

NO SAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENTS WITH CENTRAL AMERICA

In July 2019, the Guatemalan Interior Minister and the acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security signed an **Asylum Cooperation Agreement, also known as a "safe third country agreement."** This signing came after the Guatemalan Constitutional Court ordered former President Morales not to sign the agreement without congressional approval. After Trump threatened to ban Guatemalans with lawful U.S. visas and to tax remittances, Morales sent his Interior Minister to sign. In the following weeks, El Salvador and Honduras signed similar agreements.

The agreements give the U.S. power to deport asylum-seekers to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador even if they are not from these countries. By deporting asylum-seekers to countries they are not from and to places where they may face danger, the U.S. denies them protection and violates international refugee law.

"People flee Guatemala due to the violent imposition of resource extraction without consultation. Now, the state wants to deport asylum-seekers to Indigenous territory without consultation. The state does not care for Guatemalans, how will it care for migrants that the U.S. wants to throw away?"

- Ruben Herrera, Departmental Assembly of Peoples of Huehuetenango (ADH)

WHAT WE KNOW:

- 1.** No Indigenous peoples in Guatemala were consulted about the deportation of asylum-seekers to their territories.
- 2.** New Guatemalan President Giammattei chose to move forward with the agreement shortly after taking office. He may negotiate aspects of the agreement, but the core will remain.
- 3.** Neither the U.S. nor Guatemalan Congress have approved the agreement.
- 4.** The agreements are already the target of multiple legal cases, most notably by the ACLU.

QUESTIONS THAT REMAIN:

- 1.** How are Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador going to receive, process, and care for the people who are deported?
- 2.** How will the U.S. respond when asylum-seekers it deports suffer persecution, torture, and death?
- 3.** How are the agreements being funded?

BY THE NUMBERS:

697

people deported to Guatemala under this agreement*

14

deportees who have sought asylum in Guatemala*

12

Guatemala's refugee commission staff when agreement was signed

62,000

Salvadorans and Hondurans who sought U.S. asylum in 2018

*as of printing

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

1. EDUCATE YOURSELF & OTHERS

Despite state efforts to obscure information about the agreements, resources exist. We recommend:

- "The dangers of Trump's 'safe third country' agreements in Central America" by AFSC
- "Policy Memo: U.S.-Central America Asylum Agreements are Cruel and Unworkable" by WOLA, LAWG, AFL-CIO, KIND, Alianza Américas, Women's Refugee Commission, and Center for Gender and Refugee Studies

2. SUPPORT OUR 2020 TOUR

"Ancestral Movements: Indigenous Territory and Migration"

with Silvia Raquec, Migration Program Coordinator of Association Pop No'j



ALBUQUERQUE, NM:
April 14-15
WEBINAR: April 16
TUCSON, AZ: April 17-21
LOS ANGELES, CA: April 22-24

While state forces threaten their safety and dignity, **Indigenous peoples and migrants resist with creativity and resilience.** Join us to learn about resource extraction, migration, and the work of Indigenous peoples to build a world beyond colonial borders.

3. SIGN THE PETITION

"The Asylum Cooperation Agreements, also known as "safe third country agreements" that were signed between the U.S. and the northern countries of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) in 2019 threaten the security and dignity of migrants, and are a violation of the sovereignty of these countries. **The U.S. Congress should do everything within its power to stop the implementation of these Asylum Cooperation Agreements.**"

Text the word "action" to 415-223-5237 to sign or go to www.nisgua.org/take-action

4. CONTACT CONGRESS

We need serious people power to stop these agreements. Call, email, and meet with your congressperson to pressure them to:

DEFUND THE AGREEMENTS

All members of Congress should prohibit funds from being used to implement these agreements. The appropriations subcommittees in charge of the budgets for the State Department and Homeland Security should include the following language in the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill: **"None of these funds may be used for the implementation of the Asylum Cooperation Agreements between the U.S., Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras."**

DEMAND MORE INFORMATION

All members of Congress should demand more information about the signing, funding, and implementation of the agreements.

TAKE A STAND

All congresspeople should declare their opposition to the agreements as a threat to safety, human dignity, and Central American sovereignty.

Visit www.nisgua.org/take-action for more information, strategy, resources, and tools.