

Presidential Veto Distracts from Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis of His Own Making

ST. PAUL, Minn. & WASHINGTON — The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) today strongly denounced President Trump's veto of a resolution which sought to block the president from diverting critically-needed military funds to build a wall at the U.S. southern border.

“We are heartened that Senators joined their colleagues in the House in standing up to the president by voting for the joint resolution to terminate his emergency declaration. In gaining bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the resolution disapproving the president's action is proof that Congress opposes such a power grab. However, Congress's job is only half done; lawmakers must now take the next step and vote to override the president's veto. This should not be a hard choice. Time and again, the facts have been made evident: There isn't a national security emergency at the border.

“There is, however, a humanitarian crisis largely of the president's own making. We implore members to remember that the refugee and asylum crisis is a torture crisis—studies show that as many as [44 percent of those populations](#) are torture survivors—and to remember that our founding principles of welcome and compassion for those in need are, in fact, what makes America great.

“CVT's clinicians work with thousands of refugees, asylum seekers and asylees who have survived and somehow escaped horrific abuse, and we know that survivors of torture, violence and persecution are among those seeking safety at this country's southern border. And yet, the president insists on calling for an unnecessary wall, which he apparently values over human lives. And this is absolutely unacceptable from the highest office in the land.” — Andrea Cárcamo-Cavazos, 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.