Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán,

We write to you to express our deep concern for the protection of human rights in our nation's immigration system, specifically on our southern border.

Mistreatment and expulsion of migrants and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border, border policing abuses, and the surveillance and detention of migrants, including children and families, all violate basic human rights. The Biden administration's continued use of failed deterrence and enforcement-focused policies such as rapid expulsions without due process, the "Remain in Mexico" program, asylum bans, illegal border turnbacks, and overly rushed asylum processing are obstacles that force people to cross in more remote and dangerous regions of the borderlands, exposing them to injuries and deaths.

In short, this approach has led to an increase in fatalities. While under the Trump administration, deaths in the US southern borderlands reached up to an already unacceptable 300 people each fiscal year, under the Biden administration, the number of people who have died surpassed 800 in fiscal year 2022 alone.

We learn about these abuses from the news media and human rights organizations, but this is also very personal for many of us, because friends and family, classmates and neighbors have been caught up in this inhumane U.S. immigration system.

It is time to create a better, humane, and rights-respecting welcoming process at our borders. For decades we have relied too much on punitive and carceral approaches that add to harms already experienced by the families and children seeking safety at our borders. We are better than this. We ask you to continue taking a leadership role to protect human rights in our nation's immigration system and to be a voice for human dignity.

Sincerely,

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