



MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS
Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation
www.maryknollogc.org

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Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Statement on Invocation of Alien Enemies Act of 1798

WASHINGTON, DC – The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns expresses concern regarding the Trump Administration’s use of an 18th-century law and disregard of a court order this weekend to imprison people in a foreign prison, unaccountable to U.S. laws, without charges or trial, with discrimination on the basis of nationality.

As Catholics, we believe in the sanctity of human life and dignity. The administration's recent action violates these principles to the extreme.

Maryknoll missionaries have witnessed suffering and injustice caused by the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. The last time the law was invoked was in World War II when over a hundred thousand Japanese Americans were forcibly removed and held in concentration camps in a dark era in U.S. history. Maryknoll missionaries served this population in the camps as pastors and educators, running churches and schools. Echoes of that grim moment reverberate today, in peacetime no less, with lessons of the past going unlearned.

We call on the president to rescind the invocation of the Act and instead uphold the nation’s refugee and immigration laws.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) represents Maryknoll missionaries, who are Catholic men and women serving in impoverished communities around the world. The MOGC provides analysis and advocacy on issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation that affect the countries and communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve.

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