

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: media@justiceinmotion.org

Justice in Motion denounces the Trump administration's attempt to unlawfully deport unaccompanied migrant children

"We will not stand by while the second Trump administration repeats the havoc of the first, running roughshod over the rights of children, imperilling their safety and inflicting emotional abuse that will scar them for life."

NEW YORK — Over Labor Day weekend, the [Trump administration attempted to illegally expel Guatemalan children who entered the U.S. unaccompanied](#) by a parent or guardian. Justice in Motion Executive Director Cathleen Caron issued the following statement in response:

"Justice in Motion unequivocally denounces the Trump administration's attempts to deport unaccompanied children in violation of well established procedures in the U.S. under well-established law and procedure.

"Our government must prioritize the safety and well-being of children. The abrupt, attempted removal of Guatemalan children this past weekend — some as young as 10 years of age who were woken up at 4:30am and told to prepare for transport — has inflicted trauma on the most vulnerable among us.

"Expelling children who are seeking protection before they have a chance to go through the longstanding legal protections not only violates their fundamental human rights but is also a direct affront to the rights of children, family autonomy, and the rule of law. Lawyers should not have to seek judicial intervention in the middle of the night to stop the government from flagrantly disregarding well established procedures.

"The Trump administration's claim that they were trying to reunite the minors with their families is shameless. A recent Guatemalan government report [contradicts](#) U.S. officials' assertions. The truth is this move was [yet another](#) unlawful attempt by the administration to undermine the right to due process.

"We demand immediate and full transparency with regard to the treatment of unaccompanied minors in federal custody. We will not stand by while the second Trump administration repeats the havoc of the first, running roughshod over the rights of children, imperilling their safety and causing them to suffer from emotional abuse that will scar them for life.

"We stand with these children and will continue to advocate for their rights and dignity."

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[Justice in Motion](#) protects migrant rights by ensuring justice across borders. Our unique network of on-the-ground human rights defenders in Mexico and Central America partner with U.S. advocates to make sure that wherever migrants go, their rights will follow.