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Advocacy Organizations Ask Governors to Condemn Hate and Violence at the Border

Dozens of organizations sign-on to letter asking Governors decline to send troops to the border

Washington, DC – Today, 45 civil rights, advocacy, and community organizations wrote to ask governors in all 50 states to reject President Trump’s plans to deploy the National Guard to the southern border by declining to send state troops. Noting the xenophobia and bigotry that are driving this action, the groups urged Governors to make a public statement condemning any vigilante violence at or near the border.

“The uproar around this year’s caravan of people seeking safety in Mexico and the U.S. was created by far-right actors intent on spreading fear of immigrants,” said Lindsay Schubiner, program director at Western States Center. “White nationalists who have a history of violence have now activated around this issue. Governors must speak out and condemn bigotry-driven vigilantism before it turns into tragedy. Hate violence poses a serious threat to asylum-seekers, immigrants, and U.S. citizens alike.”

“The rhetoric used by anti-immigrant groups in response to the caravan is quite similar to what we saw in the summer of 2014, when protesters mobilized in both Arizona and California in an effort to intimidate those women and children fleeing violence,” said Heidi Beirich, director of SPLC’s Intelligence Project. “What’s especially troubling this time around is the number of white nationalists responding, including Richard Spencer and other groups who were present in Charlottesville last August. This certainly raises the potential for violence to occur at our border.”

"Trump's decision to deploy military troops in the southern border region is yet another one of his erroneous attempts to build an unnecessary border wall," said Vicki Gaubeca, Interim Director of the Southern Border Communities Coalition. "First, he held the Dreamers hostage, now it's border communities. We have been living under the militarized boot of the U.S. Border Patrol for years. Our communities are not war zones. We do not need increased militarization. Instead, this administration should #RevitalizeNotMilitarize our communities."

A copy of the letter is available [here](#). Every Governor’s office received a letter yesterday. The list of 45 signatory organizations is below:

America’s Voice Education Fund
America’s Voice Ohio
Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus
Alliance San Diego
Arkansas United Community Coalition
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
CASA
Christian Community Development Association
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
CREDO
Defending Rights & Dissent
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos
Faith in Public Life
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Franciscan Action Network
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Indivisible
Legal Voice
Laredo Immigrant Alliance
Las Imaginistas
Latin America Working Group
Migrant Rights Collective
Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
MomsRising
MPower Change
Muslim Justice League
Neta RGV
Northern Jaguar Project
OneAmerica
People for the American Way
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Sierra Club
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southern Border Communities Coalition
Southern Poverty Law Center
Southwest Environmental Center
Surge Reproductive Justice
Texas Organizing Project
Unitarian Universalist Association
United We Dream
Voces de la Frontera
Voto Latino
Western States Center

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