

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2023

Contact: Loretta Kane (917-410-4272 or loretta@caminopr.com)

Justice in Motion welcomes end of Title 42, urges Biden administration to protect migrants' right to seek asylum

NEW YORK — [Title 42](#) was implemented in March 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic to prevent the spread of Covid-19 within [crowded immigration facilities](#). However, [human rights advocates](#) argued the real purpose of the policy was to [close the U.S.-Mexico border](#) to migrants. Today, as Title 42 restrictions come to an end, Justice in Motion Executive Director Cathleen Caron issued the following statement to pressure the Biden administration to enact policies to protect asylum seekers' human rights:

“Candidate Biden promised to fix our broken immigration policies. Yet since he has taken office, [2.3 million](#) migrants have been expelled from the U.S. southern border under Title 42 without the ability to seek asylum. Those stranded at our southern border are put in grave danger. Since the beginning of the Biden administration, human rights advocates documented at least [13,480 reports](#) of murder, torture, kidnapping, rape and other violent attacks against migrants and asylum seekers blocked in or expelled to [Mexico](#). And those are only the atrocities that get counted; an untold number of attacks are never reported.

“The end of Title 42 was an opportunity for President Biden to keep his promise and for the U.S. to make desperately needed immigration policy reforms that protect the human rights of migrants. Yet, rather than fix the problem, the administration has replaced one asylum ban for another. Similar to Title 42, the ‘[Circumvention of Lawful Pathways](#)’ final rule is a de facto ban on asylum seekers who enter the U.S. at the southern border. This ban takes effect today.

“Biden’s asylum ban backtracks on his campaign promises and is a betrayal of American values. The heartless practice of shutting out asylum seekers is an affront to national and international law — and an immoral response to people whose very lives depend on finding a safe haven.

“The Biden administration has the opportunity to right the historic wrongs committed under Title 42 by implementing policies which protect human rights and meet our legal obligations. We urge the Biden administration to ensure that migrants can seek protection at our borders without having to overcome unnecessary and cruel barriers. A policy that returns migrants to dangerous conditions is not a solution for anyone.”

###

[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.