ST. PAUL, Minn. and WASHINGTON — The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) today issued this statement in response to President Biden signing an Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions, which maintains the historically low refugee admissions cap set by the Trump administration.

“Today the Biden administration announced that the refugee admission goal for this fiscal year will remain at 15,000 as set by the Trump administration, an indefensible continuation of Trump’s legacy of setting the lowest refugee goal every year of his presidency. The news is especially shocking after the Biden administration had pledged to raise this fiscal year’s goal to 65,000, more than four times the number announced today.

“While we welcome removing the Trump administration’s discriminatory admissions categories, overall the Emergency Presidential Determination reflects a broken promise that will devastate many refugees – including the torture survivors among them – whose lives depend on their ability to resettle to the United States. It also raises questions as to the Biden administration’s promises to provide legal paths through resettlement to refugees from the Northern Triangle as a way to address the need for protection.

“During this time of unprecedented global need, the Biden administration needs to be taking bold and meaningful steps toward restoring the United States’ humanitarian character, just as the president and senior administration officials have said repeatedly that they would.”—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