



## Clamor Network Panama

### Facing the new migratory and national scenario

***Being a bridge for the deportation of human beings is a reflection of the policies of discarding and exclusion.***

The organizations that are part of the Ecclesial Network of Migration, Refuge, Displacement and Trafficking of Persons in Panama (CLAMOR) express our concern about the following conditions in which the processes of repatriation of migrants in Panama are taking place:

- That our authorities provide information on the conditions and actions to which the Panamanian State is obliged, regarding persons deported from the USA, through the Memorandum of Understanding or the "Pre-Agreements" established with this country, in a clear, transparent and empathetic manner to avoid causing uncertainty and fear to migrants and the community in general.
- Conduct an exhaustive case-by-case study of those who have been deported by the U.S. so that international protection can be guaranteed to those who require it, and implement policies and practices that respect their rights and recognize their humanity.
- It is important to recognize that there are two highly vulnerable populations in this reality. Those who initially began the south-north route from South America and for various reasons have been socially trapped and, in the face securitization and containment measures, have been forced to begin their return in precarious conditions and without guarantees of respect for their minimum rights and dignity. They are joined by the populations that were detained in the U.S. from very diverse Asian countries such as China, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and India. They are victims of measures that force them to stay in a country to which they had not decided to migrate.
- This particular condition aggravates their situation by not allowing them counseling, legal and emotional support. They have not committed any administrative or criminal offense in the country, yet their mobility is restricted and they are forced to arrive in a country against their will.
- Pope Francis has pointed out that any state that collaborates with "*any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality*" becomes an accomplice. Insisting that "*What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth of the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly*".



- The conditions of the places destined to receive these deported populations are not adequate and force them to remain in these spaces against their will.
- Cuts in the funding of many organizations have further weakened the possibilities for response.

As Catholic Christians we make an urgent appeal:

- To the national government to stop and rethink the agreement of understanding on migration with the United States, as it violates the most elementary human rights. We cannot become accomplices of policies that humiliate human dignity.
- To the national population to lose their fear and demand, from their civic and religious convictions, respect for our sovereignty and not to accept impositions based on political extortion by a foreign government.
- To all of us, government, civil society and the international community, to make visible the growing humanitarian crisis in which children and adolescents are doubly victims this reality and to be vigilant of the enormous risk to which minors and adults are exposed to the mafias of human smuggling and trafficking.

We maintain our willingness to continue providing spiritual, emotional and humanitarian assistance, following our mission to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone.

We are grateful for the efforts of so many men and women on the borders and in the meeting areas, following what the Central American Bishops asked of us in December: to see, approach and care for those who today are the wounded on the side of the road. This is where we must give the true meaning of the *Ordo amoris*.

Republic of Panama, February 21, 2025