



LATIN AMERICA
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EDUCATION FUND



Physicians for
Human Rights

In coordination with

the offices of Representative Veronica Escobar (TX-16) and Representative Frederica Wilson (FL-24)

and

the Latin America Working Group Education Fund (LAWGEF), Amnesty International (AI USA), the Haitian Bridge Alliance, Oxfam America, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)

Virtual Congressional Briefing on

“U.S. Deportations and Expulsions During the COVID-19 Pandemic”

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

3-4pm EST

U.S. deportation and expulsion practices are exacerbating the spread of COVID-19 while forcibly returning people seeking safety to instability and danger. Since the onset of the pandemic, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been deporting individuals from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities with ongoing outbreaks and where over half of detainees have already tested positive for COVID-19. People are being returned to countries whose already strained healthcare systems could collapse as a result of COVID-19, where they face stigma, persecution, rights-abusing quarantine regimes, and repressive measures. More than 100 deported migrants from the United States have been confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19. At the same time, the administration has unlawfully expelled more than 20,000 people—including more than 900 unaccompanied children—under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order, now extended indefinitely, which violates domestic and international law.

Opening remarks: Representative Veronica Escobar (TX-16) and Representative Frederica Wilson (FL-24)

Moderator: Daniella Burgi-Palomino, Co-director, Latin America Working Group Education Fund (LAWGEF)

Speakers:

Charanya Krishnaswami, Americas Director, Amnesty International USA

Lisa Frydman, Vice President for International Programs, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Noah Bullock, Executive Director, Cristosal, El Salvador

Guerline Jozèf, Co-founder and Executive Director, Haitian Bridge Alliance

Sabrina Salomon, Attorney representing Haitian deported migrant

Dr. Michele Heisler, Medical Director, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)