

# BORDER MILITARIZATION

➤ *The Southern border should be a place of refuge and hope, not a site of militarization and fear. Border militarization terrorizes families, undermines the true security needs of border communities, and wastes countless taxpayer dollars.*

Donald Trump's desperate attempt to create a fictional security emergency threatens to drive the U.S. into a constitutional crisis, makes political pawns out of the military, and subverts the will of Congress.

- There is no national security emergency at the Southern border. A real national security threat is the president himself and his administration of anti-immigrant hardliners, like Kirstjen Nielsen and Stephen Miller.
- The militarization of the Southern border causes massive human suffering. An unnecessary border wall would only exacerbate the situation.
- Due to the brutal legacy of decades of disastrous U.S. interventions, the U.S. has a direct responsibility to help alleviate the local conditions that drive forced migration in Latin America.

## BORDER MILITARIZATION IS IMMORAL & DANGEROUS

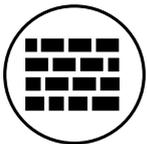


Human security is not divisible and our own fears of insecurity do not justify policies that make others less safe. Border brutality threatens the safety of those seeking refuge and opportunity at our borders.

- Firing tear gas, separating families, and caging children are real threats to human security, not migration and people seeking refuge.
- The U.S.' broken immigration system, as well as hundreds of miles of "walls" (fences, barricades, levees, etc.) already built across the southern border, has pushed people seeking asylum to attempt crossings in more dangerous environments, placing them at greater risk for harm and death.

## TRUMP'S FICTIONAL EMERGENCY

The only emergency at the Southern border is the mounting humanitarian catastrophe and irreversible harm to refuge-seeking children and families, as well as Trump's contempt for the military and the Constitution.



- Migrants and asylum seekers arriving at the U.S. border should be greeted with urgent humanitarian and medical aid and border personnel prepared to process their immigration or asylum applications, not armed troops.
- Deploying troops to the Southern border, likely in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, turns servicemembers into political pawns and continues the troubling trend of turning to military solutions for non-military challenges.
- Trump's government shutdown over wall funding held the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Americans hostage, damaged the economy, and undermined the work of vital government agencies.
- By forcing the construction of his multi-billion dollar border wall by declaring a national emergency - for which he has no true justification - Trump would be sidestepping Congress and blatantly abusing Executive power in order to continue his administration's hardline, racist anti-immigrant agenda.

## ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN LATIN AMERICA



The U.S.' long-standing violent and exploitative policies towards Latin America contribute to the local conditions that force people to leave their homes. **Erecting a deadly monument to bigotry and white supremacy through a wall will not address those conditions.**

- U.S. foreign policy should safeguard the rights, access to justice, and security of the people in Latin America, not undermine them by militarizing the border and dismantling the U.S. asylum system.
- The U.S. should support civil society and equitable economic development programs, rather than selling arms, and training & equipping security forces that contribute to violence and impunity.



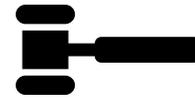
# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

Militarizing the border is immoral, dangerous, and irresponsible. Members of Congress can take positive action to counter border militarization by advocating for and enacting the following policy recommendations:



## OPPOSE BORDER MILITARIZATION

While finalizing Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations & considering FY2020 appropriations, **do not provide any funding for Trump's border wall.** In the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act, prohibit funds from being appropriated to fund the Wall, detention facilities and tent cities, and troop deployment at the border.



## DEFINE "NATIONAL EMERGENCY"

Prevent abuse of emergency powers by any president by providing a legal definition of emergency through amending the National Emergencies Act or passing separate legislation.



## FULLY FUND INTERNATIONAL AID & DEVELOPMENT

Provide robust support for equitable humanitarian and sustainable development initiatives in Latin America, rather than funding train-and-equip programs, selling military equipment used in human rights abuses, and building up militaries at the expense of other state institutions.



## FIX OUR IMMORAL & BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Repeal the administration's "zero-tolerance" policy, fully enforce humanitarian legal protections for asylum seekers, and pass a clean, just and humane permanent solution for DACA and TPS holders.

## THE HIGH COSTS OF OF BORDER MILITARIZATION

The construction of Trump's border wall could cost upwards of \$70 billion. Moreover, the deployment of thousands of troops to the border costs millions of dollars with little oversight or long-term strategic goals. **Every dollar at the Pentagon spent on border wall construction and unnecessary troop deployment could be used to fix our broken immigration system and provide investments in diplomacy, the opioid epidemic treatment, college affordability, climate adaptation, and countless other urgent needs that would provide genuine security for the American people.**



For further questions and additional resources:



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