

**Petition to the United States Authority:
Respect for the Right to Seek Asylum**

December 11, 2018

Respectfully addressed to:

Donald Trump, President of the United States of American,
Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security,
Sidney Aki, San Ysidro Port Director, CBP,
Sandy Carrillo, San Ysidro Port Assistant Director, CBP,
Kevin McAleenan, Commissioner of the Office of Customs and Border Protection,

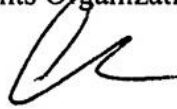
We, the members of the hunger strike and of the Central American Exodus, alongside human rights defenders, urgently request that you consider the following proposal. If this situation is left unattended, the danger and vulnerability that members of this exodus are suffering in Tijuana will only increase while their full right to seek asylum in the USA in accordance with domestic and international law continues to be ignored.

According to the United States Federal Code Title 8, Section 1225, any individual who has a fear of, returning to their country of origin has the right to approach a port of entry in the United States and be received immediately to begin the process of requesting asylum and be protected from persecution. Logistically, the San Ysidro ports of entry consist of two pedestrian bridges: El Chaparral "PedWest" pedestrian bridge, with the capacity to process and detain more than 300 people at a time, and the new "PedEast" pedestrian bridge, with a larger capacity to process and hold hundreds of people at a time (exact capacity unknown). Despite this large port capacity, and even in the context of the arrival of thousands of Central American asylum seekers from the Exodus to Tijuana, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in San Ysidro has intentionally maintained the number of asylum seekers processed at an **inconceivable** average of **50 per day**. In consideration of logistical issues such as space, personnel, etc., we request an immediate increase in the number of asylum seekers processed to **300 people per day** at the San Ysidro ports of entry, keeping in mind that this number also fails to comply with the law, which guarantees the immediate processing of any asylum seeker.

In the meantime, families, women and children who have fled our countries continue to suffer and the civil society of Tijuana continues to be forced to confront this humanitarian crisis, a refugee crisis caused in great part by decades of US intervention in Central America.

Respectfully,

Members of the Central American Exodus and Accompanying Human Rights Organizations

Received 
Dec. 11 2018