

CVT Applauds Blumenthal Resolution to Restore Support for those Seeking Refuge in the U.S.

ST. PAUL, Minn. & WASHINGTON — The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) issued this statement as Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn) calls on Congress to support people seeking refuge in the United States.

“CVT supports and applauds Senator Richard Blumenthal as he introduces a resolution marking two solemn anniversaries and urging the United States ‘to recommit to offering freedom to individuals fleeing from persecution and oppression regardless of their country of origin or religious beliefs.’

“Three years ago this week, the president enacted the original Muslim Ban, which spawned several subsequent iterations. Last year, at this same time, he launched the misnamed Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as ‘Remain in Mexico.’ These policies have had a devastating impact on refugees and asylum seekers, including the many torture survivors among them. Refugees are stranded abroad without any prospect of resettlement in the United States. Men, women and children seeking asylum are trapped in dangerous southern border cities for many months at a time.

“Senator Blumenthal's resolution calls on the government to restore the refugee resettlement program to historic norms, and on Congress specifically to rescind the Muslim ban and its progeny and defund ‘Remain in Mexico.’

“All Members of Congress should follow Senator Blumenthal's lead. We must stand in support of refugees and asylum seekers and roll back these policies of cruelty.” —Andrea Cárcamo, CVT senior 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. Visit www.cvt.org.