DATE

Dear CONGRESSIONAL LEADER’S NAME,

I read Sonia Nazario’s article in the Oct. 11, 2015 New York Times titled “The refugees at our door.” I am outraged that the U.S. government is paying Mexico to conduct a ferocious crackdown on refugees fleeing violence in Central America. As Nazario put it, “the United States has outsourced a refugee problem to Mexico that is similar to the refugee crisis now roiling Europe.”

I am asking you, as my representative in Washington, to do the following:

* We should stop paying Mexico tens of millions of dollars to intercept and deport these refugees before they reach our border. Some congressional leaders have proposed spending $90 million to do more of this in 2016; we should instead spend that money to help these refugees.
* We should help Mexico pay for places for migrants to be held that are humane while their refugee claims are evaluated.
* The United States should develop a system for these refugees, much like Europe is now doing for Syrians, to equitably allocate people who are fleeing harm throughout this continent — including sending them to safer countries in Latin America, to Canada and to the United States.
* We should increase the number of refugees we allow to pre-9/11 levels -- 130,000, from the current 70,000 -- to allow more of these families to have a safe harbor here in the U.S.
* We should approve a proposed tripling aid, now before Congress, to the northern triangle Central American countries (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) to help reduce the causes of the violence pushing these families out.

Please stand up for the refugees at our door. Don’t just stand by.

If you have any questions, please contact me at TELEPHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL.

Respectfully,

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP CODE