them by the harms which make them eligible for international protection or protection under U.S. law.²⁵

Legislation currently pending in the U.S. Congress threatens to subject children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico to the same summary procedures currently applied to Mexican children. Legislation currently pending in the U.S. Congress would deprive both Central American and Mexican children to a meaningful consideration of their right to international protection, as established in international instruments ratified by the United States of America.²⁶

STATEMENT OF PETITION

1. The human rights of the Beneficiaries have been violated and are at risk of further violation

The current policies towards children from Mexico and the possible application of expedited or accelerated procedures for Central American children are intended, by the U.S. Government, to deter more children from seeking protection in the U.S.²⁷ These policies of deterrence in the face of an acknowledged humanitarian crisis would violate Petitioners’ rights to fundamental due process, to personal security, for special protection of children, and their right to live with their

²¹ See *infra*, note 3.

²² Transactional Access Records Clearinghouse (TRAC), Syracuse University, “New Data on Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Court,” July 2014, <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/359/>.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Family Pacheco Tineo v. Plurinational State of Bolivia*, Judgment, November 25, 2013, ¶ 128 – 160.

²⁵ Julia Preston, “Rush to Deport Young Children Could Trample Asylum Claims,” *New York Times*, 7/19/2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/20/us/rush-to-deport-young-migrants-could-trample-asylum-claims-.html?_r=0.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Julia Preston, “Obama to seek funds to stem border crossings and speed deportations,” *New York Times*, 6/28/2014, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/us/obama-to-seek-funds-to-stem-border-crossings-and-speed-deportations.html?action=click&contentCollection=U.S.&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=Marginalia&pgtype=article>.

families in contravention of Articles I, VII, XVII, XXVI, and XXVII of the American Declaration.

Article I provides for the right to life, liberty, and security of person. U.S. government policies which deprive children of an opportunity to make a meaningful claim for protection violate the children's rights to life and security. Under current procedures, children from Mexico placed in summary proceedings are under an ongoing and immediate risk to their lives and security. Children from Central America who appear before judges without benefit of counsel are under an ongoing and immediate risk to their lives and security.

Article VII grants children the right to "special protection, care, and aid." U.S. government policies to return Mexican children immediately to Mexico, to detain Central American children in detention facilities, and to subject all such children to "fast track" hearings or interviews, or adversarial hearings without the benefit of counsel and other guarantees of due process would violate the rights of children to special protection, care, and aid.²⁸

Article XXVII grants every person the right to seek and receive asylum in a foreign territory. U.S. government policies which would deprive Mexican and Central American children of a meaningful opportunity to present their claims for protection as refugees under the United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Treatment of Refugees or under the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment violate their right to seek and receive asylum.

Furthermore, the failure to properly consider the children's claims for protection and subjecting them to summary deportation may violate their rights under the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Treatment of Refugees (Article 33, prohibiting refoulement/ return to a country where the person has a well-founded fear of persecution from which the state is unable or unwilling to protect him or her) and the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Article 4 which prohibits the return of persons to a territory in which there is a reasonable likelihood they would be subjected to torture). The United States is a Party to both the treaties cited herein. Both of these treaty obligations have been codified into U.S. law and are binding on the United States.²⁹

The proposed and current policies of hearings without the benefit of counsel and/or accelerated hearings of any type would punish arriving children, supposedly to deter future children seeking protection. This is a policy that is illegal, as a violation of the fundamental human rights of the children, and immoral.

²⁸ See Shani M. King, *Alone and Unrepresented: A Call to Congress to Provide Counsel for Unaccompanied Minors*, 50 Harv. J. Legis. 331 (Summer 2013) (arguing for a right to free counsel for unaccompanied minors under international human rights law).

²⁹ Refugee/asylum status, at 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42)(A) and 8 U.S.C. § 1158; withholding of deportation under Convention Against Torture, at 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(3).

2. The Beneficiaries' situation merits a grant of precautionary measures.

Under Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,³⁰ the Commission may, at the request of a party, call upon a State to adopt precautionary measures. Such measures shall concern serious and urgent situations presenting a risk of irreparable harm to persons. The Commission must consider whether the following criteria for precautionary measures are fulfilled:

- 1) that the facts support a finding that there exists a “serious situation” in which the actions (or inactions of a State) will have “a grave impact... on a protected right.”³¹
- 2) that there is an “urgent situation,” i.e. [a] “risk or threat that is imminent and can materialize, thus requiring immediate preventive or protective action;”³² and
- 3) that the Beneficiaries of the petition for precautionary measures are at risk of “irreparable harm,” defined as [an] “injury to rights which, due to their nature, would not be susceptible to reparation, restoration or adequate compensation.”³³

In the instant petition, the United States seeks to return the Beneficiaries to their home countries without a meaningful opportunity to make a claim for protection under international treaties (to which the United States is a party) or under U.S. domestic law. If they are returned to their home countries, they face a high likelihood of persecution, torture, or other forms of abuse or neglect. Their deportation will have a grave impact on their rights to life and security of person, thus meeting the criterion of a “serious situation” as set forth above.

This is an “urgent situation,” as defined in the Inter-American Commission Rules, as the United States has already begun to apply summary procedures to Mexican children resulting in their return to Mexico and has deported Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran children without a meaningful opportunity to claim protection.³⁴

Finally, that their deportation would expose these children to the risk of death, torture, or other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment such as kidnapping or rape, or constantly living under the threat of such harm, constitutes a threat of irreparable harm if precautionary measures are not directed at the United States.

³⁰ *Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Title II, Procedure; Chapter 1, General Provisions; Article 25, Precautionary Measures, *as amended* March 2013.

³¹ *Ibid*, Article 25, Section 2.a.

³² *Ibid*, Article 25, Section 2.b.

³³ *Ibid*, Article 25, Section 2.c.

³⁴ On July 18, 2014, the U.S. deported three groups of mothers and children detained in the Artesia, New Mexico, detention center to their countries of origin: to Honduras, thirty minor children, six months to fifteen years old, and twenty six mothers; to Guatemala, seven minor children ages two to sixteen years and five mothers; and to El Salvador, four minor children, ages four to fourteen years and four mothers. Gabriel Stargardter, “U.S. steps up deportation of Central American child migrants,” *Reuters*, 7/18/2014, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/19/us-usa-immigration-flights-idUSKBN0FN2L120140719>.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Petitioners urgently request the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights to issue precautionary measures which are urgently needed to protect the lives and security, and the rights of children, of the Beneficiaries who have been, are or will be apprehended by United States authorities at or near the U.S. Mexico border. Petitioners request that the Inter-American Commission order the United States to cease the expulsion and return to their home countries of Beneficiaries without due consideration of their rights to protection and their right to asylum.

Respectfully submitted,

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