



# Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB)

**Consejo Central  
Binacional**

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## Indigenous Organization Take Action To Bridge Language Barrier in the Midst of Humanitarian Crisis at the US-Mexico Border

Mayan children forcibly taken from their parents by the federal government are in urgent need

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Indigenous Front of Binational Organizations (Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales-FIOB) joins in solidarity with every sector of our society and the international community in condemning the Trump Administration's immoral and cruel act of detaining families and separating children from their parents.

In the midst of this devastating situation, Mayan indigenous children have also been separated from their parents by Department of Homeland Security officials.

"We strongly urge the Federal Government to ensure that indigenous children stripped from their parents have access to highly qualified professionals who are able to interpret concepts like border, migration, and illegality into indigenous languages; these terms simply do not exist in our communities," said Odilia Romero, the binational general coordinator of the FIOB.

In order to respond to the urgent need to have children forcibly separated from their parents to have access to information in their native languages, the FIOB has reached out to Mayan interpreters across the United States in order to make themselves available to interned children.

Thanks to a successful GoFundMe campaign organized by the Lopez family who owns the restaurant Guelaguetza and has the podcast Super Mamas and the FIOB (<https://bit.ly/2ysqXa9>), the first team of Mayan interpreters will be sent to detention facilities where children are being held.

"We will continue to ensure that children who have been victimized by cruel and inhumane immigration policies have access to information in their own language," said Odilia Romero. The first team of Mayan interpreters are expected to arrive in Texas on June 22, 2018.

*Since 1993 FIOB has been providing highly trained interpretation in multiple indigenous languages to displaced indigenous communities forced to migrate to the United States.*

¡Por el respeto a los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas!

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