



January 2022

Our Next Meeting:  
Jan 13th on Zoom



## Guantanamo: The Voice of a Guard

A Special Group 48  
Virtual Event:  
January 13, 7:30 PM

Join us to hear the story of Steve Wood, who was a guard at Guantanamo Bay as a member of the Oregon National Guard. He witnessed torture and inhumane conditions and now works to close Guantanamo.

For details of the event, please see the article on page six.



## Urgent Action: China

### Tibetan Monk Held Incommunicado for 2 Years

Name and Pronoun: Rinchen Tsultrim (he, him)

Tibetan monk Rinchen Tsultrim was sentenced to four years and six months' imprisonment in a secret trial for "inciting secession" after expressing political views on his WeChat account. Held incommunicado since August 1, 2019, his family members only learned of the trial, his crime and whereabouts through a response from the Chinese authorities to the United Nations human rights experts in August 2021.

According to international human rights law and standards, no one should be imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression. Without access to family and legal representation, there are grave concerns for Rinchen Tsultrim's condition and wellbeing.

Rinchen Tsultrim, age 29, was a monk at the Nangshig monastery in the Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province. After a wave of Tibetan unrest in 2008, he began expressing his views through WeChat and a personal website titled "Scepticism on Tibet." In 2018, the local public security bureau twice warned him to stop expressing opinions critical of Chinese policies online. He was closely monitored, and his personal website was shut down.

Rinchen Tsultrim was arrested on August 1, 2019. In March 2020 his family received official information that he was suspected of "inciting separatism". The Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture Public Security Bureau informed his family in March 2021 that he was in a prison in Chengdu without further information. His family was aware of his trial, crime and whereabouts only after the Chinese authorities' response to a letter from four UN human rights experts was publicized. Severe and wide-ranging restrictions on and repression of ethnic minorities has been carried out under the pretence of "anti-separatism", "anti-extremism" and "counter-terrorism" in Tibetan-populated areas and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang). Access to and from Tibetan-populated areas remains highly restricted, particularly for journalists, academics and human rights organizations, making it extremely difficult to investigate and document the human rights

situation in the region.

In June 2020, 50 independent UN human rights experts strongly criticized China for the repression of religious and ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, among others. On October 6, 2020, 39 UN member states issued a joint statement expressing grave concerns about the human rights situation in Tibet, Xinjiang and other regions. 44 UN member states issued another joint statement expressing the same grave concerns on June 21, 2021.

Regulations, effective as of February 1, 2020, stipulated that religious groups must “follow the leadership of the Communist Party of China... persist in the direction of sinicization of religion, and practise core socialist values”. The government seeks to bring religious teachings and practices in line with state ideology and to comprehensively strengthen control over both state-approved and unregistered religious groups. Reports have documented the destruction of thousands of cultural and religious sites in recent years, particularly in the north-west of China. The state’s repression of religion in Xinjiang and Tibet remains severe. People continue to be arbitrarily detained for ordinary religious practices.

### Sample Letter

*Dear Director Chen,*

*I am writing to express my concern about Rinchen Tsultrim, a Tibetan Monk who was sentenced to four years and six months’ imprisonment in November 2020 for “inciting secession” after a secret trial. His family members only learned of the trial, his crime and that he is held in Aba Prison in Sichuan Province through a response from the Chinese authorities to four United Nations human rights experts in August 2021.*

*It is distressing to learn that Rinchen Tsultrim is imprisoned because of his expression of his political views on his WeChat account. According to international human rights law and standards, no one should be imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.*

*I am alarmed to learn that Rinchen Tsultrim has been held incommunicado since he was arrested on August 1, 2019. No official information about his condition has been directly shared with his family to date. Without regular access to family and legal representation of his choice, I am gravely concerned about his*

*condition and wellbeing.*

*I therefore call on you to:*

- *Immediately release Rinchen Tsultrim unless there is sufficient, credible and admissible evidence that he committed an internationally recognized offense and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards;*

- *Pending his release, ensure that he has regular, unrestricted access to his family and lawyers of his choice and is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.*

*Sincerely,*

### TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.

2. Click [here](#) to let us know the actions you took on Urgent Action 72.21. It’s important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

#### **Director Chen Zhilin**

Sichuan Province Prison  
Administration Bureau  
No. 1, Binjiangzhong Lu, Chengdu  
610020 Sichuan Province  
People’s Republic of China

#### **Ambassador Qin Gang**

Embassy of the People’s Republic of China  
3505 International Place NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Phone: 202 495 2266 / Fax: 202 495 2138  
Email: chinaembpress\_us@mfa.gov.cn  
Twitter: @ChineseEmbinUS ; @AmbQinGang  
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Please take action as soon as possible until:  
January 26, 2022

## AIUSA Group 48

<https://aipdx.org>  
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## Downward Spiral for Press Freedom Continues After Arrests in Hong Kong

December 29, 2021--Responding to the arrests of current and former senior executives and board members of Hong Kong media outlet Stand News for alleged “seditious publication” this morning, Amnesty International’s Deputy Secretary General Kyle Ward said:

“The relentless campaign against press freedom in Hong Kong continues with the stunning early-morning police raid and arrests of senior executives of outspoken media outlet Stand News.

“Authorities continue to weaponize Hong Kong’s legal system by invoking a colonial-era law of ‘seditious publication.’ Also suggesting that articles might be ‘inciting secession.’

“It is farcical that the government continues to claim that the arrests are in line with the ICCPR when international human rights standards clearly state that freedom of expression, whether in the name of ‘national security’ or otherwise, can only be lawfully restricted in a proportionate and clearly defined manner, instead of criminalizing a politically selected range of non-violent activities. Justifications given by authorities so far have not demonstrated that the threshold for restriction has been met.

“The arrests, seizing of journalistic materials and freezing of assets have an immediate chilling effect with Stand News announcing that it will cease operations. This is sadly not unexpected and continues the downwards spiral for press freedom in Hong Kong.

“All the media workers arrested today solely for doing their legitimate journalistic work must be immediately released.”

This morning, current and former executives of Stand News were arrested for “seditious publications” under Article 9 and 10 of the Crimes Ordinance, an archaic colonial-era provision last amended in the 1970s. According to media reports, over 200 national security police officers raided the online news outlet and authorities have confirmed that they have frozen over HK\$61 million (ca. US\$ 7.8 million) in assets.

Stand News has since announced that they have ceased operations.

Those arrested include former editor-in-chief Chung Pui-kuen, current editor-in-chief Patrick Lam, former board member and lawmaker Margaret Ng, former board member Christine Fong, Chow Tat-chi and pop singer and former board member Denise Ho.

Yesterday, executives of the now-defunct Apple Daily also faced the additional charge of “seditious publications.”



## URGENT ACTION: Democratic Republic of Congo

### Peaceful Activists Jailed for “Defamation”

**Name and Pronoun: Claude Lwaboshi Buhazi (32), Serge Mikindo Waso (33), Faustin Ombeni Tulinabo (26) (All He/Him)**

Activists Claude Lwaboshi Buhazi (32), Faustin Ombeni Tulinabo (26) and Serge Mikindo Waso (33), members of the citizen movement, Jicho la Raiya (The Eye of the Citizens) were arrested on February 18, 2021, in Kirotshe, in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s North Kivu province, as they were preparing to take part in a peaceful protest against “illegal road taxation” and allegations of mismanagement at the Kirotshe health district. They were accused of defamation and jailed at the police station in Kirotshe before being transferred to Goma Central Prison on March 2, 2021. On November 26, 2021, their request for release on bail was rejected by a military magistrate in Goma. Amnesty International calls for the three activists’ immediate and unconditional release.

On May 3, 2021, President Félix Tshisekedi announced that the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri were being placed under a special emergency regime dubbed a ‘State of Siege.’ The measure, according to his order, was meant to bring peace and stability to the two provinces after decades of armed conflicts by eradicating armed groups in the region.

Under the State of Siege, all civilian powers have been transferred to the military and police which replaced the civilian provincial government, chief of towns, city council and mayors. In the same context, all cases were transferred from civilian to military courts. Later, in September 2021, the Minister of Justice clarified that only criminal cases were to be handled by the military justice system. On May 6, 2021, while welcoming the government’s stated intent to protect civilians in eastern DRC, Amnesty International stressed its opposition to the transfer of the criminal jurisdiction to the military court system as they violate the DRC’s obligation to guarantee independence and impartiality under international human rights law. Allowing the prosecution of civilians before military tribunals violates the right to a fair trial and

due process guarantees. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Resolution on the Right to a Fair Trial and Legal Aid in Africa noted that “[t]he purpose of Military Courts is to determining offenses of a pure military nature committed by pure military personnel.”

Amnesty International has also observed an increasingly restrictive environment for the right to freedom of expression under the State of Siege. Journalists, Member of Parliament at the local and national levels and human rights activists have been attacked for their criticism of the State of Siege as the solution to continued insecurity.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has determined that those detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights must be immediately released. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights has called on all states parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, in its resolution 466 on prisons and conditions of detention in Africa, to release different groups of detainees amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, including human rights defenders, “in order to reduce overcrowding in prisons and curb the spread of the Coronavirus”.

#### Sample letter

*Dear Governor,*

*I would like to bring to your attention Claude Lwaboshi Buhazi (32), Faustin Ombeni Tulinabo (26) and Serge Mikindo Waso (33), three activists arrested on February 18, 2021 in Kirotshe, Masisi territory, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who have since been arbitrarily detained in connection with their peaceful human rights activism.*

*On February 18, 2021, the three activists were planning a peaceful protest over “illegal road taxation” and allegations of mismanagement in the Kirotshe health district. The three members of the citizen movement, Jicho la Raiya (The Eye of the Citizens) were accused of “malicious accusations” against the*





*then head of Kirotshe health district and a construction company in charge of roads maintenance in the area. On March 2, 2021, they were transferred to the Goma Central Prison, in North Kivu province's capital, awaiting trial. Their initial appearance before a magistrate was only scheduled on May 10, 2021, under file number RP 2210. But because of the State of Siege announced on May 6, 2021, and the transfer of criminal offenses from civilian to military courts, they were only presented before a magistrate and formally charged on November 19, 2021. They have now spent over nine months in custody when the defamation offense they are accused of is punishable only from eight days to one year in prison.*

*Amnesty International believes that Claude Lwamboshi Buhazi, Faustin Ombeni Tulinabo and Serge Mikindo Waso's prosecution and continued detention amount to a travesty of justice. Their plans to peacefully protest against "illegal taxation", allegations of mismanagement of the Kirotshe health district and poor service delivery is a right under international and national laws. Their actions should be encouraged and not suppressed so that all people are able to hold authorities accountable for improving access to critical services such as health.*

*I call on you to order the three activists' immediate release, as they are being detained solely in connection with the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. I also call on you to stop the prosecution of civilians before military courts, as they do not guarantee independence and impartiality under international human rights law, and to halt the use of defamation laws as a repressive tool to silence and punish peaceful dissent and critical voices.*

*Sincerely,*

## TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.

Click [here](#) to let us know the actions you took on Urgent Action 117.21. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

### **Lieutenant-General Constant Ndima**

Governor of North Kivu

Email: [secretariat.cab.gp.nk@gmail.com](mailto:secretariat.cab.gp.nk@gmail.com)

### **Ambassador François Nkuna Balumuene**

1100 Connecticut Ave NW #725

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202 234 7690

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Contact form: <https://www.ambardcusa.org/contact-us/>

Please take action as soon as possible until: January 31, 2022. Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.





## **Twenty Years Later, US Government Continues to Perpetuate Grave Human Rights Abuses at Guantanamo Prison.**

The military prison at Guantánamo Bay continues to facilitate grave violations of human rights by the U.S. Government. Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the military prison's opening on January 11, 2002, Daphne Eviatar, Director of the Security with Human Rights Program at Amnesty International USA, said:

“This is an anniversary that should never have been reached. Since the Bush administration, there has been agreement among national security experts and across the political spectrum that the Guantánamo prison – a notorious site of torture and unjustifiable indefinite detention – should be closed.

“President Biden must uphold his commitment to close Guantánamo once and for all. The longer the prison remains in use, the longer it continues to undermine U.S. credibility globally on human rights.”

Twenty years after its establishment at an offshore military base in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Guantánamo continues to hold 39 Muslim men in blatant perpetuation of Islamophobia and racism. None of the men detained have received a fair trial and they continue to be detained indefinitely in violation of due process of law and other internationally recognized human rights.

The Guantánamo military commissions have failed to bring justice to the victims and survivors of the 9/11 attacks, while denying due process to the accused.

[Right the wrong: Decision time on Guantánamo \(January 2021\).](#)

## **Guantanamo: The Voice of a Guard A Special Group 48 Virtual Event:**

Thursday January 13, 2022 7:30 PM

For nearly 20 years, Amnesty International has campaigned against the ongoing human rights violations at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and the release of those detained. Thirty-nine prisoners remain detained. Amnesty International's campaign to close this secret detention facility continues.

Join us to hear the story of Steve Wood, who was a guard at Guantanamo Bay as a member of the Oregon National Guard. He was told the detainees were the worst of the worst and responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attack. He witnessed torture techniques and inhumane conditions. Eventually, he guarded Mohamedou Ould Slahi, a Mauritanian man held for fourteen years without charge, and whose story was the subject of the film “The Mauritanian” starring Jodie Foster.

Today, Steve Wood works towards the end of closing Guantanamo. He has reconnected with Mohamedou, and they treat each other as brothers. We are pleased to hear his story in his own words.

To join our virtual event, send a message to Group 48 via our website at <https://aipdx.org/contact/>

## Cameroon: Release of students sentenced for 10 years for sharing joke on Boko Haram is a great relief

December 27, 2021 -- Following the release of three Cameroonian students sentenced in 2016 to 10 years in jail for sharing a sarcastic text message that referenced Boko Haram, Samira Daoud, Amnesty International's West and Central Africa Director, said:

“The release of Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivel Nfor, and Azah Levis Gob, three young men who were absurdly punished for simply sharing a joke on their mobile phones is a great relief.

We are delighted that they have been released over the weekend and were finally able to reunite with their families after seven long years behind bars.

“All those who have tirelessly campaigned for their release, including the more than 300 000 people across the globe who wrote in 2016 to President Paul Biya asking him to end this injustice, were also delighted that they are finally free.



**Fomusoh IvoFeh**

“These three students who were only exercising their right to freedom of expression should never have been arrested in the first place. Cameroon's authorities should protect human rights and ensure all people can speak freely without fear of reprisal.”

Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivel Nfor, and Azah Levis Gob, three students who had been handed a 10-year jail sentence on 2 November 2016 by a military court which convicted them for “non-denunciation of terrorist-related information” have left the prison over the weekend.

This follows the 16 December 2021 supreme Court ruling to reduce their sentence from 10 to five years in jail, which they have already spent.

According to their lawyer, Victorine Chantal Edzengte, the Court upheld the charges of “non-denunciation of terrorist-related information” against them but quashed the 10-year sentence.

In December 2014, Fomusoh Ivo Feh received a text message from a friend, saying: “Boko Haram

recruits young people from 14 years old and above. Conditions for recruitment: 4 subjects at GCE, including religion”.

His friend's message was intended as a comment on the difficulty of finding a good job without being highly qualified – joking that even the armed group Boko Haram won't recruit you without good exam results.

Ivo forwarded the message to Afuh Nivel Nfor, who sent it to Azah Levis Gob. One of their teachers saw the text, having confiscated the phone, and showed it to the police. Ivo and his friends were all arrested. They were transferred to prison in Yaoundé on 14 January 2015.

Amnesty International campaigned for their release and over 310 000 people across the globe, including former Cameroonian football striker Patrick Mboma, wrote to President Paul Biya.

## U.S. Continues to Violate Human Rights at the Southern Border

December 17, 2021 --On the occasion of International Migrants Day this Saturday, the #Welcome-WithDignity campaign and the International Mayan League call attention to the U.S. government's continued human rights violations of Indigenous peoples seeking asylum in the United States. Last week marked the three-year anniversary of the death of Jakelin Caal Maquin, a 7-year-old Maya Q'eqchi' Indigenous girl who died on the morning of December 8, 2018 under the custody of the U.S. government. Since 2018, there have been five documented cases of Indigenous children dying at the U.S./Mexico border. Last week more than 50 primarily indigenous migrants, including families and children, perished in a horrific truck crash in Chiapas, Mexico. These tragedies are the direct result of the brutal immigration policies of the United States and Mexico, which have blocked safe pathways to protection and placed people seeking asylum in harm's way.

Indigenous peoples are disproportionately impacted by anti-asylum policies such as Title 42 and Remain in Mexico due to the continued erasure of their Indigenous identities, Indigenous language exclusion within immigration services, anti-Indigeniety racism, and ongoing discrimination they face throughout their journeys. Indigenous women and

girls are at heightened risk for sex and human trafficking because of their gender and the ongoing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG) epidemic that impacts them across borders. Since Jakelin's death in 2018 and despite a change in administrations, the systems in place have not changed. Indigenous erasure continues due to the lack of disaggregated data and the lack of Indigenous language interpretations services provided. On International Day of the Migrant, we remind the administration of its domestic and international law obligations to protect the human rights of all children and people, and guarantee due process within the asylum system.

"Indigenous peoples around the world are routinely marginalized, discriminated against, and subject to violence and other abuses because of their Indigenous identity and the defense of their land rights, territory, and environment," said Amy Fischer, Americas Advocacy Director for Amnesty International USA. "This International Migrants Day is a grim reminder that Indigenous lives are under threat and have been lost at the hands of the US government. We call on the Biden Administration to do right by Indigenous communities across the Americas, to recognize and uphold Indigenous rights in the context of immigration, and immediately end policies like Title 42, Migrant Protection Protocols, and the use of arbitrary, mass immigration detention that perpetuate racism and discrimination against Indigenous, Black, and other migrants of color."

"The death of the Indigenous children who died under U.S. custody demands justice for their families, for themselves, and for all Indigenous communities who continue to be impacted by forced displacement," said Dr. Jessica Hernandez (Maya Ch'orti/Binnizá), Climate Justice Policy Strategist for International Mayan League. "Yet within the immigration discourse, their Indigeneity has been erased, ignored, and hidden. It is time we speak up for Indigenous rights within the immigration discourse and call on the Biden administration to do just by Indigenous peoples of the Americas."

"On this International Migrants Day, we reflect on the complex causes for migration and the contributions migrants add to our communities. I urge us to

also remember those that perished seeking safety and opportunity, from Jakelin Call Maquin, a seven-year old Maya Q'eqchi' girl who died in U.S. government custody in 2018, to the 55 people who lost their lives in a crash in southern Mexico just last week. Many of those we lost were from Maya K'iche' and Ixil Nations," said Melina Roche, #WelcomeWithDignity Campaign Manager. "Last week's tragedy is a result of the U.S. and Mexican government's inhumane and

enforcement-centric policies that force migrants to take dangerous clandestine routes. Policies like Remain in Mexico and Title 42 which return people to danger and deny them the right to seek refuge must end. We call on the governments of the U.S. and Mexico to prioritize the safety of migrants and access to protection. It's time to move away from deterrence-led policies that violate human rights

and result in the loss of lives."

"On December 8, we marked the third anniversary of the death of Jakelin Caal Maquin, a 7-year-old Maya Q'eqchi' girl who died in U.S. immigration custody. Unfortunately, there are many more like her, but we may never know due to the lack of transparency, resources, and dignity bestowed upon this community," said Guerline Jozef, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Haitian Bridge Alliance. "The indigenous community faces unique struggles in their fight to seek protection. Often being met with violence at the U.S.- Mexico border, many risks their identity being erased as they are miscategorized as Hispanic or Latino. The lack of interpreters who speak their native languages creates further barriers. We stand in solidarity with our indigenous brothers and sisters as they continue to mourn. Is it crucial that we understand and find solutions to their plight every day, not only on a day like today. It is also time that we all in unison hold the Biden-Harris administration accountable for all policies that continuously harm this community, including Title 42. We must welcome all with respect and dignity."

"The deaths of indigenous children in Border Patrol custody sadly converge with those of the 56 migrants, also primarily indigenous persons from Guatemala, who died in Chiapas as the result of a tragic road accident on December 9th. These cases



constitute crimes against humanity and cry out for justice,” said Camilo Pérez-Bustillo, on behalf of Witness at the Border, the International Tribunal of Conscience of Peoples in Movement, and the Task Force on the Americas of the National Lawyers’ Guild. “As we join together in commemoration of International Migrants Day, we also demand full accountability. The Biden, López Obrador and Giammattei administrations are jointly responsible for these crimes and for their reparation. We stand also today in solidarity with the migrant caravan in Mexico and the Haitian victims of racist state violence at the border.”

“As a mother, my heart goes out to the indigenous families who have lost a child during their perilous journey to seek asylum and other forms of humanitarian protection. In the same vein, I am appalled by the sheer negligence demonstrated by our immigration system, which has resulted in the death of five indigenous children,” said Basma Alawee, Campaign Manager for We Are All America. “As leaders in the refugee and immigration movement, we must all actively speak up for indigenous rights. We urge Biden to uphold his campaign promise of rebuilding a welcoming infrastructure for asylum-seekers and those seeking refuge. The administration’s commitment to supporting the human rights of asylum seekers can save the lives of indigenous women and children.”

“On International Migrants Day, we mourn the Indigenous children whose deaths in US government custody were preventable,” said Katharina Obser, Migrant Rights and Justice Director for Women’s Refugee Commission. “Tragically, Indigenous people routinely face the erasure of their identities and language in the US immigration system, and this discrimination leads to medical neglect and unjust outcomes. To meet its values and stated goals, the Biden administration must respect the rights of Indigenous and other migrants and treat them with dignity.”

“It is a painful juxtaposition that the anniversary of the death of 7-year-old Jakelin Caal Maquin and the ongoing expulsions of asylum seekers at our borders should coincide with International Migrants Day, when we should be honoring our Indigenous communities and affirming our commitment to protecting migrants seeking refuge,” said Nili Sarit Yossinger, Executive Director for Refugee Congress. We strongly urge President Biden to end the inhumane policies that have resulted in the deaths of

Indigenous children in US custody and that continue to cause such irreparable harm. This administration can and absolutely must do better.”

“As an attorney I spoke with and represented many Indigenous asylum seekers who struggled to communicate their desire to seek asylum due to the language and other barriers that prevent many asylum seekers and migrants, but particularly Indigenous peoples, from exercising their legal and human right to seek protection,” said Robyn Barnard, senior advocacy counsel of Human Rights First. “On International Migrants Day, I am thinking of the Indigenous mothers like Gloria, who I met in a family detention center after she had been unlawfully deported to her persecutor in Guatemala despite expressing a fear of return in her native language, who are fighting each day to protect their children and loved ones. On this day—and every day—the United States must stand alongside Indigenous peoples by respecting and upholding their human rights.”

“This International Migrants Day, we stand in solidarity with indigenous migrants and against their erasure in the immigration system,” said Jennifer Babaie, U.S. Southern Border Project Director at the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). “Not only do indigenous communities face forced displacement across the continent, including from climate change and systemic discrimination, but indigenous migrants encounter additional injustice at the hands of the U.S. immigration system. Today, we mourn the preventable loss of indigenous migrants like Jakelin Caal Maquin, a 7-year old Maya Q’eqchi’ girl who died in U.S. custody, and call on the Biden administration to recognize and respect the rights of indigenous migrants.”

“This International Migrants Day we mourn the tragic and preventable deaths of Indigenous migrants and refugees seeking safety in the United States,” said Felipe Navarro Lux, Manager of Regional Initiatives at the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS). “From the heartbreaking deaths of children in U.S. custody, to last week’s horrific accident in Chiapas, to the suffering brought by Title 42 and Remain in Mexico, this horrific loss of life is the direct result of draconian, racist policies that punish people for seeking protection. Today and every day we urge the Biden administration to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples and welcome all migrants with dignity and fairness.”