

Central American Summit to Discuss on Immigrant Children



Guatemala, June 25 (PL-RHC) -- The issue of immigrant children detained in the United States will be taken to the 43rd Ordinary Summit of Heads of State of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to be held Friday in the Dominican Republic.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Carrera said the high-level committee formed by the countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala) will raise actions to ensure family reunification and respect for human rights of unaccompanied immigrant children.

Carrera explained that these countries will propose measures following the lines of what was agreed last Friday on a visit to Guatemala by U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden.

The agreement with Biden includes holding a meeting on July 16 in Nicaragua and giving priority to the life and interests of immigrant children.

Washington confirmed Monday that since last October, U.S. authorities have detained more than 52,000 immigrant children and reiterated that they will be deported to their countries. The U.S. Congress meanwhile, will introduce a bill to facilitate legal assistance for immigrant children who arrive alone in the United States border.

Illegal immigrant children could claim asylum, under the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), which grants certain undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been abused, neglected or abandoned the opportunity to stay in the United States.

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