

Center for Victims of Torture Applauds Renewed Block of the Travel Ban

ST. PAUL, Minn. and WASHINGTON – The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) today released the following statement in response to the Ninth Circuit court’s upholding the blocks to the Trump administration’s travel ban:

“Today the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is the latest in a series of courts to reaffirm what we already know: there is no place in the United States for a discriminatory ban on immigrants and refugees. The court made clear that the president does not have the unrestricted and arbitrary power in the field of immigration and refugee resettlement.

“Refugees, the [most thoroughly screened](#) individuals to enter the United States, are prioritized according to vulnerability. The travel ban would have cut off an important lifeline to tens of thousands of torture survivors and individuals with medical needs who have fled their homes and have been in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program process for years. In finding that blocking the travel ban is in the public interest, the court rightly acknowledges the specific detrimental effects of the ban on refugees and survivors of gender-based violence.

“Thousands of refugees who were already in the pipeline for resettlement to the United States have been affected by this order, including CVT clients who struggled for years waiting for approvals to clear. At CVT, we applaud this step and the hope it may bring to survivors of torture who hope to be reunited with loved ones or to reach safe haven.

“This is a positive step but more work is still needed. The Department of Homeland Security and Department of State should immediately comply with this unambiguous ruling and ensure that 110,000 refugees will be given protection in the United States by the end of October 2017 and that family reunifications continue at an urgent pace.” – Marie Soueid, CVT policy counsel

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The Center for Victims of Torture is a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with offices in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, D.C.; and healing initiatives in Africa and the Middle East.