



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Press Conference: El Paso State Legislators Denounce Federal Attack on Asylum Seekers and Policy of Separating Children from Parents**

**El Paso** - The El Paso state delegation will host a news conference opposing the consideration of Fort Bliss as a shelter for children separated from their parents as a result of the Trump administration's policy of zero tolerance towards asylum seekers. The press conference will take place at **10 a.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2018.**

The delegation is calling on the Trump administration to stop forcibly removing children from their families as a way to deter asylum seekers; to not warehouse children at military bases, including Fort Bliss; and to cease the illegal practice of blocking asylum seekers from entering the country at legal ports of entry where the law gives them the right to apply for asylum.

In the last week, we have seen immigration officers stationed at the top of the Santa Fe Bridge, singling out people who they think will ask for asylum, and denying them entry over the bridge. As a result, some asylum seekers are entering at an unauthorized location rather than a port of entry, and subsequently are charged with a crime and separated from their children.

- **What:** Press conference addressing asylum seekers, family separation, and inhumane immigration policy
- **Who:** State Senator Rodríguez and State Representatives Moody, Gonzalez, Blanco & Ortega
- **When:** 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 11, 2018
- **Where:** In front of the Albert Armendariz, Jr. Federal Courthouse, 525 Magoffin

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*José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Economic Development; Transportation; Veteran Affairs and Border Security; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs (Vice Chair).*