

## And now, the U.S. is shooting rubber bullets & tear gas at people seeking political asylum

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/and-now-the-us-is-shooting-rubber-bullets-tear-gas-at-people-seeking-political-asylum>

*For decades, the “international community” – U.S., Canada & European Community; World Bank & IADB; global investors & companies - have maintained beneficial political/ military/ economic relations with repressive, corrupt & exploitative regimes in Guatemala and Honduras, that regularly use tear gas and repression against their own people, forcing 10s of 1000s to flee, every year, ... now to face tear gas and repression while seeking refugee status.*

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### US agents fire tear gas at migrants in start of border clashes with Mexico

By Nikki Schwab, November 25, 2018

<https://nypost.com/2018/11/25/us-agents-fire-tear-gas-at-migrants-in-start-of-border-clashes-with-mexico/?fbclid=IwAR331FXVW9iCnaQJAMMIIndlWEtMK6mzggBetVrzz4j0szDSeKJq-Zopgatc>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection closed a section of the southern border with Mexico on Sunday and fired tear gas at a group of migrants that tried to breach a fence separating the two countries. CNN reported that road and pedestrian bridge access at the San Ysidro port had been closed. The major artery connects San Diego, Calif., and Tijuana, Mexico.



A migrant family, part of a caravan of thousands traveling from Central America en route to the United States, run away from tear gas. Photo: Reuters

Video footage from journalists on-site shows hundreds of migrants rushing toward the U.S. border. The Associated Press reported that U.S. officials fired tear gas at the migrants as they attempted to break through the fence.

President Trump tweeted Sunday morning that Mexico “would be very SMART” to stop the caravans of migrants long before they near the country’s border with the United States.

Instead more than 5,000 migrants have been camping out in Tijuana just across the border.

The U.S. looked to have struck a deal with Mexico on Saturday, which would keep asylum-seekers in Mexico while they wait for U.S. courts to decide their fates.

The Washington Post quoted Mexico’s incoming Interior Minister Olga Sanchez Cordero saying, “For now, we have agreed to this policy of Remain in Mexico.” Later, however, she said that there was “no agreement of any sorts between the incoming Mexican government and the U.S. government.”

She told Reuters that “very delicate” negotiations about the Central American migrant caravans were ongoing, but the plans for Mexico to be a third party were “ruled out.” Mexico’s new president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, will begin his term on Dec. 1.

The Trump administration wants migrants to stay in Mexico while they wait for their asylum claims to be adjudicated instead of coming into the U.S. and being released. “Migrants at the Southern Border will not be allowed into the United States until their claims are individually approved in court,” [Trump tweeted Saturday](#), adding that if it becomes “necessary, we will CLOSE our Southern Border.”

Trump administration officials have alleged widespread fraud, suggesting most asylum seekers disappear into the U.S. after making their initial claims. The administration had also tried to make it so no one could apply for asylum if they crossed into the U.S. illegally, but a northern California judge blocked the order.

In turn, Trump went on a tear against the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which will be next up at bat to hear the case. “You cannot win if you’re us, a case in the Ninth Circuit, and I think it’s a disgrace when people file, every case gets filed in the Ninth Circuit. That’s not law. That’s not what this country stands for. Every case gets filed in the Ninth Circuit, we get beaten and then we end up having to go to the Supreme Court,” Trump fumed to reporters.

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### **Complicity of “international community” and media**

Most U.S. & Cdn media outlets, elected politicians & gov’t officials REFUSE TO ADDRESS how U.S. and Canadian gov’ts, companies and investors maintain full relations with, and prop up the repressive, military-backed Honduran and Guatemalan gov’ts, even as: corruption and organized crime have infiltrated all institutions of these military-backed gov’ts; 10s of 1000s of citizens are forced into exile, every year, in refugee caravans or in small groups.

### **Take action: ‘The exodus is going to continue’**

Keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to families, friends and networks, to your politicians and media, to your pension and investment funds, asking: Why our governments,

companies and investment firms benefit from and turn a blind eye to the poverty, repression and violence, corruption and organized crime, and environmental and health harms in places like Guatemala and Honduras?

## **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

To support our community partner groups in Guatemala and Honduras, suffering and resisting the multiple violences of their “international community”-supported governments, and supporting displaced people and forced migrants, make check to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

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(Contributions can be made anonymously)

## **Get Informed / Get Involved**

Speakers: Invite us to give presentations about these inter-connected issues and struggles

Delegations: Join educational delegations to Guatemala and Honduras to learn about these issues and struggles

Recommended daily news: [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org); [www.theintercept.com](http://www.theintercept.com);

## **Other groups**

Honduras Solidarity Network: [www.hondurassolidarity.org](http://www.hondurassolidarity.org)

Witness for Peace: [www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org)

School of Americas Watch: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

Common Frontiers Canada: [www.commonfrontiers.ca](http://www.commonfrontiers.ca)

Breaking the Silence: [www.breakingthesilenceblog.com](http://www.breakingthesilenceblog.com)

NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with People of Guatemala): [www.nisgua.org](http://www.nisgua.org)

MiningWatch Canada: [www.miningwatch.ca](http://www.miningwatch.ca)

GHRC (Guatemalan Human Rights Commission): [www.ghrc-usa.org](http://www.ghrc-usa.org)

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