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PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Juan Rivera

Director of Marketing & Communications

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT RULES TO KEEP SENDING ASYLUM SEEKERS BACK TO MEXICO

San Francisco - May 9, 2019 - The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled to overturn a lower court's injunction of the Trump administration's "Migrant Protection Protocol" policy also known as MPP or "Remain in Mexico." Due to this ruling, immigration officials can keep sending asylum seekers back to Mexico, where they will be forced to wait as their immigration court proceedings move forward.

"This is truly disappointing news and a major blow to organizations who care about protecting immigrant rights and Due Process" said Laura Sanchez, Director of Immigration Legal Services at CARECEN San Francisco. "This policy goes against national and international laws established to protect asylum seekers and places migrants in great danger" Sanchez explained.

"The MPP policy requires the cooperation of Mexico, which makes both countries equally responsible for violating international laws, and human rights" said Lariza Dugan-Cuadra, Executive Director of CARECEN San Francisco. Dugan-Cuadra went on to say that "Addressing the root causes of migration, requires investing our resources differently and in a way that lifts humanity. It requires working toward a new immigration policy agenda that is grounded in transnational understanding, inclusion and support of Latino/Latin American & immigrant communities in general, across borders."

A lower court is set to rule on the merits of the case, which could yield a positive outcome for the ACLU and the other plaintiffs. If successful, the ruling will most likely be appealed by the Trump administration and may result in the case going all the way to the Supreme Court.

The lawsuit against the Trump administration's so called "Migrant Protection Protocol" was filed by The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies on behalf of 11 individual asylum seekers represented by the co-plaintiffs in the case Innovation Law Lab, CARECEN SF, Centro Legal de la Raza, the University of San Francisco School of Law Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic, Al Otro Lado, and the Tahirih Justice Center.

CARECENSF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life.

Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.

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