

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: August 2021

Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, RGS

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: CEASE USING TERM “ALIEN” TO REFER TO NONCITIZENS

General Content: The letter recommends that the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) immediately cease using the term “alien” to refer to noncitizens. The term “alien” has been used to dehumanize immigrants in the United States and beyond, and this dehumanization has translated into policies and practices that can rob people of their dignity, rights, and lives. The Biden administration has named it a top priority to welcome immigrants and updating this language is necessary to do so.

Sent to: The Honorable Merrick B. Garland and Attorney General of the United States

Sponsored by: CLINIC and the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS)

ISSUE: LICENSES FOR CARE PROVIDERS OF UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN REVOKED

General Content: Governor Abbott of Texas issued an executive order ordering the state to remove licenses from children’s shelters that serve unaccompanied children (UCs). UCs are immigrant children who arrive in the U.S. without legal guardians and require special protections. Any facility that loses its license could lose its ability to care for any child, domestic or immigrant, and some organizations care for both. Forty-eight percent (48%) of all dedicated beds for immigrant children are licensed through the state of Texas, more than 7000 beds in total. If Texas facilities have their licenses revoked, it will disrupt unaccompanied children’s care and put them at risk, while missing out on the opportunity to have all children benefit from the state’s continued cooperation with the federal government.

Sent to: Governor Abbott - Texas

Sponsored by: Children’s Defense Fund-Texas and First Focus on Children

ISSUE: TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR LEBANON

General Content: Lebanon’s unstable political climate, current economic collapse, humanitarian crisis, and armed conflicts make it unsafe for Lebanese nationals to return. The letter calls on the Biden Administration to designate the country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Sent to: DHS Secretary Mayorkas, and Secretary of State Blinken.

Sponsored by: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

ISSUE: TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS (TPS) FOR ETHIOPIANS

General Content: A letter to the administration requesting an 18-month TPS designation, a prompt Federal Register Notice, and a minimum 180-registration period with community outreach for Ethiopia. Civilians are finding themselves caught between violence from multiple actors, including government security forces, paramilitary groups, and rebel forces. Forces committing human rights violations have been allowed to act with impunity, with the government

failing to prosecute or effectively act to stop the violence. The issue of racial equity is Also raised.

Sent to: Secretary Mayorkas, Homeland Security and Secretary Blinken, US Dept of State

Sponsored by: TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Coalition

- Also Racism

ISSUE: CARE OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

General Content: HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is taking steps to implement Trump-era regulations that would replace the Flores Settlement Agreement, which has served as a critical check on the government's treatment of immigrant children in federal custody since 1997. Previously NAC signed on to the Flores case with an Amicus Brief. This letter urges HHS to change course, revoke the Trump-era regulations, and engage in a transparent rulemaking process to provide a new framework for the protection, support, and care of unaccompanied immigrant children.

Sent to: Cindy Huang, Director, DHS Office of Refugee Resettlement and Jenifer Smyers, DHS Chief of Staff, Office of Refugee Resettlement

Sponsored by: Law firm of Morrison & Foerster LLP

ISSUE: UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN - TEXAS

General Content: On May 31, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order ordering the state to remove licenses from children's shelters that serve unaccompanied children (UCs). UCs are immigrant children who arrive in the U.S. without legal guardians and require special protections. Any facility that loses its license could lose its ability to care for any child, domestic or immigrant, and some organizations care for both. 48% of all dedicated beds for immigrant children are licensed through the state of Texas, more than 7000 beds in total. If Texas facilities have their licenses revoked, it will disrupt unaccompanied children's care and put them at risk, while missing out on the opportunity to have all children benefit from the state's continued cooperation with the federal government

Sent to: Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Sponsored by: Children's Defense Fund – Texas and First Focus on Children

ISSUE: 2023 BUDGET ON IMMIGRATION

General Content: The Biden Administration will soon turn its attention to planning for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, and we want to send a strong message that it's long past time for the United States to divest from immigration detention and enforcement and invest in communities. This is public sign-on statement to the White House and Office of Management and Budget articulating 5 top immigration priorities for a just Fiscal Year 2023 budget: 1) cuts to detention funding; 2) investment in community-based support programs; 3) investment in appointed counsel programs; 4) cuts to funding for border surveillance; and 5) cuts to funds for ICE and border patrol agents.

Sent to: The Biden Administration

Sponsored by: National Immigration Center

ISSUE: IMMIGRATION 2021 ACTION PLAN

General Content: By centering human dignity, family unity, community well-being and American prosperity, the 2021 Action Plan to rebuild our nation's immigration system envisions a new approach to migration and border governance that will live up to our core American values and power the economic recovery of our nation. The 2021 Action Plan is a set of concrete, actionable, and fully articulated proposals addressing every stage of immigration policy and processing for a new administration. The Letter lists 10 Action Steps.

Sent to: Broadly shared

Sponsored by: Immigration Hub

- Also Racism, Violence

ISSUE: CATHOLIC SIGN-ON LETTER TO PRESIDENT BIDEN ABOUT ENDING TITLE 42

General Content: A letter to President Biden about ending Title 42 of the U.S. Code that is being used by DHS to keep asylum seekers out of the U.S. It is a Catholic letter, meaning that when it's delivered to the Biden administration, it will not be on Network's letterhead. Catholic organizations and institutions at the national, state, and local level signed on, including parishes, dioceses, colleges and universities, high schools, immigration agencies, and local chapters of national orgs, like NETWORK's advocates teams or a Pax Christi team, etc.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: NETWORK and CLINIC

ISSUE: LIFT THE BAR ACT

Content: For 25 years, lawfully present immigrants have faced deep and harmful restrictions on eligibility for federal assistance programs like Medicaid, CHIP and SNAP. Laws like the "five-year bar," which blocks green card holders from participation for at least five years, have led to unnecessary illness, increased hunger and unnecessary economic fragility among immigrant families. Considering that immigrants are predominately from BIPOC backgrounds, these restrictions exacerbate racial disparities. They Also only serve to increase costs for local service providers, as well as state and local governments, who must make up for the failures of federal policymakers. All of these trends have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and worsened public health as a result.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Immigration Law Center

ISSUE: VISA ISSUES: VALUE OUR FAMILIES

General Content: Value Our Families campaign letter requesting the following provisions:1) recapture of unused visas from prior years, 2) ensure that unused visas from FY2021 are able to roll over into subsequent years, 3) exempt derivatives from the worldwide visa limits, and 4) provide visas to people who won the diversity visa lottery during the Trump administration but were denied visas due to Trump's discriminatory bans.

Sent to: Senate Appropriations Committee: Chairman Leahy and Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Subcommittee on Homeland Security Committee on Appropriations Chairman Murphy,

and Ranking Member Capitol.

Sponsored by: Asian Americans Advancing Justice

ISSUE: REMAIN IN MEXICO PROGRAM

General Content: A letter exclusively from children's advocacy organizations and experts about the harms of the Remain in Mexico program (Also known as the MPP program) on the safety and wellbeing of children.

Sent to: Dr. Jill Biden

Sponsored by: Kids In Need of Defense

- Also Poverty, Racism, COVID-19

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: MEDICAID SAVES LIVES ACT

General Content: Having endorsed the Senate Bill previously, Rep. Bourdeaux reached out to us to Also endorse the House version which is identical. The name of the Act is the focus.

Sent to: Members of the House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Representative Carolyn Bourdeaux's office

ISSUE: THE PEOPLE ACT (S.1)

General Content: NETWORK, LCWR and many others are supporting efforts to fight voter suppression and ensure that all can exercise their sacred right to vote. The *For the People Act* is our best opportunity to protect voting rights and our democracy.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: NETWORK

NOTE: Passed in the House on August 24th, passage pending in the Senate

ISSUE: LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

General Content: America's families are looking to Congress to enact major health reforms that will finally alleviate the immense financial burden that prescription drug costs cruelly level on everyday people. Across our nation, a disturbingly high percentage of people face the impossible choice of foregoing or rationing medications so they can afford other basic needs. This pattern is consistent year over year, with an average of 29% of people across the country forced to make this choice in a given year.

Last week's Senate passage of the FY2022 Budget Resolution with reconciliation instructions signals remarkable promise in making significant drug pricing reforms and, critically, your amendment highlights the importance of enacting Medicare negotiation that will improve the lives of millions of Americans.

Sent to: Sen. Bennet, Sen. Cortez Masto, Sen. Hassan, Sen. Kelly, and Sen. Warnock

CC: Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman of Senate Committee on Finance

Sponsored by: Families USA

ISSUE: ROBUST DRUG PRICING REFORM IN BBB

General Content: Given the powerful pushback from Big Pharma on any drug price negotiation and other reforms and what we are hearing about the nature of the prescription drug price negotiation in Senate Finance and Ways and Means, it is necessary to send a strong message to the chairs that there is a broad support for bold drug price reform legislation.

Sent to:, Senate and House Ways and Means Committee Chairs: Wyden, Neal and Economy Commerce Chair: Palone and Chairwoman Murray with CC to; Senate Finance Committee Members, House Ways and Means Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, Senate Finance Committee Members, House Ways and Means Committee Members, House Energy and Commerce Committee Members, House Education and Labor Committee Members, Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

ISSUE: CHILD TAX CREDIT

General Content: Letter to Congress reminding them that the temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) under the American Rescue Plan is already delivering on its promise to help all families succeed, cut child poverty nearly in half, and reduce racial income inequities and urging that they make this expansion permanent in the current budget reconciliation package. In addition, these inequities apply to immigrant (ITIN) children.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Sojourn Strategies

- Also Racism and Immigration

ISSUE: CLOSE OFFSHORE TAKE LOOPHOLES

General Content: Letter is an urgent message to Congress: don't let tax-dodging multinational corporations continue to avoid paying their fair share of taxes that are needed to help working people afford healthcare, eldercare, childcare, education and housing, and to make other public investments vital to fighting climate change and supporting families and communities. Essential international tax reforms proposed by President Biden will raise critically needed revenue and fix our broken tax system, which rewards corporations that offshore jobs and investments and shift profits to tax havens.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Americans for Tax Fairness

- Also Environmental Degradation

NAC FOCUS AREA: U.S. POLICIES THAT AFFECT GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

ISSUE: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA

General Content: The unprecedented social outburst in Cuba last month has called attention to the difficult situation on the island. A letter to President Biden addresses concerns about the worsening humanitarian crisis that is causing needless suffering and death for the Cuban people. Our partners in the Cuban churches—congregants, ministers, and their communities— have expressed their distress concerning the severe shortages of basic medicines, food, and other vital materials amidst the COVID-19 battle.

Recommendation: 1) Lift all restrictions and caps of family and donative remittances that could help Cubans purchase food and medicine on the island; 2) Restaff the U.S. embassy in Havana and reinstate consular services; 3) Remove the requirement for specific licenses to send medical supplies to Cuba and the “end-use verification” requirement for humanitarian imports, both of which vastly increase the red tape in sending aid to the island from the US, and which discourage both donors and sellers; 4) Lift all restrictions on banking and financial transactions related to humanitarian aid as well as restrictions on the percentage of US-made material used in foreign-produced medical supplies that inhibit the purchase or distribution of humanitarian aid internationally.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness

ISSUE: REPRISALS TAKEN AGAINST LEGITIMATE PROTEST IN HONDURAS

General Content: Legitimate protest was exercised by the Committee for the Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa. These reprisals include the prosecution and prolonged arbitrary detention of eight environmental defenders belonging to the Committee. In line with the opinion issued by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as with the recommendations made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the undersigned organizations of this letter call upon this honorable Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice to, in the exercise of its functions and with due respect for judicial independence, consider declaring the extension of preventive detention for the eight defendants to be unjustified and order the change of precautionary measure so that the defendants can continue the case against them in freedom, guaranteeing their rights to due process and to a fair and impartial trial. Recognition that the Covid-19 Pandemic causes additional health risks to those in detention.

Sent to: Honorable Rolando Argueta, President, Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras CC: Honorable Criminal Chamber, Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras as an Open letter initiated by the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT),

Sponsored by: World Organization Against Torture (OMCT),

- Also Environment, COVID-19

ISSUE: U.S. SANCTIONS POLICY

General Content: Letter to President Biden urging him to complete the administration's sanctions policy review as expeditiously as possible, to make its findings public, and to implement significant and structural changes to U.S. sanctions policy. Countries mentioned in the letter include Cuba, Venezuela.

Sent to: President Biden, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee

NAC: OTHER RELATED AREAS

Explanation of RELATED AREAS (Root Causes, implicated in the Concern, or Current Situation). These would generally be contained within a FOCUS AREA listed above and noted to assist NAC with statistics for grant writing, etc. **COVID-19, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, FAMILIES, RACISM, VIOLENCE, OTHER**

AREA: AFGHANISTAN

ISSUE: PEACE PROCESS WITH/FOR AFGHANISTAN

General Content: Letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and USAID Administrator Samantha Power urging the implementation of a long-term and comprehensive diplomatic, development, and peacebuilding strategy in Afghanistan as the U.S. completes its military withdrawal.

Specifically, the letter calls for: refocusing people over power in an inclusive peace process; protecting and championing Afghan women and girls; providing humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding assistance to local Afghan civil society; and advancing an international protection framework to address the potential refugee crisis in the region.

Sent to: Secretary of State Antony Blinken and USAID Administrator Samantha Power

Sponsored by: The Alliance for Peacebuilding

NOTE: Letter sent in July, recorded in August

ISSUE: THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION MUST EVACUATE AND SAVE ALL AFGHAN ALLIES AND EXPAND REFUGEE PROTECTIONS NOW

General Content: Letter expresses support for a robust humanitarian response from the United States and our commitment to assist Afghans in danger, and to implore your administration to expand opportunities for Afghans to seek refuge in the United States.

Sent to: President Joseph R. Biden

Sponsored by: Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program

ISSUE: RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

General Content: The letter urges Congress to take immediate action to ensure the U.S. protect Afghan civilians secure evacuations for all qualifying Afghan partners, expedite the visa and resettlement processes, and work with the international community to facilitate the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Alliance for Peacebuilding

ISSUE: AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN PROTECTIONS

General Content: Multi-faith letter to demonstrate the wide support from faith communities for Afghan humanitarian protections and calling on the administration to provide significantly greater support for Afghans in danger.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program

AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

ISSUE: FOSSIL FUELS

General Content: Pushing back against fossil fuels and false solutions has become even more crucial. The problematic technology neutral Energy Standards that we have been pushing back against throughout the year have been re-branded as the Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP). New name, same issues as the CES - it is likely to encourage the expansion of the same dirty energy mix. In order to be reconcilable, the CEPP will not directly regulate the needed ramp down of emissions – rather it will be a system of incentive payments and penalties. This makes it even more crucial that this program is designed to exclude fossil fuels and false solutions from qualifying as ‘clean energy’. Our ability to reach our climate goals hinges on the policies and investments of this Congress, and we must ensure that the CEPP is not incentivizing fossil fuels or other dirty energies that embed environmental harms.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Friends of the Earth, US

ISSUE: DOJ INTERVENTION ON ANTI-PROTEST BILLS

General Content: There has been an unprecedented backlash to our movements across the board, including our right to protest for environmental justice and against police violence and white supremacy. There have been over 100 anti-protest bills proposed since we took to the streets last summer. And many states have already passed legislation.

In states like Florida, Oklahoma, and Iowa, these bills protect drivers who strike and injure protesters. A proposed bill in Indiana would ban anyone convicted of unlawful assembly from holding state employment, including elected office; and bills pending in Minnesota and Oregon would disqualify people convicted of protest-related crimes from enrolling in

public assistance programs - including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and unemployment benefits. These bills are intended to undermine our right to protest and will disproportionately impact BIPOC protestors who are already criminalized and targeted.

That's why is calling on the Department of Justice to not only publicly condemn these threats to our first amendment constitutional right, but to join suits against states that enact these laws that violate our civil, Constitutional and human rights.

Sent to: Department of Justice

Sponsored by: Media Justice, Color of Change and Free Press

- Also Violence

ISSUE: ELECTRICITY PAYMENT PROGRAM

General Content: The letter calls on Congress stop the Electricity Payment Program from subsidizing fossil fuels and false solutions. The problematic technology neutral Energy Standards have been re-branded as the Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP). New name, same issues as the CES - it is likely to encourage the expansion of the same dirty energy mix. In order to be reconcilable, the CEPP will not directly regulate the needed ramp down of emissions – rather it will be a system of incentive payments and penalties. This makes it even more crucial that this program is designed to exclude fossil fuels and false solutions from qualifying as ‘clean energy’. Our ability to reach climate goals hinges on the policies and investments of this Congress, thus, CEPP must be prevented from incentivizing fossil fuels or other dirty energies that embed environmental harms.

Sent to: Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Manchin, and Chairman Pallone

Sponsored by: Friends of the Earth U.S.

AREA: RACISM

ISSUE: CALL ON THE DOJ TO FIGHT ANTI-PROTEST BILLS & DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO DISSENT

General Content: It's been one year since we took to the streets in historic numbers amid a global pandemic to stand up for Black lives. Our persistent, loud and clear voices, and organizing efforts were instrumental in obtaining a modicum of accountability for George Floyd. As a result of our collective repudiation of white supremacy and efforts to end the police terror of Black communities, there is an unprecedented backlash from certain party lawmakers.

Sent to: Department of Justice: Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General and Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General

Sponsored by: Color of Change, MediaJustice, Free Press

ISSUE: DEBT COLLECTS AS A RACIAL JUSTICE ISSUE

General Content: The letter explains how debt cancellation is a racial justice issue and how it would spur the economy. Legal scholars have well documented that the Education Secretary has clear authority to cancel federal student debt through the Higher Education Act. Further, Presidents Biden and Trump both *already* cancelled federal student loan debt with the federal student loan payment pause. Non-payments during the suspension were counted as qualifying payments towards Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Income-Driven Repayment forgiveness timelines. Thus, any borrower who received PSLF or IDR forgiveness during the suspension was a beneficiary of debt cancellation through executive action. The broad coalition of organizations calling on President Biden to cancel federal student debt are simply asking that he expand the existing use of authority to benefit more borrowers.

Sent to: Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: REPRISALS TAKEN AGAINST LEGITIMATE PROTEST IN HONDORAS

General Content: Legitimate protest was exercised by the Committee for the Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa. These reprisals include the prosecution and prolonged arbitrary detention of eight environmental defenders belonging to the Committee. In line with the opinion issued by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as with the recommendations made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the undersigned organizations of this letter call upon this honorable Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice to, in the exercise of its functions and with due respect for judicial independence, consider declaring the extension of preventive detention for the eight defendants to be unjustified and order the change of precautionary measure so that the defendants can continue the case against them in freedom, guaranteeing their rights to due process and to a fair and impartial trial. Recognition that the Covid-19 Pandemic causes additional health risks to those in detention.

Sent to: Honorable Rolando Argueta, President, Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras CC: Honorable Criminal Chamber, Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras as an Open letter initiated by the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT),

Sponsored by: World Organization Against Torture (OMCT),

- Also Environment, Covid-19

AREA: PRISON REFORM

ISSUE: LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO BIDEN ADMINISTRATION RE: FENTANYL CLASSWIDE SCHEDULING POLICY

General Content: The class wide scheduling policy must expire. Class wide scheduling would exacerbate pretrial detention, mass incarceration and racial disparities in the prison system, doubling down on a fear-based, enforcement-first response to a public health challenge. The policy would Also perpetuate over-criminalization and prosecutorial misconduct. Under the

class wide control, any offense involving a “fentanyl-related substance” is subject to federal criminal prosecution, even if the substance in question is helpful or has no potential for abuse. Failure to define with specificity through our laws what is or is not illegal will lead to miscarriages of justice.

Sent to: President Biden and Vice President Harris; cc: Judge Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

Sponsored by: Drug Policy Alliance

- Also Racism

ISSUE: OPPOSING EXTENSION OF TRUMP DRUG SENTENCING POLICY

General Content: Letter to urge Congress and the Biden administration to let the Trump administration temporary “class-wide” emergency scheduling of fentanyl-related substances expire in May 2021. Class-wide scheduling would exacerbate pretrial detention, mass incarceration and racial disparities in the prison system, doubling down on a fear-based, enforcement-first response to a public health challenge. As we approach the 50-year milestone of President Nixon’s announcement of the War on Drugs, there is ample evidence that these unscientific policies destroy communities, entrench racial disparities, and do nothing to reduce drug supply or demand. Lawmakers should instead support legislation grounded in public health and evidence-based approaches to illicit fentanyl-related overdose deaths.

Sent to: Judiciary Committees: Senate Chairman Durbin, House Chairman Nadler, Senate Ranking Member Grassley and House Ranking Member Jordan:

Sponsored by: Drug Policy Alliance

- Also Racism

STATEMENTS

JOINT STATEMENTS WITH OTHER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

ISSUE: JOINT STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL GLOBAL STIMULUS FROM THE I.M.F. TO ASSIST LOWER-INCOME COUNTRIES WITH PANDEMIC RESPONSE

“Today (August 23) the International Monetary Fund is taking a step in the right direction by helping struggling nations respond to the COVID-19 crisis with the largest allocation of Special Drawing Rights in history. Countries in need can convert these reserve assets into currency that will be used to buy medical supplies and support their economies. Yet, as the Delta variant spreads rapidly in lower-income countries with tragically low vaccination rates, it is clear that at least 2 trillion SDRs will be required to meet the global community’s needs. The House of Representatives has already voted to make this possible, and now it is time for the Senate to do the same. We thank Senators Durbin, Leahy, Reed, and others who have cosponsored legislation to authorize the issuance of 2 trillion SDRs and we encourage them to ensure the passage this fall of the authorization of an additional SDR allocation. At no cost to U.S. taxpayers, these reserve assets will save countless lives and boost the international economy.”

ISSUE: JUST FISCAL BUDGET ON TOP FIVE BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Biden Administration will soon turn its attention to planning for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, and we want to send a strong message that it's long past time for the United States to divest from immigration detention and enforcement and invest in communities. Public sign-on statement to the White House and Office of Management and Budget articulating 5 top immigration priorities for a just Fiscal Year 2023 budget: 1) cuts to detention funding; 2) investment in community-based support programs; 3) investment in appointed counsel programs; 4) cuts to funding for border surveillance; and 5) cuts to funds for ICE and border patrol agents.

AMICUS BRIEFS

ISSUE: U.S. VS. ABU ZUBAYDAH

Abu Zubaydah is believed to have been a member of Al Qaeda. He was captured in 2002 and, according to the U.S. government, was cooperative after being captured and provided useful intelligence to his FBI interrogators who use rapport building techniques to obtain information from him. Despite this, he was given to the CIA who repeatedly tortured him – waterboarding him 83 times. He was Also repeatedly placed in stress positions, subjected to sleep deprivation, and forced into cramped confinement boxes, among other tortures.

Abu Zubaydah is currently held in the prison in Guantanamo Bay without having been tried for or convicted of a crime.

Sponsored by: The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (“NRCAT”)