

CONTACT: Rachel Pak
RachelP@tahirih.org; 571-550-9162

VICTORY IN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THE USE OF CBP TO CONDUCT CREDIBLE FEAR INTERVIEWS

Today, Judge Leon in the District Court of the District of Columbia [issued a preliminary injunction](#) prohibiting the deportation of families and the use of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents to screen asylum seekers for their ‘credible fear’ of persecution while a lawsuit remains pending. Tahirih [filed the lawsuit](#) on March 27, 2020 on behalf of women and children currently detained at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas. In partnership with the Constitutional Accountability Center, Tahirih challenged this practice on a variety of grounds. Tahirih has also sought information on this clandestine policy through a [Freedom of Information Act lawsuit](#) to compel the government to release records on this troubling practice.

“This decision puts an end to the sham process of using adversarial Border Patrol agents to conduct highly sensitive interviews with asylum seekers,” said Julie Carpenter, Tahirih Senior Litigation Counsel. “Credible fear interviews are supposed to be low-bar screening interviews—the non-adversarial, first step in the asylum process. Judge Leon dismissed the government’s arguments that CBP agents could adequately conduct such sensitive interviews as ‘poppycock’. Border Patrol—federal law enforcement officers whose mission is to capture and detain immigrants—has no business in deciding the fate of survivors of gender-based violence and other asylum seekers who are seeking refuge.”

Julie Carpenter is available for comment on this topic. Please contact rachelp@tahirih.org 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.