

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2023

CARECEN SF STATEMENT REGARDING FIRE AT CIUDAD JUAREZ MIGRANT DETENTION CENTER

San Francisco, California – CARECEN SF expresses its outrage for the tragic deaths of 39 people in a fire at a migrant detention facility in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on Monday March 27, 2023. We are appalled at how guards left the victims to burn in their cells as fire spread throughout the building.

We are aware that this is part of a pattern of consistent human rights violations. As the United States has effectively externalized its border and implemented cruel actions aimed at deterring migration from Central and South America – leaving Mexico to deal with people trying to reach the U.S. – migrants have been subjected to widespread abuses, often by criminal networks but also all too often by Mexican authorities according to documented reports and media coverage.

CARECEN SF has long called to account the U.S. government for the many ways that migrants have been mistreated here. We do not shy from speaking out on abuses that migrants face in Mexico or any other country around the globe.

We recognize that Mexico faces challenges protecting those seeking refuge there and others in transit to the United States. And we firmly demand that the Mexican authorities ensure justice, transparency and accountability for the victims and their families.

We join people on the migratory journey, advocates, faith groups, and greater allies in calling governments across the Americas to accountability for the shared obligation to protect the physical integrity, right to migrate, to seek protection, and justice in countries of origin, transit and destination.

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CARECEN SF 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.