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TAHIRIH STATEMENT ON UNLAWFUL APPOINTMENT OF USCIS HEAD

On March 1, 2020, Judge Moss in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia [ruled](#) that the acting head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) was unlawfully appointed to lead the agency. As a result, the court found that several policies aimed to limit asylum protections must be “set aside”, and potentially all directives implemented at USCIS during his tenure. Among these policies include an order to shorten the amount of time asylum seekers have to prepare for credible-fear interviews, while another policy prohibited asylum officers from granting extensions to asylum seekers.

“Judge Moss’ ruling confirms that these harmful policies that fast-track the asylum process were unlawfully adopted,” said Richard Caldarone, Tahirih Litigation Counsel. “The right to seek asylum is enshrined in international treaties and U.S. law, and government agencies cannot simply circumvent legal processes as they please to radically change the law. Immigrant survivors fleeing violence and persecution deserve a fair system to adequately demonstrate their need for protection”.

Richard Caldarone 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 a national, nonprofit organization that serves immigrant women and girls seeking safety and justice. We amplify the voices of survivors in communities, courts, and Congress to create a world where women and girls enjoy equality and live in safety and with dignity.