

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gia Del Pino, Kino Border Initiative Director of Communications,
gdelpino@kinoborderinitiative.org, 520-208-7716

MEDIA ADVISORY

Migrants, Advocates Host Press Conference to Commemorate 70 Year Anniversary of the UN Convention on Refugees, Call Biden Administration to Restore Asylum

What- Asylum seekers, migrants, community members, faith leaders, and local U.S and Mexico-based organizations (Kino Border Initiative, BorderLinks, Southern Border Communities Coalition, Arizona Justice for Our Neighbors) gather together to demand the restoration of asylum.

When- July 28th, 2021 8am PST

Where- Kino Border Initiative, Edificio 3, Dept. 401, Colonia Fovissste II, C.P. 84020, Nogales, Sonora

Link to livestream: [July 2021 Action - SAVE ASYLUM](#)

VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON EVENT IN NOGALES (SONORA, MX)- Next Wednesday, July 28th, 2021, migrants awaiting asylum at the border and continuing their process in the US are set to host a press conference to demand the Biden Administration to restore asylum. This date also marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Refugee Convention. Building upon article 14 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the convention formally defines who is considered a refugee and what responsibilities nations have towards those seeking asylum. Although the United States claims to uphold these agreements, migrants fleeing persecution have witnessed and experienced systematic violations of their protected rights according to the 1951 Refugee Convention. Practices such as asylum metering (implemented in spring of 2018), dangerous nighttime deportations, unreasonable and unfair long wait times for Claims of Fear interviews, sending vulnerable asylum-seekers to dangerous and inhumane conditions in Mexico to await their hearings under the "Remain in Mexico" policy, using Covid-19 as a pretext to deny access to asylum at any port of entry under Title 42, increased expulsions of asylum seekers to Mexico without due process- all paint a different and grim picture. Josue, an asylum-seeker, said, "For those of us in the #SaveAsylum movement, the asylum process means that people arrive, show up, and don't have to wait a month or two to receive an appointment. People should be able to sit down at once to start the process with dignity - without having to hide in fear or suffer threats, wondering if they will survive until the date they have to cross. That is why we're here - because struggling to wait in danger to access the asylum process doesn't comply with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees."

This anniversary we urge US officials to uphold their obligation to protect those outlined under the 1951 Refugee Convention. Migrants seeking asylum in the US and in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico share their experiences and call for a full restoration of asylum during #SaveAsylum's virtual/in-person hybrid bi-lingual press conference next Wednesday.

Media availability- Various asylum seekers, Tracey Horan, Associate Director of Education and Advocacy at the Kino Border Initiative, thoran@kinoborderinitiative.org, Pedro De Velasco, Director of Education and Advocacy, pdevelasco@kinoborderinitiative.org, Gia Del Pino, Director of Communications, gdelpino@kinoborderinitiative.org

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The Kino Border Initiative (KBI) is a binational organization located in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. KBI provides humanitarian aid to migrants in Nogales, Sonora and engages in education and advocacy on both sides of the border with a vision of promoting humane, just, and workable migration.

The #SaveAsylum coalition, made up of asylum seekers, community members, faith leaders, and immigration advocates from Mexico and the U.S, whose action is rooted in the values of 'civil initiative', a term coined during the Sanctuary Movement, and our responsibility as civil society to recognize and publicly condemn the US government's violation of international law as well as the 1980 Refugee Act.