

Thank you Madame President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report on “pushbacks” and their impact to the human rights of migrants.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that the principle of non-refoulement is characterized by its absolute nature without any exception. However, we are concerned that the practice to return migrants is performed without an individual assessment and in contexts of militarization of borders, particularly in the United States, Mexico and Guatemala.

We have witnessed an excessive increase of military and security personnel in migratory verification and control tasks.

From June 2019 to December 2020, the military and the Mexican National Guard detained 152.000 migrants on the southern border, including 27.000 children.<sup>[1]</sup> In Guatemala, the Border Patrol has detained and immediately returned migrants, especially during the “caravans” in September 2020 and January 2021, without allowing them to request international protection. These detentions and returns are made with an excessive, arbitrary, and indiscriminate use of force. For these reasons, we are concern by current negotiations between the United States, Mexico and Guatemala on increasing the militarization of their borders. <sup>[2]</sup>

Finally, there are hostilities, harassment, surveillance, defamation and aggressions against human right defenders, shelters and spaces supporting migrants, even during the pandemic.

It is urgent that the Council calls on Mexico, the United States and Guatemala to comply with their international obligations and to stop detaining and returning migrants and asylum seekers.

Thank you Madam President.

#### **Co-signed by the following organisations**

1. Asamblea Ciudadana contra la Corrupción y la Impunidad - ACCI
2. Acción EcuMénica por los Derechos Humanos(AEDH)
3. Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos A.C. (ASILEGAL)
4. Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Francisco de Vitoria O.P” A.C
5. Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova A.C.
6. Colectiva Luna Celaya
7. Colectivo de Observación y Monitoreo de Derechos Humanos en el Sureste Mexicano
8. Congregations of St. Joseph
9. Dominicans for Justice and Peace
10. Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC-SJ)
11. Franciscans International
12. Frontera con Justicia A. C. [Casa del Migrante Saltillo]
13. Fundación Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual.
14. Grupo belga 'Solidair met Guatemala'
15. Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology

16. JPIC Familia Franciscana - Guatemala
17. JPIC HFIC Provincia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
18. JPIC México- Hogar Franciscano
19. Kino Border Initiative
20. La 72, Hogar-Refugio para personas migrantes
21. Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
22. Peace Brigades International
23. Programa de Asuntos Migratorios Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México
24. Protección Internacional Mesoamérica
25. Quixote Center
26. Red Franciscana para Migrantes en Centroamérica, México y Estados Unidos
27. Red Jesuita con Migrantes Centro Norteamérica (RJM-CANA)
28. Red Jesuita con Migrantes - Guatemala
29. Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC
30. Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos" - México
31. Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados
32. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

(viewed 22 June 2021) <https://gt.usembassy.gov/es/declaracion-de-la-reunion-virtual-de-la-vicepresidente-kamala-harris-con-el-presidente-alejandro-giammattei/> [1] “Declaración de la Reunión Virtual de la Vicepresidente Kamala Harris con el Presidente Alejandro Giammattei” Office of the US Vicepresident, 26 April 2021,

[1] Storr, Samuel, “La militarización de las fronteras”, 24 March 2021, <https://seguridadvivienda.iberomexico.mx/2021/03/24/la-militarizacion-de-las-fronteras/> (viewed 22 June 2021)