

CVT Decries Proposed Refugee Resettlement Number as Pathetic

ST. PAUL, Minn. & WASHINGTON — The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) today responded to the Trump administration's [proposal](#) to welcome fewer refugees to the United States in Fiscal Year 2021 than ever before in U.S. history.

“The law requires the administration to engage in meaningful consultations with Congress prior to setting a refugee admissions goal for the fiscal year, then to set that goal before the year begins. The deadline was yesterday. The administration did neither, and so broke the law. No refugees can come to the United States until the admissions goal has formally been set.

“The proposal the administration sent Congress late last night – which is just that, a proposal – would again reduce refugee admissions to a new historic low, a pathetic 15,000. Given the scale of the global refugee crisis, the president should be looking to resettle 10 times that many refugees; at minimum, he should set a goal that meets the annual average since passage of the 1980 Refugee Act: 95,000.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a bright light on the degree to which shutting this country's doors to refugees, and the many torture survivors among them, not only puts their lives at extreme risk, but also jeopardizes all Americans' health and safety. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have been working on the front lines of the pandemic, our clients included. They are endangering their own well-being so that other Americans don't have to.

“Since his first day in office, President Trump and certain administration officials have worked to dismantle the U.S. refugee resettlement program, and they've done so with intolerable prejudice for partisan ends. It is not what the vast majority of Americans want, not what the country needs, and the opposite of what refugees seeking safe haven here deserve.”—Scott Roehm, CVT Washington director.

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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.