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SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PETITIONS U.S. SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW REFUGEE ELIGIBILITY FOR SALVADORAN POLITICIAN

Oakland, CA: Social Justice Collaborative is petitioning the United States Supreme Court to review the asylum petition of Mr. Silva-Pereira who faced political persecution in his home country of El Salvador after he condemned corruption and sought political reforms there.

Mr. Silva-Pereira was a political figure in El Salvador. After he condemned the corruption of the current government there and advocated for progressive political change, the reigning political party brought false political charges against Mr. Silva-Pereira and made false criminal accusations against him. Mr. Silva-Pereira maintains these false charges were made in an attempt to keep him from challenging the current political party in charge in El Salvador.

“We are petitioning the United States Supreme Court on behalf of Mr. Silva-Pereira because without receiving the political asylum to which he is entitled under U.S. law, Mr. Silva-Pereira will be returned to El Salvador and face political persecution for speaking out against corruption there,” said Gautam Jagannath, Co-Founder of Social Justice Collaborative.

The international community has long recognized the government of El Salvador as corrupt and one pursuing a policy of political persecution of its perceived enemies. Transparency International, the global anti-corruption organization, rates El Salvador 36 out of 100, where 100 is a ranking of no perceived public sector corruption. In October 2016, El Salvador's former President Antonio Saca was arrested on corruption charges alleging misuse of public funds.

The representation is noteworthy as it is the first petition to the United States Supreme Court undertaken since SJC was founded four years ago. The petition comes after a long fought journey through the lower courts, including multiple appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals and argument before the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

About Social Justice Collaborative: Social Justice Collaborative is an Oakland-based nonprofit organization. SJC is committed to providing legal representation and advocacy for the immigrant community in both immigration court and criminal court. At Social Justice Collaborative, the belief that all non-citizens deserve the right to an attorney regardless of socioeconomic standing is a founding principle that guides the practice and work of the organization. From unaccompanied

minors to migrants of all walks of life, SJC has and continues to welcome all those who seek help with legal concerns.

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