

Center for the Victims of Torture

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.cvt.org/news-events/press-releases/final-rules-work-authorizations-asylum-seekers-published-week-devastating>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

ST. PAUL, Minn. & WASHINGTON The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) today issued this statement in response to the asylum rules posted in the Federal Register.

We are deeply disappointed and concerned by the publication of two final rules for which CVT provided comment one published Monday June 22, 2020 and another today that together considerably limit the ability of asylum seekers, survivors of torture included, to obtain work authorizations. These rules will devastate many survivors of torture and other individuals who need healing as a result of their persecution. Clinicians and their colleagues from torture treatment programs across the United States know from first-hand experience how important employment is for effective rehabilitation, and the consequences for refugee and asylum-seeking trauma survivors who do not receive timely work authorization from obstructing their recovery to forcing them into an underground economy where they risk being re-victimized.

By prohibiting the grant of a work permit to asylum seekers who cross, or attempt to cross, the border between ports of entry essentially taking their livelihood this rule is punishing asylum seekers, which is a violation of Article 31 of the Refugee Convention. Andrea Crcamo, CVT senior policy counsel.

Among others, these are some of the main effects of these rules:

Starting August 21, 2020 ([rule issued 6/22/2020](#)):

Starting August 29, 2020 ([rule issued 6/26/2020](#)):

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The Center for Victims of Torture is a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with offices in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, D.C.; and healing initiatives in Africa and the Middle East. Visit www.cvt.org.

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We **advocate** for the protection & care of torture survivors and an end to torture.

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