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## TAHIRIH STATEMENT ON ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN DETENTION

In response to a [report](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services revealing that thousands of migrant children had been sexually abused while in U.S. custody over the last four years, Archi Pyati, Chief of Policy at the Tahirih Justice Center, issued the following statement:

"It is appalling that children being held in detention centers are being harmed. Children coming to the United States to seek protection have experienced rape, witnessed murder, and lived through violence many of us cannot even fathom. They are just children, scared, traumatized, and vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Advocates like us have been saying for years that detaining them is wrong. It has been proven to be damaging to their mental and physical health, their psychosocial development, and their legal cases, and the fact of detention itself has been shown to be further traumatizing. Still, children are heartlessly detained. Now there is proof that the U.S. government is itself responsible for their sexual abuse, which we warned against for years. What more will it take for this practice to stop?"

*Archi Pyati is available for comment on this topic. Please contact [dhajjar@mrss.com](mailto:dhajjar@mrss.com) to arrange an interview.*

### About the Tahirih Justice Center

The Tahirih Justice Center is the largest national direct service and policy advocacy organization focused on assisting immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. The organization has five offices across the country and is headquartered in the Washington DC area. Tahirih monitors policy shifts that impact women and girls fleeing violence and advocate for the United States to honor its legal obligations to protect those fleeing human rights abuses.

*Tahirih Justice Center is a national non-profit that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence through free legal and social services, public policy advocacy, and training and education. Visit [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org) for more information.*