

PREVENTING ONWARD REFOULEMENT OF U.S. REMOVALS IN MEXICO.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROTECT NON-
MEXICAN NATIONALS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED
PROTECTIVE STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mexico has received a significant number of non-Mexican nationals through removals from the United States amidst the second Trump administration's unprecedented use of third-country removals, including individuals previously granted protection in the United States due to persecution or torture in their home country. Such previously granted protections include asylum, withholding of removal protections, and protections under the Convention Against Torture (CAT). Some individuals may be unable to have the merits of their asylum claim assessed by a U.S. immigration judge and may not have been granted formal status despite qualifying for protection under domestic and international law. The removal of non-Mexican nationals to Mexico is occurring in the absence of a transparent agreement that governs procedure and ensures safeguards. These removals have not only created substantial risk amongst a vulnerable population but have also resulted in documented instances of chain refoulement.

This report begins by providing background on the present third-country regime and the international law obligation of non-refoulement. The report then details U.S. protective statuses and identifies the legal issues surrounding third-country removals, particularly as they relate to the threat of refoulement of protected individuals. Next, the report details the due process requirements that were previously followed by the U.S. government prior to removing those with protective status to third countries. The report subsequently explains that Mexico's legal framework already provides non-refoulement protections parallel to those of the United States. A lack of mechanisms to identify and process these individuals, however, undermines the effectiveness of these protections. In turn, this report advocates for three policy changes: (1) that Mexico not permit the removal of third-country nationals from the United States to Mexico, as the current model risks violation of non-refoulement obligation and exposes vulnerable individuals to serious harm; (2) that if Mexico does continue to accept third-country removals, it ensure that formal written agreements effectively guarantee due process and non-refoulement; and (3) that if Mexico continues to accept third-country removals under the present model, El Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) and the Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (COMAR) implement a screening process to ensure vulnerable individuals are identified and responded to accordingly.

Adopting such recommendations would give Mexico necessary control over the transfer process, increase the efficiency of case processing in Mexico, and ensure compliance with its legal obligations.



1. BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the second Trump administration in January 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) “issued a directive encouraging the increased use of third-country removals against individuals granted withholding of removal and ... protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT).”¹

Under this administration, third-country removals have been conducted in an unprecedented manner, unlike any other country² or previous administrations.³ Within the administration’s first year alone, the United States entered into deportation agreements with twenty-seven countries, resulting in an estimated 17,500 third-country removals.⁴ These figures continue to grow.⁵ Mexico has emerged as the epicenter of third-country removals; since Donald Trump assumed the presidency of the United States on January 20, 2025, and through May 15, 2026, Mexico has received 17,990 deported individuals from third countries, which is equivalent to an average of approximately 1,100 people per month. These figures suggest the existence of coordination mechanisms between both countries for the deportation and reception of nationals of certain countries within Mexican territory.

1. *Updates on Third Country Removals and the D.V.D. Litigation*, Cath. Legal Immigr. Network, Inc. (June 26, 2025), <https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/removal-proceedings/updates-third-country-removals-and-dvd-litigation>.

2. The United States “stands out as one of the first democracies to operationalize third-country removals at scale as part of a broader mass deportation strategy.” While other countries have pursued formal agreements or have failed to do so because of legal and political challenges, the United States has conducted third-country removal on an unprecedented and largely unchecked scale. This report will proceed to detail the third-country removal process in the United States, but here are some key examples of efforts by other nations: Australia maintains active third-country removal agreements and has sent a total of 186 people offshore between 2022 and 2026. Between 2014 and 2017, Israel removed 4,110 Eritrean and Sudanese individuals to Rwanda and Uganda under written third-country removal agreements. The scheme collapsed entirely by 2018 when Rwanda withdrew, Uganda denied any agreement existed, and the State admitted it had no operative procedure to forcibly deport anyone. The United Kingdom signed an agreement with Rwanda in 2022 to deport individuals seeking asylum in the United Kingdom to Rwanda. No individual was ever deported via this agreement as the European Court of Human Rights stalled the plan, and the UK Supreme Court found it unlawful, as Rwanda was found to not constitute a safe third-country. The European Union allows for third-country removal so long as the rights and dignity of the third-country national is respected. In the fourth quarter of 2025, 33,860 third-country removals were conducted across the European Union. 58.9% of these returns were voluntary. See Jacqueline Metzler, *What Are Third-Country Deportations, and Why Is Trump Using Them?*, Council on Foreign Relations (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.cfr.org/articles/what-are-third-country-deportations-and-why-trump-using-them/>; *Offshore Processing Statistics*, Refugee Council of Austl., <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/2/> (last updated Feb. 8, 2026); Anat Guthmann, *The “Voluntary” Departure and Israel’s plan for deportation to third countries*, Hotline for Refugees and Migrants (June 2018), <https://hotline.org.il/en/refugees-and-asylum-seekers-en/voluntary-departure/>; Poppy Bullen and Naomi Bartram, *Rwanda Plan explained: Why the UK Government Shouldn’t Be Sending Refugees Anywhere*, Int’l Rescue Comm. (June 13, 2022), <https://www.rescue.org/uk/article/rwanda-plan-explained-why-uk-government-should-rethink-scheme>; Peter William Walsh, *Q&A: The UK’s former policy to send asylum seekers to Rwanda*, U. of Oxford: Migration Observatory (July 25, 2024), <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/commentaries/qa-the-uks-policy-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda/>; Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on Common Standards and Procedures in Member States for Returning Illegally Staying Third-Country Nationals, 2008 O.J. (L 348) (“That European return policy should be based on common standards, for persons to be returned in a humane manner and with full respect for their fundamental rights and dignity, as well as international law, including refugee protection and human rights obligations.”); *Returns to Third Countries Up by 13% in Q4 2025*, Eurostat (Mar. 31, 2026), <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20260331-1>; Alessia Peretti, *Returns of Migrants from the EU to Third Countries Have Risen by 13 Per Cent*, EU News (Mar. 31, 2026), <https://www.eunews.it/en/2026/03/31/returns-of-migrants-from-the-eu-to-third-countries-have-risen-by-13-per-cent/>.

3. The practice of third-country removal was a rare and individualized mechanism for most of U.S. history. See Ariel Soto, *U.S. Third-Country Deportation Agreements Are More About Fear than Numbers*, Migration Pol’y Inst. (2026), (“[H]ow [the Trump administration] has negotiated and leveraged third-country agreements in its second term marks a sharp turn, both in degree of emphasis and in rationale.”). Though the legal permissibility of removing protected migrants to third countries has never been categorically foreclosed as illegal, the practice remained untested. Then, the first Trump administration tested the concept of third-country removals with Asylum Cooperation Agreements with Central American Countries and Migrant Protection Protocols with Mexico. The Biden administration continued to use third-country removal in a more limited context, narrower in scope and scale than the second Trump administration. The present use of third-country removal has posed significant domestic and international legal challenges. The third-country removal practices of the second Trump administration have taken “a sharp turn, both in degree of emphasis and in rationale.” *What are Third-Country Removals?* Am. Immigr. Council, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/what-are-third-country-removals-factsheet/>; María del Pilar Cazali, *Safe Third Country Agreements: Leave Central American Migration to the U.S.*, U. de Navarra: Global Affs. & Strategic Stud., <https://en.unav.edu/web/global-affairs/fracasados-los-acuerdos-de-tercer-pais-seguro-el-triangulo-norte-bate-record-de-migrantes-hacia-eeuu>; Anna MacLennan, *Trump Administration’s Third Country Removals Put Migrants in Harm’s Way*, Int’l Refugee Assistance Project, <https://refugeerights.org/news-resources/trump-administrations-third-country-removals-put-migrants-in-harms-way/> (“Historically, third country removals have been used infrequently; when the Biden administration increased their use, it was only of limited nationalities to Mexico – still legally problematic but different in kind from removals continents away. The scale, cruelty, and global expansion of the Trump administration’s third country removals is egregious, unprecedented, and an alarming abuse of power.”); *D.V.D. v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, (D. Mass. 2025) (order granting relief) (finding third-country removal procedures likely unconstitutional for lack of due process protections). Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, *U.S. Third-Country Deportation Agreements Are More About Fear than Numbers*, Migration Pol’y Inst. (Mar. 2026), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/us-third-country-deportation-agreements>. See also *Third Country Deportations Tracker*, U.S. Comm. for Refugees & Immigrants, <https://refugees.org/tcdtracker/> (last updated Dec. 12, 2025) (“The U.S. scheme is not the only third country deportation scheme proposed or in place around the world. However, it is distinct in several ways, from the lack of advance notice provided to noncitizens prior to deportation, denial of a meaningful opportunity to challenge the deportation, to the withdrawal of responsibility of the individual post-deportation.”).

4. *U.S. Third-Country Deportation Agreements Are More About Fear than Numbers*, Migration Pol’y Inst. (Mar. 2026), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/us-third-country-deportation-agreements>.

5. *Human Rights First & Refugees International, Human Rights First and Refugees International Third Country Deportation Watch Details Scope, Secrecy, and Human Toll of Third Country Transfer Agreements*, Human Rights First (May 5, 2026), <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/human-rights-first-and-refugees-international-third-country-deportation-watch-details-scope-secrecy-and-human-toll-of-third-country-transfer-agreements/> (finding as of May 5, 2026, 17,400 people have been removed to third countries, with agreements with over 30 countries).



Map 1. Mexican states that have received deported third-country nationals, January 20, 2025 – May 15, 2026.



Note. Some people, depending on their vulnerability, are transferred to Mexico City.

Source. Information access requests submitted to the National Migration Institute with folio: 340020300029826 y 340020300066326.

During this period, Mexico received deported individuals of seven nationalities: Cuba, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Haiti. The majority consists of adults, primarily Cuban and Venezuelan men, who account for nearly two-thirds of the total registered deportations. Out of the total number of deported individuals, 3,756 were women (20.9%) and 802 were children and adolescents (4.5%). In the first four months of 2026 alone, the country received 4,669 deported third-country nationals.⁶ No publicly available agreements govern the terms of removals between the United States and Mexico.⁷ This has raised significant concerns that removals are not operating in accordance with international and domestic legal obligations.⁸

The mounting legal and humanitarian concerns are further compounded by the United States removing particularly vulnerable people to third countries like Mexico.⁹ Among those removed are individuals who have been granted withholding of removal and protection under CAT in the United States.¹⁰ Such U.S. legal statuses reflect an official determination by a U.S. immigration judge that these individuals would more likely than not face persecution or torture if returned to their country of origin. Furthermore, the population of vulnerable individuals removed to Mexico extends beyond those who have already been

6. These figures were obtained by the Institute for Women in Migration (IMUMI) via public records requests submitted to the National Migration Institute (INM) under reference numbers 340020300029826 and 340020300066326.

7. *What Are Third-Country Removals? Understanding Their Use in U.S. Immigration Policy* (Fact Sheet), Am. Immigr. Council (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/what-are-third-country-removals-factsheet/>; see also *Human Rights First & Refugees International, Human Rights First and Refugees International Third Country Deportation Watch Details Scope, Secrecy, and Human Toll of Third Country Transfer Agreements*, Human Rights First (May 5, 2026), <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/human-rights-first-and-refugees-international-third-country-deportation-watch-details-scope-secrecy-and-human-toll-of-third-country-transfer-agreements/> (“The Trump Administration has failed to make many agreements public, despite requirements under the Case Zablacki Act.”).

8. *Court Finds Trump Administration’s Third-Country Removal Policy Is Unlawful, Vacates the Policy*, Human Rights First (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/court-finds-trump-administrations-third-country-removal-policy-is-unlawful-vacates-the-policy/>; *México No Es un Tercer País Seguro: La Soberanía y los Derechos Humanos como Prioridad*, Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI) (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://imumi.org/sala-prensa/mexico-no-es-un-tercer-pais-seguro-la-soberania-y-los-derechos-humanos-como-prioridad/>.

9. *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico’s Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees Int’l (Feb. 27, 2026), <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/> (“Many of the third country nationals deported to Mexico under Trump are long-term residents who entered the United States many years ago, often legally, and including those granted withholding or deferral of removal after proving to U.S. immigration judges that they would likely be persecuted or tortured if sent to their country of origin. Others are applicants for U visas or other humanitarian protections or people whose humanitarian statuses were abruptly terminated or who have been arrested at immigration court.”).

10. *Id.*

granted protective status; it includes many who require protection under international law but have not yet formally attained it.¹¹ Mexico's ability to identify and appropriately process such individuals thus bears significant legal and humanitarian implications.

This report examines the parallel U.S. and Mexican legal protections governing the removal and reception of non-Mexican nationals from the United States to Mexico and offers recommendations for the Mexican government to comply with its protection obligations. The report first outlines the international principle of non-refoulement and its implementation in both the United States and Mexico, and then compares three U.S. protections— asylum, withholding of removal, and protections under CAT—as well as their parallels in Mexican law. Second, the report identifies where current third-country removal procedures risk violation of non-refoulement obligations and proposes measures to assist the Mexican government in complying with such obligations. As Mexico's domestic legal system provides parallel protections to those of the United States, Mexico has the necessary legal framework already in place to respond when individuals granted withholding of removal and protection under CAT are removed to Mexico.

The report foremost recommends that Mexico cease acceptance of third-country nationals removed by the United States as the present model risks violation of non-refoulement obligations. Should Mexico continue to accept third-country removals, this report recommends that Mexico establish a formal written agreement with the United States to ensure third-country removals are carried out in accordance with its own domestic and legal obligations. If Mexico is unable to negotiate such agreements, Mexico should implement safeguards to mitigate the risk of refoulement. In particular, Mexico should develop the proper infrastructure to identify and process individuals with U.S. protective status so that they may be channeled into the parallel Mexican protective mechanisms.

2. PROTECTION GUARANTEES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PROTECTIVE STATUSES

Pursuant to the customary international law obligation of non-refoulement,¹² the United States has enacted the withholding of removal statute and implemented protections under CAT to ensure individuals are not removed to a country where they are at risk of persecution or torture.¹³ Mexico's commitment to non-refoulement has resulted in the implementation of protection mechanisms parallel to those of the United States. Thus, when the United States transfers individuals who have been granted withholding of removal or protections under CAT, it is transferring individuals who qualify for parallel legal statuses in Mexico. In addition to Mexico's responsibility to identify individuals in need of protection, these determinations should alert Mexican officials that they have legal obligations to prevent refoulement.

11. The scope of vulnerable individuals removed to Mexico extends beyond those who have already been granted CAT or withholding of removal status. On his first day in office, U.S. President Trump issued an Executive Order declaring an "invasion" at the southern border and barring the right to apply for asylum. In April 2026, a U.S. appellate court ruled that a bar on asylum applications is unlawful because U.S. domestic law guarantees migrants the right to apply for asylum—a right the President cannot circumvent through "procedures of his own making." In practice, this means that individuals who were removed to Mexico without ever having had their claims heard on the merits may have a cognizable legal claim to a protective status never yet evaluated. In other words, these individuals were not denied protection because they failed to qualify but because their applications were never evaluated in the first instance. As a result, in addition to receiving who have already been granted protections, Mexico may be receiving individuals whose claims remain unevaluated and unresolved. Mexico's screening obligations therefore extend to encompass any individual removed from the United States who has expressed a fear of persecution or torture. See National Immigration Law Center, *Analysis of Trump Day 1 Executive Orders: Unconstitutional, Illegal, and Cruel*, Jan. 21, 2025, https://www.nilc.org/articles/analysis-of-trump-day-1-executive-orders-unconstitutional-illegal-and-cruel/?link_id=2&can_id=316226974ea085ebef7bf247c812af11&source=email-follow-up-resources-webinar-immigration-executive-orders-analysis-field-protection-strategies&email_referrer=email_2596793&email_subject=webinar-resources-immigration-executive-orders-analysis-field-protection-strategies; Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, et al. v. Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of the U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, et al., No. 25-5243 (D.C. Cir. Apr. 24, 2026), <https://media.cadc.uscourts.gov/opinions/docs/2026/04/25-5243-2170245.pdf>; Andrew R. Arthur, *D.C. Circuit Shoots Down Trump Border Asylum Ban*, Center for Immigration Studies, Apr. 29, 2026, <https://cis.org/Arthur/DC-Circuit-Shoots-Down-Trump-Border-Asylum-Ban> (summarizing the D.C. Circuit opinion).

12. See Global Strategic Litigation Council for Refugee Rights, *Expert Report on Non-Refoulement as a Principle of Customary International Law*, Dec. 2, 2023, <https://www.global-council.org/resources/expert-report-on-non-refoulement-as-a-principle-of-customary-international-law>.

13. See Trent Butte, *The Convention Against Torture and Non-Refoulement in U.S. Courts*, 35 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 701 (2021).



A. Non-Refoulement as a Core Principle of International Law

The principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no person should be returned to a country where they would be at risk of irreparable harm.¹⁴ The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (“1951 Refugee Convention”) codifies this principle. Article 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention sets forth:

No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.¹⁵

The prohibition of refoulement has been applied to a range of human rights violations including:

torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, flagrant denial of the right to a fair trial, risks of violations to the rights to life, integrity and/or freedom of the person, serious forms of sexual and gender-based violence death penalty or death row, female genital mutilation ... prolonged solitary confinement ... [or] severe violations of economic, social and cultural rights.¹⁶

Non-refoulement obligations are enforced through a number of international and regional human rights instruments. In an effort to combat the practice of torture, the CAT establishes the principle of non-refoulement for individuals at risk of torture.¹⁷ Article 3 sets forth that “[n]o State Party shall expel, return (“refouler”) or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that [they] would be in danger of being subjected to torture.”¹⁸

The principle of non-refoulement is further derived from a number of international and regional human rights instruments.¹⁹ The most pertinent, as Mexico is a party to them, include the American Convention on Human Rights,²⁰ the 1984 Cartagena Convention,²¹ and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention of Torture.²²

These expressions of non-refoulement are implemented in U.S. domestic legal frameworks through withholding of removal and CAT protections and Mexico’s refugee and complementary protections. These protections are in place to ensure that individuals are not removed to countries where they may face persecution or torture.

14. See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *The Principle of Non-Refoulement Under International Human Rights Law*, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Migration/GlobalCompactMigration/ThePrincipleNon-RefoulementUnderInternationalHumanRightsLaw.pdf>.

15. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees & Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, July 28, 1951, 189 U.N.T.S. 137; Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, Jan. 31, 1967, 606 U.N.T.S. 267, <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/1951-refugee-convention-1967-protocol.pdf>.

16. See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *The Principle of Non-Refoulement Under International Human Rights Law*, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Migration/GlobalCompactMigration/ThePrincipleNon-RefoulementUnderInternationalHumanRightsLaw.pdf>.

17. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Dec. 10, 1984, 1465 U.N.T.S. 85, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cat/background-convention>.

18. *Id.*

19. See Int’l Org. for Migration, *International Migration Law Information Note: The Principle of Non-Refoulement*, Oct. 13, 2023, https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd12616/files/our_work/ICP/IML/2023-updated-impl-information-note-on-non-refoulement.pdf (listing the following expressions of non-refoulement: 1969 African Union convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 2001 Bangkok Principles of the Status and Treatment of Refugees, ICPPED, ICCPR, CRC, ICRMW, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Arab Charter on Human Rights, European Convention on Human Rights, African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Article 45 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and, inter alia, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration).

20. American Convention on Human Rights art. 22, Nov. 22, 1969, 1144 U.N.T.S. 123, https://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_b-32_american_convention_on_human_rights.pdf (“In no case may an alien be deported or returned to a country, regardless of whether or not it is his country of origin, if in that country his right to life or personal freedom is in danger of being violated because of his race, nationality, religion, social status, or political opinions.”).

21. Cartagena Declaration on Refugees ¶ 5, Nov. 22, 1984, <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/45dc19084.pdf> (“Reiterate the importance and significance of the principle of non-refoulement (including the prohibition of rejection at borders) as a cornerstone of the international protection of refugees. This imperative principle regarding refugees must be recognized and respected, in the current state of international law, as a principle of *jus cogens*.”).

22. Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture art. 13, Dec. 9, 1985, O.A.S.T.S. No. 67. (“Extradition shall not be granted, nor shall the person sought be returned when there are grounds to believe that his life is in danger, that he will be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or that he will be tried by special or ad hoc courts in the requesting State.”).



B. Protection Against Refoulement in the United States under Asylum, Withholding of Removal and the Convention Against Torture

Generally, individuals who have fled to the United States and fear persecution in their home country due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group may qualify for asylum, withholding of removal, or protections under CAT.²³

Asylum. Individuals who have suffered past persecution, or are at serious risk of suffering persecution, in their home nation on account of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular group, are eligible for asylum status.²⁴ Asylum is discretionary, meaning that, even if an applicant meets the threshold eligibility requirements, an application may be granted or denied based on the specific facts of their case. To qualify for asylum, an individual must show there is at least a 10% chance the government of their home country will harm them.²⁵ If granted asylum, individuals are not removable and are instead eligible for permanent legal status in the United States and citizenship.²⁶ An individual is not eligible for asylum if they have previously been deported, have committed an aggravated felony or if more than one year has elapsed since they entered the United States.²⁷ Individuals who are not eligible for asylum may nonetheless be eligible for withholding of removal or protection under CAT.²⁸

Withholding of Removal. Individuals who risk persecution in another country, but are not eligible for asylum, may be eligible for withholding of removal status. Withholding of removal is a mandatory status and must be granted to an individual who shows it is more likely than not they will be harmed in another country.²⁹ An individual is not eligible for withholding of removal protection if they have been convicted of a particularly serious crime.³⁰ While individuals granted withholding of removal may still be removed from the United States, they may not be removed to a country where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.³¹ A particular process must be followed, as detailed below, before someone with withholding of removal may be removed to any country.

Protections under CAT. Individuals who risk torture in another country may be eligible for protections under CAT. Protections under CAT are available to individuals who “establish that it is more likely than not that he or she would be tortured if removed to the proposed country of removal.”³² There are two types of CAT protection: withholding of removal under CAT and deferral of removal under CAT.³³ An individual is not eligible for withholding of removal under CAT if they have been convicted of a particularly serious crime or aggravated felony, engaged in the persecution of others, committed a serious non-political crime outside of the United States, or been deemed a danger to the security of the United States.³⁴

23. See *Asylum & Withholding of Removal*, University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic https://www.law.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/immigration-clinic/4_asylum_withhold_removal.pdf.

24. See *The Difference Between Asylum and Withholding of Removal*, American Immigration Council, Oct. 2020, https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/the_difference_between_asylum_and_withholding_of_removal.pdf.

25. See *I'm Afraid to Go Back: A Guide to Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and the Convention Against Torture*, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, 2022, https://portal.ice.gov/pdf/LOPPdf/AsylumWORCATGuide/Asylum_WOR_CAT-Guide-2022_ENGLISH_508_compliant.pdf.

26. See American Immigration Council, *Asylum in the United States*, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/asylum-united-states/>.

27. See *id.*

28. See *id.*

29. See *I'm Afraid to Go Back: A Guide to Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and the Convention Against Torture*, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, 2022, https://portal.ice.gov/pdf/LOPPdf/AsylumWORCATGuide/Asylum_WOR_CAT-Guide-2022_ENGLISH_508_compliant.pdf.

30. See “Particularly Serious Crime” Bars to Asylum and Withholding, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Dec. 2023, https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Particularly%20Serious%20Crimes%20Advisory_Dec%202023.pdf (listing factors to consider when determining what constitutes a particularly serious crime).

31. See 8 USC 1231(b)(3); see also INA 241(b) (“[T]he Attorney General may not remove an alien to a country if the Attorney General decides that the alien’s life or freedom would be threatened in that country because of the alien’s race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”).

32. 8 CFR § 208.16(c)(2).

33. See *Qualifying for Protection Under the Convention Against Torture*, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Nov. 21, 2023, <https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/Qualifying%20for%20Protection%20Under%20the%20Convention%20Against%20Torture.pdf>.

34. See *id.*



There are no mandatory bars to deferral of removal under CAT eligibility.³⁵ Furthermore, while individuals granted protections under CAT may still be removed from the United States, they may not be removed to a country where they face risk of torture.³⁶

Due Process Standards for Removal of those Granted Withholding of Removal and CAT. While individuals granted withholding of removal and protections under CAT may be legally removed from the United States to a third-country, removal must follow statutory and due process requirements.

Under § 1231(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the designation of a country of removal follows a mandatory, four-step sequential process.³⁷ First, the individual subject to removal may designate the country to which they wish to be removed.³⁸ Second, if the individual fails to make a designation, or if the designated country is unwilling or nonresponsive, a U.S. immigration judge or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may disregard the individual's choice.³⁹ Third, if the government cannot remove the individual to a country in which they are a subject, national, or citizen, it may designate an alternative country with which the individual has identifiable ties.⁴⁰ Identifiable ties are often established through records of prior residence, birthplace, or recent departure.⁴¹ Fourth, and finally, only if removal to each of these countries is determined to be "impracticable, inadvisable, or impossible," may the government remove the individual to any other country willing to accept them.⁴² At this final step, the government lawyer must establish to an immigration judge that the receiving country's government willingly intends to accept the individual.⁴³

This statutory process operates in conjunction with due process requirements derived from additional federal statutes and the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.⁴⁴ Namely, the government cannot remove an individual to a third country without providing advance notice of the intended destination in a language the individual can understand.⁴⁵ Then, after receiving notice, the individual must receive a meaningful opportunity to raise a fear-based claim with respect to the designated third country.⁴⁶

Whenever such a claim is raised, a new screening process must be initiated.⁴⁷ That screening process typically includes interview, conducted by an Asylum Officer, to assess whether the individual harbors a reasonable fear of facing risk of persecution or torture in the proposed third country.⁴⁸ The government may not proceed with removal until that fear-based claim has been fully and meaningfully adjudicated.⁴⁹

35. See *Immigration Basics: Relief Under the Convention Against Torture*, Immigration Equality, <https://immigrationequality.org/asylum/asylum-manual/immigration-basics-relief-under-cat/>.

36. See 8 U.S.C. § 1231.

37. See *Immigr. Litig. Clearinghouse, Third Country Deportations*, Jan. 29, 2025, <https://immigrationlitigation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/25.01.29-3rd-Country-Deposits.pdf>.

38. *Id.*

39. *Id.*

40. *Id.*

41. 8 U.S.C. § 1231 (2024) (listing all of the options under § 1231(b)(2)(E)).

42. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(2)(E)(vii) (2024); *Ibarra-Perez v. United States*, 154 F.4th 989 (2025) ("If DHS 'is unable to remove the alien to the specified or alternative country or countries, the order of the [IJ] does not limit the authority of [DHS] to remove the alien to any other country as permitted by [§ 1231(b)].") (citing 8 C.F.R. § 1240.12(d)).

43. See *id.* ("another country whose government will accept the alien into that country") (emphasis added).

44. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires that the U.S. government provide fair procedures, like notice and an opportunity to be heard, before taking actions which affect someone's life, liberty, or property.

45. See *United States v. Reyes-Bonilla*, 671 F.3d 1036 (2012) (explaining that ICE must either provide a written translation of the notice or explain its contents in a language the migrant understands).

46. See, e.g., *Aden v. Nielsen*, 409 F. Supp. 3d 998 (2019) ("The Fifth Amendment requires that ICE provide a meaningful opportunity for petitioner's claim of fear to be heard."); *Vishal v. Chestnut*, 811 F. Supp. 3d 1179 (2025) (explaining that individuals subject to deportation must be notified of their right to apply for asylum or withholding of removal with respect to the country of deportation and that failure to provide such notice violates due process rights); *Arostegui-Maldonado v. Baltazar*, 794 F. Supp. 3d 926 (2025) (explaining that individuals subject to deportation must be notified of their right to apply for withholding of removal and CAT with respect to the country of deportation and that failure to provide such notice violates due process rights); *Ibarra-Perez v. United States*, 154 F.4th 989 (2025) ("Ibarra-Perez made clear to ICE officials . . . that he feared removal to Mexico. Instead of pausing to allow him to file a motion to reopen, they immediately removed him. In sum, Ibarra-Perez had no reasonable opportunity for judicial review [and] no way to protect himself. This result is more than merely 'harsh' . . . It is dangerous.").

47. See *Vishal v. Chestnut*, 811 F. Supp. 3d 1179 (2025) (requiring a "reopening removal proceedings if a reasonable fear was demonstrated").

48. *Alvarado-Herrera v. Garland*, 993 F.3d 1187 (2021) (explaining that the reasonable fear interview is a preliminary screening mechanism designed to evaluate claims under the "reasonable possibility" standard; and then, if the Asylum Officer finds a reasonable fear, the case is referred to an immigration judge for full consideration).

49. See *Aden v. Nielsen*, 409 F. Supp. 3d 998 (2019) ("ICE's authority to remove a noncitizen to a country not specified in the immigration judge's order of removal is contingent on its compliance with § 1231(b): it therefore has an affirmative obligation to make a determination regarding a noncitizen's claim of fear before deporting



Historically, third-country removals of individuals holding withholding of removal or CAT protections were exceedingly rare as most countries lacked incentive to accept non-nationals with no ties to their territory.⁵⁰ As a result, DHS often faced significant difficulty securing the cooperation of third countries willing to accept noncitizens, limiting the practical availability of third-country removals.⁵¹

The second Trump administration has dramatically departed from this prior framework. On or about February 18, 2025, immigration enforcement officers were instructed to assess the viability of third-country removals for all individuals already granted withholding of removal or CAT protection.⁵² Resistance was swift. In *D.V.D. v. DHS*, No. 25-10676 (D. Mass. 2025), a class action was filed to challenge the administration's practice of removing individuals to countries not designated in their removal orders, without notice and without meaningful opportunity to raise a fear-based claim.⁵³ The named plaintiffs included one individual who had been granted withholding of removal to Guatemala but was removed to Mexico soon after his immigration proceeding concluded, without advance notice and notwithstanding the fact that he experienced violence in Mexico.⁵⁴

Following his removal to Mexico, the plaintiff was later removed to Guatemala, the same place from which he had been granted protection.⁵⁵ In April 2025, a preliminary injunction was issued that required DHS to (1) provide written notice; (2) afford a meaningful opportunity to raise a fear-based claim; (3) apply a reasonable fear standard, rather than the higher "more likely than not" standard, to assess fear-based claims; and (4) reopen the immigration proceedings in a timely manner.⁵⁶

In June 2025, the Supreme Court granted the government's request to stay the preliminary injunction, meaning DHS could continue removals without adherence to the four-step process required under the preliminary injunction from April.⁵⁷ "As the district court made clear, however, following the Supreme Court's decision, its order remedying the government's earlier violation of the injunction by failing to provide class members a meaningful opportunity to assert claims for protection... remains in effect."⁵⁸ The underlying litigation is still ongoing.

Despite evolving caselaw, grants of protection under withholding of removal and CAT reflect a formal determination that an individual cannot be returned to a particular country without violation of non-refoulment obligations. Although such individuals may be removed to a third-country, removal is contingent upon assurance that they will not be subject to persecution or torture in the receiving country or onward removal to harm⁵⁹ and the aforementioned procedural processes. The United States's removal of protected individuals to third-countries does not erase the underlying risk that individuals would face persecution or torture if further removed to a country they hold protections against. Determinations of these protections are therefore legally relevant to Mexico and other receiving states.

him.") (emphasis added).

50. See Jaclyn Dennis, *Extradition to the United States, Part 2: Current Status of Third Country Removals*, 2026, <https://www.grossmanyong.com/blog/extradition-third-country-removal/> (noting that removals were "extremely rare").

51. See *Written Testimony of ICE for a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Hearing Titled "Recalcitrant Countries: Denying Visas to Countries That Refuse to Take Back Their Deported Nationals"*, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., July 14, 2016, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/07/14/written-testimony-ice-house-committee-oversight-and-government-reform-hearing> (explaining "the ongoing challenge of uncooperative and recalcitrant countries" "that refuse to take back their deported nationals," let alone accept non-nationals).

52. *Memorandum and Order on Plaintiffs' Motions for Class Certification and Preliminary Injunction*, No. 1:25-cv-10676-BEM (D. Mass. Apr. 18, 2025), https://iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.04.18_Preliminary_Injunction_-_D.V.D._v._Dept_of_Homeland_Sec.pdf.

53. *Id.*

54. *Id.*

55. *Id.*

56. See *id.* (listing Court orders on pp. 46-47).

57. *Updates on Third Country Removals and the D.V.D. Litigation*, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, June 26, 2025, <https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/removal-proceedings/updates-third-country-removals-and-dvd-litigation>.

58. *D.V.D. v. DHS*, HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST, <https://humanrightsfirst.org/dvd-v-dhs/>.

59. Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, *U.S. Third-Country Deportation Agreements Are More About Fear than Numbers*, Migration Pol'y Inst., Mar. 2026, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/us-third-country-deportation-agreements> ("A third-country must 'provide 'sufficient reliable assurances' that individuals removed will not be persecuted or tortured or sent to another country where they would be.").



C. Protection Against Refoulement in Mexico under Parallel Laws

Mexican laws parallel those of the United States as they reflect Mexico's commitment to non-refoulement. While the United States' withholding of removal and protections under CAT do not exist as standalone statuses in Mexican law, Mexico has similar legal protections such that when receiving these individuals, it is similarly obligated to prevent refoulement.

The equivalent of the United States' withholding of removal is reflected across Mexico's refugee and complementary protections.⁶⁰ Article 11 of the Mexican Constitution sets forth that asylum is provided for humanitarian reasons where a person is subject to political persecution.⁶¹ As codified under the *Ley Sobre Refugiados, Proteccion Complementaria y Asilo Politico*, refugee status may be granted to individuals who fear persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, gender, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.⁶² Complementary protection prohibits the removal of an individual to a country where their life would be threatened.⁶³

The equivalent of the United States' protections under CAT also exists in Mexican legal doctrine. Article 1 of the Mexican Constitution provides that all individuals should be entitled to the human rights granted by international treaties signed by Mexico.⁶⁴ As Mexico is a party to CAT,⁶⁵ it "is binding law in Mexico, at the same level as domestic law."⁶⁶ This obligation was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Mexico in *Amparo en Revisión 302/2020*, which held that the international normative framework, including CAT, has "immediate and binding force" on Mexico's administrative and immigration authorities.⁶⁷ Mexican law further incorporates its obligations through the system of complementary protection. Pursuant to *Ley Sobre Refugiados, Proteccion Complementaria y Asilo Politico*, complementary protection prohibits the removal of an individual to a country where they would be subject to torture or other cruel treatment.⁶⁸

These provisions give effect to Mexico's non-refoulement obligations by prohibiting the return of individuals to a country where their life or freedom would be at risk or where they face substantial risk of torture. Although structurally different from the U.S. system, this framework serves the same purpose to identify individuals at risk of persecution and torture in the first instance and prevent their removal to harm in the second. Thus, when Mexico receives individuals who have been granted withholding of removal or CAT protection in the United States, it is receiving individuals for whom a risk has already been formally identified. This identification, having corresponding protection in Mexican law, triggers Mexico's obligation to ensure that such individuals are not further exposed to harm.

60. See Arturo Castellanos-Canales, *Mexico's Asylum System: Good in Theory, Insufficient in Practice*, Nat'l Immigr. F., Mar. 15, 2023, <https://forumtogether.org/article/mexicos-asylum-system-good-in-theory-insufficient-in-practice/> ("Complementary protection – equivalent to 'withholding from removal' in the United States").

61. See Mex. Const. art. 11.

62. See *Ley Sobre Refugiados, Proteccion Complementaria y Asilo Politico* art. 13.

63. See *Ley de Migración 2026 XXVI*; see also *Ley Sobre Refugiados, Proteccion Complementaria y Asilo Politico* art. 2 VII ("Protection granted by the Secretariat of the Interior to a foreign national who has not been recognized as a refugee under the terms of this Law, consisting of not returning said individual to the territory of another country where their life would be threatened.").

64. See Mex. Const. art. 1 ("[A]ll individuals shall be entitled to the human rights granted by this Constitution and the international treaties signed by the Mexican State, as well as to the guarantees for the protection of these rights. Such human rights shall not be restricted or suspended . . .").

65. See *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, Dec. 10, 1984, 1465 U.N.T.S. 85.

66. See Natalie Lerner, *Rights as Remedies: Using Latin American Legal Channels to Halt U.S. Border Externalization*, 29 Lewis & Clark L. Rev. 181 (2025).

67. In *Amparo en Revisión 302/2020*, the Supreme Court of Mexico addressed Mexico's acceptance of non-Mexican nationals returned from the United States under the Migrant Protection Protocols, whose asylum proceedings remained pending in the United States and who had not sought protection in Mexico. The Court held that Mexico's constitutional and international human rights obligations attached upon reception, regardless of where those individuals' proceedings are pending. It found that Mexico had violated those obligations by failing to establish and publish guidelines guaranteeing migrants' rights and ordered the authorities to formulate specific protections including documentation and access to information about legal status and rights. Here, where Mexico is receiving individuals for whom a risk of persecution or torture has already been formally identified, these principles apply with even more force.

68. See Mex. Const. art. 2 VII; see also *Ley de Migración 2026 XXVI* ("Protection granted by the Secretariat of the Interior to a foreign national who has not been recognized as a refugee under the terms of this Law, consisting of not returning said individual to the territory of another country . . . where they would be at risk of being subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.").



D. Failure to Comply with Protection Obligations

I. Removal Processes Pose Legal Risks

The United States conducting removals without regard for procedural safeguards, compounded by Mexico's lack of screening mechanisms for those removed under this system has given rise to significant legal and humanitarian concerns. Foremost, the Trump administration is "removing to Mexico third country nationals who entered the United States legally and were applicants for asylum, have lived in the United States for decades, and/or have been granted protection against removal to persecution or torture in their home countries."⁶⁹ To "facilitate this subterfuge," DHS has obscured the identities and legal statuses of individuals removed to Mexico.⁷⁰ This is occurring in the absence of meaningful notice as ICE uses deceptive tactics to remove individuals who resist.⁷¹ Human Rights First calls this a "deliberate effort to undermine protection ... and erode the foundations of the Refugee Convention and Convention Against Torture."⁷² When removed to Mexico, individuals face further legal deficiencies. Upon arrival, non-Mexicans are deported to southern Mexico, detained beyond the 36-hour legal limit, denied communication with lawyers or consulates, and left uninformed of their right to apply for asylum.⁷³ With "little to no meaningful access to protection or services,"⁷⁴ third-country nationals face increasingly difficult circumstances when applying for asylum or receiving work authorization and legal status.⁷⁵ This is occurring while non-Mexican individuals are "exposed to repeated detention, exploitation, and abuse by Mexican authorities and criminal groups, including robbery, kidnapping and rape."⁷⁶

II. Individuals Removed Face Refoulement

Not only do these inadequate procedural safeguards create a substantial risk of refoulement, but they are already resulting in documented instances of refoulement. While the Trump administration has "increasingly targeted and removed to third countries many people who were granted withholding of removal or protections under the Convention Against Torture by U.S. immigration judges,"⁷⁷ INM officials are not screening for these protections upon the arrival of third-country nationals to Mexico.⁷⁸ In a May 2026 report, Human Rights Watch found that these removals have "already resulted in chain refoulement to home countries."⁷⁹

69. *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, Feb. 27, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/>.

70. *Id.*

71. See *id.* (documenting a number of instances where ICE employed deceptive and coercive tactics in deportation efforts, including a Cuban man, after having lived in the United States for over a decade, was told that if refused to cross the border when DHS drove him there, he would be put on a plane to Africa.").

72. *Human Rights First and Refugees International Third Country Deportation Watch Details Scope, Secrecy, and Human Toll of Third Country Transfer Agreements*, Human Rights First & Refugees International, May 5, 2026, <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/human-rights-first-and-refugees-international-third-country-deportation-watch-details-scope-secrecy-and-human-toll-of-third-country-transfer-agreements/>.

73. See *Mexico, Third Country Deportation Watch*, Human Rights First & Refugees International, <https://www.thirdcountrydeportationwatch.org/mexico> (last updated Mar. 11, 2026).

74. *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, Feb. 27, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/>.

75. See *Mexico, Third Country Deportation Watch*, Human Rights First & Refugees International, <https://www.thirdcountrydeportationwatch.org/mexico> (last updated Mar. 11, 2026).

76. *Id.*

77. *Human Rights First and Refugees International Third Country Deportation Watch Details Scope, Secrecy, and Human Toll of Third Country Transfer Agreements*, Human Rights First & Refugees International, May 5, 2026, <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/human-rights-first-and-refugees-international-third-country-deportation-watch-details-scope-secrecy-and-human-toll-of-third-country-transfer-agreements/>.

78. See *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, Feb. 27, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/> ("Once in Mexico, INM officials do not screen third country nationals nor explain to them that they can seek asylum in Mexico . . .").

79. *Human Rights First and Refugees International Third Country Deportation Watch Details Scope, Secrecy, and Human Toll of Third Country Transfer Agreements*, Human Rights First & Refugees International, May 5, 2026, <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/human-rights-first-and-refugees-international-third-country-deportation-watch-details-scope-secrecy-and-human-toll-of-third-country-transfer-agreements/>.



3. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Mexico Should Not Accept Third-Country Nationals Removed by the United States

Despite Mexico receiving nearly 13,000 individuals in 2025 alone, the current framework operates without a transparent, formalized agreement and lacks sufficient procedural safeguards to ensure that individuals' legal statuses and rights are preserved.⁸⁰ The United States has exploited the opacity of this arrangement by removing third-country nationals who entered the United States lawfully, were asylum applicants, lived in the United States for decades, and/or had been granted withholding of removal or protection under CAT.⁸¹ Mexico's continued acceptance of third-country removals thus risks complicity in the violation of non-refoulement obligations and exposes vulnerable individuals to serious harm.

B. If Mexico Accepts Third-Country Removals, It Should Establish a Formal, Written Agreement Setting Minimum Transfer Conditions

Third-country removals to Mexico are conducted without publicly available terms governing eligibility, screening procedures, or documentation requirements.⁸² A formal agreement would allow Mexico to condition its acceptance of third-country nationals on terms consistent with its own domestic and international legal obligations. Any agreement to receive third-country nationals should be formalized in a written bilateral agreement, entered between the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE) and the U.S. Department of State, that includes diplomatic assurances ensuring that individuals are not subject to refoulement and establishes enforceable conditions for transfer. Below are four minimum conditions that any such agreement should include.

I. Exclusion of Vulnerable Populations

Mexico should decline to accept vulnerable individuals, including children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and elderly persons, as well as individuals who are chronically ill, including those with serious mental health conditions, or who have disabilities, unless adequate provision for their care can be made upon reception.⁸³

Mexico should also decline to accept individuals who have been granted withholding of removal or CAT protection in the United States, as well as those with pending claims. As explained in Part 3(B), these statuses reflect legal determinations that the individual faces a likelihood of persecution or torture in their country of origin, triggering Mexico's parallel non-refoulement obligations. Receiving such individuals without adequate capacity to process and protect them undermines Mexico's ability to comply with its international obligations and exposes migrants to the risk of further harm. Asylum seekers with pending claims in the United States should similarly be excluded from transfer.

II. Individualized and Voluntary Basis for Transfer

Mexico should only agree to receive third-country nationals on an individualized basis and upon the explicit request of the individual being removed.⁸⁴ To ensure due process, no individual should be removed to Mexico without having been afforded

80. See *U.S. Third-Country Deportation Agreements Are More About Fear than Numbers*, Migration Policy Institute, Mar. 2026, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/us-third-country-deportation-agreements>. In response to an information request submitted through Mexico's National Transparency Platform (PNT), the SRE confirmed that no diplomatic assurances against torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment exchanged with the U.S. government in connection with the removal of third-country nationals exist in its files. *Oficio Núm. UDT-02994/2026*, Unidad de Transparencia, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Apr. 15, 2026) (on file with IMUMI).

81. See *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, Feb. 27, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/>.

82. American Immigration Council, *What Are Third-Country Removals? Understanding Their Use in U.S. Immigration Policy* (Fact Sheet), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/what-are-third-country-removals-factsheet/>.

83. Elderly and infirm individuals, with chronic conditions such as Alzheimer's and diabetes, have been removed to Mexico—some without their medication. Such migrants cannot access the specialized medical services they require in Mexico without a CURP, an identification number for Mexican citizens and residents. *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, Feb. 27, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/>.

84. See *id.* ("The United States and Mexico should establish a priority referral system regarding third country nationals in the United States who request removal to Mexico during their removal proceedings.").



a meaningful opportunity to understand and consent to the terms of their transfer. Mass or categorical removals, conducted without regard to the circumstances of the persons affected, are incompatible with the procedural safeguards required under both Mexican and international law. By conditioning acceptance on an individualized, request-based process, Mexico can ensure that no individual is transferred without knowledge of and consent to their removal.

III. Mandatory Return of Identification and Legal Documentation.

Mexico should require, as a precondition to accepting any individual, that the United States return all legal identification and immigration documents to the individual prior to removal. Individuals removed without identification face barriers upon arrival in Mexico. Without valid identification, individuals are unable to access basic services, pursue legal remedies, or secure consular assistance. This concern is particularly acute for nationals who are often unable to obtain replacement identification from their respective consulates, whether due to bureaucratic obstacles, the absence of consular infrastructure, or because individuals who have fled persecution or torture may be unwilling or unable to contact the government of their country of origin.⁸⁵ The return of documents prior to removal is thus essential to preserving individuals' ability to assert their legal rights and access protections in Mexico.

The appendices include documents evidencing prior protective status. Mexico should require that the United States return these and all other legally relevant documents to previously protected individuals prior to removal.

IV. Required Disclosure of Prior Status and Personal Circumstances.

Mexico should require the United States to provide, at the time of removal, a standardized report disclosing relevant information about each individual being transferred. This report should include, at a minimum, the individual's nationality, age, any protective status granted or applied for in the United States (including withholding of removal, protection under CAT, asylum, U-visa applications, or other humanitarian protections), the length of time the individual has resided in the United States, and family unit composition. This information is necessary for Mexican authorities to assess their obligations under domestic and international law and to ensure that individuals with identified vulnerabilities are promptly channeled into appropriate protection mechanisms upon arrival.

C. Under the Existing Framework, Mexico Should Implement Safeguards to Mitigate the Risk of Refoulement

Should removals continue under the current structure, the following recommendations address how INM and COMAR can ensure Mexico is in compliance with its non-refoulement obligations.

I. El Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM)

INM is the first point at which individuals subject to non-refoulement obligations can be identified. Below are three, complementary solutions for how INM may streamline its identification protocols.

a. Mandatory Screening Upon Reception

While INM conducts limited forms of screening in other migration contexts,⁸⁶ these practices are not yet designed to identify migrants with existing protections under withholding of removal or CAT. To identify such populations, INM should implement a mandatory and standardized screening protocol to process all individuals received from the United States.⁸⁷ This screening protocol should be administered immediately upon arrival at designated reception points.⁸⁸

85. For example, Cubans often cannot obtain replacement documentation through Cuban consulates. Venezuelans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans similarly face lengthy wait times and prohibitive costs when seeking consular assistance in Mexico. See *id.*

86. Clare Ribando Seelke, *Mexico's Migration Control Efforts*, Cong. Rsch. Serv., 2025, <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/IF10215.html> ("INM conducts biometric screening of migrants at ports of entry and detention centers using equipment supplied by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)").

87. Rachel Schmidtke & Yael Schacher, *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/> ("The National Migration Institute (INM)'s Human Rights Directorate should implement a comprehensive screening process at the border to identify vulnerabilities and create a plan for those with identified vulnerabilities to be able to go to Mexico City to obtain specialized service.").

88. Rachel Schmidtke & Yael Schacher, *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International



The screener should be mandatory, standardized, brief, and designed to reliably identify migrants who either received protective status in the United States (under withholding of removal or CAT) or who harbor a significant fear about returning to their country of origin. The screener should make three determinations: (1) whether an individual harbor fears about returning to their country of origin, (2) the nature and basis of that fear, and (3) whether the individual has previously applied for or been granted protective status in the United States (under withholding of removal or CAT).

The screener should be proactively and uniformly administered to all individuals at all reception points. The screening should also be conducted in an environment that encourages individuals to speak candidly about vulnerabilities, hardships, and identity characteristics.

, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/> (explaining that migrants are bused to "southern Mexico," namely to "Tapachula, Palenque, and Villahermosa").

The following is a proposed model screening instrument for use by INM.⁸⁹

1. Did you apply for or receive any form of protection in the United States (such as asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture)?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Are you afraid to return to your home country?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you afraid that a government official, the police, the army/military, or another person could cause you serious harm (such as being beaten, detained, kidnapped, threatened, or killed)?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Are you afraid that a government official, the police, or the army/military could torture you? Torture includes horrible mental or physical pain used to punish you or force you to do something.
☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Do you believe you could be harmed or tortured because of:⁹⁰
☐ Race
☐ Religion
☐ Political opinion
☐ Nationality
☐ Membership to a particular group
☐ Other (please explain): _____
6. Please answer these questions to explain why you left your home country.⁹¹
 - a. Why did you leave your home country?
 - b. When did you decide to leave your home country?
 - c. Who or what caused your decision to leave your home country?
 - d. How were you able to identify the person/people/event that caused you to leave?
 - e. Why did they target you? Was it because of your race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership to a particular social group?
7. Please answer these questions to explain why you are afraid to return to your home country.⁹²
 - a. Who are you afraid of?
 - b. Why are you afraid of them?
 - c. Why do you think they want to harm someone like you? Is it because of your race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership to a particular social group?

89. Advocacy organizations have developed screening methods which emphasize clarity, accessibility and are designed for use in high-volume migration centers. See U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, *Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and Convention Against Torture (CAT) Guide*, 2022, https://portal.ice.gov/pdf/LOPPdf/AsylumWORCATGuide/Asylum_WOR_CAT-Guide-2022_ENGLISH_508_compliant.pdf.

90. *Asylum, Withholding of Removal, Convention Against Torture*, ICE, [https://portal.ice.gov/pdf/LOPPdf/AsylumPacket/Asylum-Checklist-Packet_\(English\)508.pdf#:~:text=CONVENTION%20AGAINST%20TORTURE.%20Protection%20under%20the%20Convention,bar%20you%20from%20receiving%20protection%20under%20CAT](https://portal.ice.gov/pdf/LOPPdf/AsylumPacket/Asylum-Checklist-Packet_(English)508.pdf#:~:text=CONVENTION%20AGAINST%20TORTURE.%20Protection%20under%20the%20Convention,bar%20you%20from%20receiving%20protection%20under%20CAT).

91. See *id.* (listing questions to guide applicants on how to “write the story of [their] life, concentrating on why [they] are afraid to return to [their] country”).

92. *Id.*

b. Structured and Mandatory Referral Protocols

In addition to a screener, INM should adopt a mandatory and standardized referral program. Thus, while the screener identifies vulnerable migrants, the referral program directs those identifiably vulnerable migrants to additional resources and support. Given the various degrees of identifiable vulnerabilities, the referral program should reflect a variety of outcomes. The scheme may operate as follows:

Path One	Path Two	Path Three	Path Four
An individual expresses fear of return to their country of origin.	An individual indicates prior protection in the United States (under withholding of removal or CAT).	An individual does not express fear but exhibits indicators of vulnerability. ⁹³	No protective status indicators are identified.
INM (1) refers the individual to COMAR for initiation of a refugee or complementary protection claim; (2) issues a Tarjeta de Visitante por Razones Humanitarias (TVRH); and (3) issues a Clave Única de Registro de Población (CURP). COMAR does not consider deportation as evidence of insufficient fear.	INM (1) refers the individual to COMAR and/or Procuradurías de Protección de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes (PPNNA) for initiation of a refugee or complementary protection claim; (2) flags the case as involving a prior protection determination; (3) issues a Tarjeta de Visitante por Razones Humanitarias (TVRH); and (4) issues a Clave Única de Registro de Población (CURP). COMAR (1) recognizes previous protective statuses as probative evidence, (2) implements a favorable presumption, and (3) does not consider deportation as evidence of insufficient fear.	INM (1) refers the individual to COMAR and/or PPNNA for initiation of a refugee or complementary protection claim, (2) issues a Tarjeta de Visitante por Razones Humanitarias (TVRH), and (3) issues a Clave Única de Registro de Población (CURP). COMAR does not consider deportation as evidence of insufficient fear.	INM proceeds with the standard migration processing.

93. See Rachel Schmidtke & Yael Schacher, *Lost in Villahermosa: Stories of People Stranded without Status or Support*, Refugees International, Dec. 22, 2025, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/perspectives-and-commentaries/lost-in-villahermosa-stories-of-people-stranded-without-status-or-support/> (detailing stories of migrants with medical issues, lack of identifying documentation, and language differences).

Under Path One and Path Two, INM should refer the vulnerable migrant to COMAR for further resources and support. If INM encounters a child or adolescent, then INM should refer the especially vulnerable migrant to the Procuraduría de Protección de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes (PPNNA) for further resources and support.⁹⁴ In all cases, INM should issue a Tarjeta de Visitante por Razones Humanitarias (TVRH) and a Clave Única de Registro de Población (CURP).⁹⁵ Additionally, in all cases, INM should formally document that they made a referral following an intake screening, inform COMAR of the case, and inform the individual that they have entered into the protective status process and that their referral is pending evaluation by COMAR.

c. Agent Training on the Legal Significance of U.S. Protective Statuses

Third and finally, INM should implement training programs to ensure that INM agents understand the legal significance of withholding of removal and CAT as U.S. protective statuses. At present, there is little indication that such statuses are recognized as legally relevant within INM's intake processes.⁹⁶

To ensure INM agents understand—first, that withholding of removal and CAT statuses reflect that a U.S. court has formally determined that an individual faces a likelihood of persecution or torture upon return to their country of origin and, second, that these determinations are closely aligned with Mexico's own protection frameworks—agents should be trained in recognizing and understanding U.S. protective statuses. Specifically, training should equip INM agents with the knowledge necessary to identify common forms of U.S. immigration documentation or credible testimony,⁹⁷ ensure INM agents understand the legal weight of U.S. protective status determinations and ensure INM agents know how and where to refer identifiably vulnerable migrants. Though INM agents should be trained in recognizing and understanding U.S. protective statuses, they should also understand that a lack of formally administered protective status does not evidence a lack of sufficient fear. Many migrants without documentation of withholding of removal or CAT are sufficiently fearful and should be processed accordingly without being removed to their home country.

II. La Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (COMAR)

While INM is responsible for identifying individuals with potential protective needs, COMAR is responsible for ensuring that those needs are meaningfully assessed and processed. Below are two, complementary solutions for how COMAR may streamline its assessment and processing protocols.

94. *Comprehensive Approach for the Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents in Mexico*, Global Forum on Migration and Development, 2025, <https://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/23726> ("Following international recommendations, in November 2020, a reform to the Migration Law was approved in order to harmonise it with the General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, which states that . . . [n]otification to the Office of the Procurator for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (PPNNA) to channel children and adolescents to shelters or Social Assistance Centres (CAS) and to preserve their best interests.").

95. Ana Martinez, *The Struggle for Documentation in Mexico's Asylum System: The Human Impact of Withholding the TVRH*, USCRI, Dec. 10, 2025, <https://refugees.org/the-struggle-for-documentation-in-mexicos-asylum-system-the-human-impact-of-withholding-the-tvrh/> ("Under Mexican migration law, the INM must issue a TVRH to foreign nationals in certain situations of vulnerability, including asylum seekers."); *Comprehensive Approach for the Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents in Mexico*, Global Forum on Migration and Development, 2025, <https://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/23726> (emphasizing the international and domestic mandate to issue TVRHs and CURPs to children and adolescents).

96. See Donald M. Kerwin, *The Mexican Asylum System in Regional Context*, 33 Md. J. Int'l L. 290 (2018), https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?params=/context/mjil/article/1680/&path_info=13_Kerwin.pdf ("As an organ of the State, INM is obligated to act to guarantee the State's obligation of non-refoulement by identifying, referring, and, in every case, avoiding the deportation of individuals who may need international protection. However, practitioners, asylum-seekers, and international human rights organizations regularly report that INM creates barriers to accessing the asylum system and sometimes fails to guarantee access even to those who expressly state their desire to seek asylum. Indeed, a recent survey by Amnesty International found that as many as 40 percent of respondents who had been detained by INM gave 'solid indications' of having been returned to their home countries despite evidence of a need for international protection, in likely violation of international law."); Rachel Schmidtke & Yael Schacher, *Protection, Not Concession: Mexico's Responsibility to Third Country Nationals Deported by the United States*, Refugees International, 2026, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/protection-not-concession-mexicos-responsibility-to-third-country-nationals-deported-by-the-united-states/> (explaining that even "those granted protection from removal there by a U.S. judge" are being "repatriated to their home countries").

97. Common forms of U.S. immigration documentation indicating protective status include the following. For withholding of removal/CAT/asylum status: (A) an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with an "A05" (asylum granted), "C08" (pending), "C18" (temporarily not removed), or "A10" (withholding of removal granted) category designation; (B) a judicial order granting withholding of removal or CAT or asylum; (C) an appellate decision from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) granting withholding of removal or CAT or asylum; (D) Form I-94; and/or (E) Form I-246 (application) with Form I-220B, ICE Order of Supervision. For asylum status: (F) a green travel document; (G) Form I-797, Notice of Action; (H) Form I-703, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition; and/or (I) a USCIS approval letter. See Appendices for images of U.S. immigration documents.



a. Strengthened Coordination with INM Through Clear Intake Protocols

COMAR should strengthen coordination with INM by establishing a clear and predictable protocol for individuals referred through the INM screening process. Each reception point should be linked to a COMAR office, which will then receive referrals from its respective reception point.⁹⁸ Referrals from INM should follow a standardized format that includes identifying information and screening results, and COMAR should treat such referrals as sufficient to initiate a protection claim. In other words, if INM has referred a migrant to COMAR, COMAR may assume that the migrant has already been identified as sufficiently vulnerable and avoid re-adjudicating the case.

Then, upon receipt, COMAR should register the case and provide confirmation that the individual has entered the protection process. Though evidence of a prior protective status determination in the United States offers significant probative value—so much so that COMAR may presumptively assume the individual is sufficiently vulnerable under Mexican legal standards—COMAR may proceed with additional adjudication as necessary.

b. Recognition of Prior U.S. Protection Determinations

COMAR should formalize a standard intake practice that gives weight to prior U.S. protective status determinations. At the point of registration, intake officers should inquire into whether the individual has previously been involved in immigration proceedings in the United States and whether any form of protection was granted by a U.S. immigration agent. Then, if an individual indicates that they have received protective status in the United States, that information should be formally documented and flagged within COMAR's case tracking system.

This flag would not alter the legal standard applied to the claim and it would not require that COMAR automatically defer to U.S. adjudications. Instead, the flag should function as an internal indicator that the case involves a prior, formal determination of risk that is materially relevant under Mexico's own legal framework.⁹⁹ In recognizing prior U.S. protective statuses, COMAR can rely on existing determinations instead of requiring applicants to re-adjudicate claims that have already been evaluated.

⁹⁸ *Directorio COMAR*, Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados, 2024, <https://www.gob.mx/comar/articulos/directorio-comar> (listing all current COMAR office locations); *Cómo solicitar la condición de refugiado en México*, UNHCR Mexico, <https://help.unhcr.org/mexico/en/como-solicitar-la-condicion-de-refugiado-en-mexico/> (same).

⁹⁹ See *infra* Part 3(C): Protection Against Refoulment in Mexico under Parallel Laws.

APPENDIX

4. APPENDIX

Appendix A

EAD CARD



A05 = Asylum granted

Co8 = Asylum pending

C18 = Temporarily not removed

A10 = WOR granted

Appendix B

Judicial Order (current)

Respondent's application for:

A. Asylum/Withholding/Convention Against Torture

☒ Asylum was ☒ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice

☒ Withholding of Removal under INA § 241(b)(3) was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☒ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice.

☒ Withholding of Removal under the Convention Against Torture was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☒ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice.

☐ Deferral of Removal under the Convention Against Torture was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice.

ORDER OF THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE

This is a summary of the oral decision issued on 01/19/2014. The oral decision is the official opinion, and the immigration court issued this summary for the convenience of the parties.

The immigration court found Respondent ☐ not removable ☐ not inadmissible under the following Section(s) of the Act:

Respondent's application for:

A. Asylum/Withholding/Convention Against Torture

☒ Asylum was ☒ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice

☒ Withholding of Removal under INA § 241(b)(3) was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☒ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice.

☒ Withholding of Removal under the Convention Against Torture was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☒ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice.

☐ Deferral of Removal under the Convention Against Torture was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn with prejudice ☐ withdrawn without prejudice.

Judicial Order (historical)

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION COURT
1100 COMMERCE ST., ROOM 404
DALLAS, TX 75243

IN THE REMOVAL CASE OF
RESPONDENT

ORDER

(X) This is a memorandum of the Court's decision and orders entered on 01/19/2014. This memorandum is solely for the convenience of the parties. The oral or written findings, decision and orders is the official opinion in this case. (X) Both parties waived the right to a formal oral decision in this case. (X) The respondent was ordered REMOVED from the United States to () in Albania.

() Respondent's application for VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE was DENIED and respondent was ordered removed to () in the alternative to

Respondent's application for VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE was GRANTED until () upon proving a voluntary departure bond in the amount of \$ () within five business days from the date of this order, with an automatic order of removal to () within () thirty days from the date of this order, all () unless otherwise ordered.

(X) Respondent's application for ASYLUM was () granted (X) denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() subject to the ANNUAL CAP under the INA section 207(a)(5).

() Respondent knowingly filed a FRIVOLOUS asylum application.

(X) Respondent's application for WITHHOLDING of removal under INA section 241(b)(3) was (X) granted () denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() Respondent's application for WITHHOLDING of removal under the Torture Convention was () granted () denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() Respondent's application for DEFERRAL of removal under the Torture Convention was () granted () denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() Respondent's application for CANCELLATION of removal under section

(X) Respondent's application for ASYLUM was () granted (X) denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() subject to the ANNUAL CAP under the INA section 207(a)(5).

() Respondent knowingly filed a FRIVOLOUS asylum application.

() Respondent's application for WITHHOLDING of removal under INA section 241(b)(3) was (X) granted () denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() Respondent's application for WITHHOLDING of removal under the Torture Convention was () granted () denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() Respondent's application for DEFERRAL of removal under the Torture Convention was () granted () denied () withdrawn with prejudice.

() Respondent's application for CANCELLATION of removal under section

Appendix C

Appellate Decision

P. 1

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

Decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals

File: 094 - Florence Date: OCT 12 2000

In re: N. N. AKA M. N.

IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS
APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Thomas Hutchins, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF SERVICE: T.M. Riley
Assistant District Counsel

CHARGE:
Notice: Sec. 237(a)(2)(A)(i), I&N Act [8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(2)(A)(i)] -
Convicted of aggravated felony

APPLICATION: Asylum, withholding of removal

The respondent appeals from an Immigration Judge's March 22, 2000, denial of his application for asylum and withholding of removal. The respondent claims to have a well-founded fear of persecution in Iran on the basis of his family, who were supportive of the former Shah of Iran, his own service with the former secret police of that country, the SA VAK, and his associations with the

Immigrant & Refugee Appellate Center

Last paragraph

ORDER: The appeal from the denial of the application for withholding of removal to Iran is sustained and the decision of the Immigration Judge is reversed insofar as it denies this application.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is granted withholding of removal to Iran pursuant to section 241(b)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and the removal proceedings are terminated.

8/1/14
FOR THE BOARD

Immigrant & Refugee Appellate Center

Appendix D

Form I-94

Example
Form I-94 with Photo (ADIT stamp in-person)

Form I-94 with Photo (ADIT stamp in-person)

UPON ADJUSTMENT, SERVING AS
IMMIGRANT RESIDENT FOR ONE YEAR

2b Issue Date: 8/19/2014
Officer: LW/150/SEA

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZED
Valid Until: 8/19/2015

DOE
JANE
CANADA
FEMALE
30 05 64

123 STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98122

Exemplar

Example
Form I-94 with Photo (ADIT stamp delivery)

Form I-94 with Photo (ADIT stamp delivery)

Actual Record
UPON ADJUSTMENT, SERVING AS
IMMIGRANT RESIDENT FOR ONE YEAR

822 784 309 23 JULY 22
APR 22 / 01

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZED
Valid Until: 06 JULY 23

DOE
JOHN
WAKANDA
MALE
01 JAN 1991

1234 WHARF AVE
LEXINGTON, KY 01010

Exemplar



Appendix E

Form I-246
(application)

Form I-220B
(order of supervision)



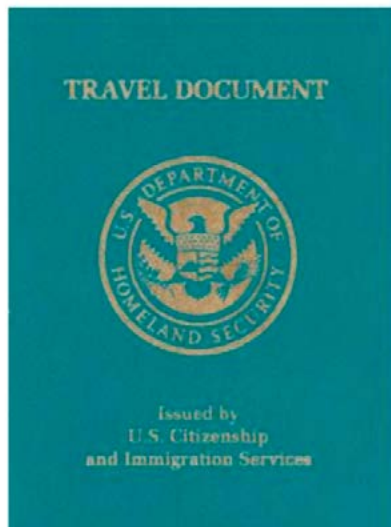
SAMPLE



Temporary Stay

Appendix F

Green Travel Document




Appendix G

Form I-797, Notice of Action

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

I-797, Notice of Action

RECEIPT NUMBER WAC-1		CASE TYPE I130 PETITION FOR ALIEN RELATIVE
RECEIPT DATE November 1, 2010	PRIORITY DATE October 28, 2010	PETITIONER John Doe
NOTICE DATE January 29, 2015	PAGE 1 of 1	BENEFICIARY Jane Doe
		Notice Type: Approval Notice Section: Brother or sister of US Citizen, 203(a)(4) INA
The above petition has been approved. We have sent the original visa petition to the Department of State National Visa Center (NVC), 32 Rochester Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801-2909. NVC processes all approved immigrant visa petitions that need consular action. It also determines which consular post is the appropriate consulate to complete visa processing. NVC will then forward the approved petition to that consulate. The NVC will contact the person for whom you are petitioning (beneficiary) concerning further immigrant visa processing steps. You should allow a minimum of 30 days for Department of State processing before contacting the NVC. If you have not received any correspondence from the NVC within 30 days, you may contact the NVC by e-mail at NVCINQUIRY@state.gov. You will need to enter the USCIS receipt number from this approval notice in the subject line. In order to receive information about your petition, you will need to include the Petitioner's name and date of birth, and the Applicant's name and date of birth, in the body of the e-mail.		

- ★ Form I-797
- ★ Form I-797A
- ★ Form I-797B
- ★ Form I-797C
- ★ Form I-797D
- ★ Form I-797E
- ★ Form I-797F

Appendix H

Form I-703 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

OMB No. 1615-0037; Expires 12/31/2023

I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

FOR USCIS OFFICE ONLY

Section of Law ☐ 207 (c)(2) Spouse ☐ 207 (c)(2) Child ☐ 208 (b)(3) Spouse ☐ 208 (b)(3) Child	Action Stamp	Receipt
Reserved		Remarks
☐ Beneficiary Not Previously Claimed ☐ Beneficiary Previously Claimed On: _____ (e.g., Form I-590, Form I-589, etc.) CSPA Eligible: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		

START HERE - Type or print legibly in black ink.

My Status: ☐ Refugee ☐ Lawful Permanent Resident based on previous Refugee status
☐ Asylee ☐ Lawful Permanent Resident based on previous Asylee status

The beneficiary is my: ☐ Spouse
☐ Unmarried child who is a(n): ☐ Biological Child ☐ Stepchild ☐ Adopted Child
(_____, of _____)

Number of relatives for whom I am filing separate Form I-730s:

Part 1. Information About You, the Petitioner (USPS ZIP Code Lookup)

Family Name (Last name), Given Name (First name), Middle Name:

Address of Residence (Where you physically reside)

Street Number and Name: Apt. Number

City: State or Province:

Country: Zip/Postal Code:

Mailing Address (If different from residence) - C/O:

Street Number and Name: Apt. Number:

Part 2. Information About Your Alien Relative, the Beneficiary

Family Name (Last name), Given Name (First name), Middle Name:

Address of Residence (Where the beneficiary physically resides)

Street Number and Name: Apt. Number

City: State or Province:

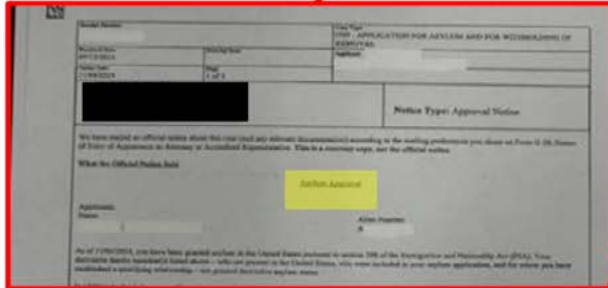
Country: Zip/Postal Code:

Mailing Address (If different from residence) - C/O:

Street Number and Name: Apt. Number:



USCIS Approval Letter

[illegible]



www.imumi.org

contacto@imumi.org

Tel. (52 55) 5211.4153 y 5658.7384

Tel. Clínica Jurídica (52 55) 9154.8990 y 9131.7512

Tel. EUA (208) 753.7041

