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TAHIRIH FILES LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THE LATEST ASYLUM BAN

Yesterday, the Tahirih Justice Center [filed a lawsuit](#) challenging the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security's asylum ban. Issued on July 16, 2019, the rule bars anyone approaching the U.S. southern border from applying for asylum, with limited exceptions. The lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and Tahirih is represented in the action by the American Civil Liberties Union.

As it stands, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the asylum ban cannot take effect within the territory of the Ninth Circuit, which covers the border area in California and Arizona. However, the ban applies everywhere else— including the borderland in Texas and New Mexico.

“This asylum ban marks a shameful low in our immigration system,” said Tahirih Houston’s Deputy Director, Liz Shields. “Under the rule, those leaving everything behind in search of safety are denied the opportunity to even demonstrate their eligibility for asylum. Children fleeing life-threatening circumstances, women fleeing rape and severe domestic violence, families trying to avoid persecution— none are allowed to seek asylum. We have been present and active in serving immigrant women and girls fleeing violence in Texas since 2009, including asylum seekers. We have an obligation under international law to uphold the Refugee Convention and this asylum ban is completely counter to that. Every individual approaching our border deserves a chance to demonstrate their need for protection”.

Liz Shields is available for comment on this topic. Please contact 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. Tahirih will continue to monitor 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 for more information.