

Migrant Children Must Be Protected

The different kinds of violence and poverty that are prevalent in our countries obligate thousands of people to flee, migrating in an irregular way going north. Illegitimate and corrupt governments of the region aggravate the situation, insofar as they do not seriously invest in resolving the root causes of forced migration, and as the political crises intensify, the lack of hope of the population also grows. On the other hand, “Zero Tolerance” policies on irregular migration by the United States government leaves people without options.

In the United States, Mexico and Central America, there continues to be a predominant focus on National Security to address irregular migration, with the consistent practices of militarization of public policies, territories and borders, with the consistent practices of control, detention and deportation of migrants, prioritized before the focus of Human Safety, with respectful and promising human rights practices. The governments of origin themselves- Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico reinforce border security, when they are the ones who have not protected their citizens in their territories.

So far this year, the news gives account of central americans who have died under the control of Border Patrol mostly children and others, crossing rivers, the desert and confronting other risks along the route. In the case of Guatemalans, the majority of those who died were indigenous children, which reflects the racism and marginalization of those that are placed in this system.

The crimes committed by Border Patrol, like the assassination of Claudia Patricia Gomez, like the death of girls in the last eight months, detained boys are left in impunity.

These deaths are not of importance to the governments of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, and the United states; on the contrary, they continue taking measures that prevent people from accessing the right to seek international protection when they are threatened. In addition, they criminalize families that migrate with their children which contradicts the legal framework of child protection.

The Guatemalan government has hurried to sign an agreement to convert itself into a “Safe Third Country” without following the procedures that correspond and contravene international agreements, without having the conditions to offer security to people seeking international protection. The other countries of the region find themselves in negotiations with the U.S. government to sign migratory agreements whose content is unknown.

On their part, in the U.S. territory, they are making the biggest raids of the last decade against migrant workers, like the ones carried out in Mississippi, causing fear in migrant communities.

While all migrating people, find themselves in a vulnerable situation, it is greater for children, with the aggravating factor if they are indigenous or extra-continental. They are subject to deprivation of liberty in detention centers, vulnerable to inhuman treatment, cruel degrading to sexual abuse and death within them.

This is why the organizations that subscribe to this pronouncement reaffirm the internationally accepted principles of:

- Prioritizing the best interest of children and their right to protection
- The non-separation of families. Not separating families.
- No detention of Children
- Compliance with non-refoulement and international protection (Refuge and Asylum)
- Compliance with due process to address each case and differential care
- The right to Justice, so that crimes do not remain in impunity.

Therefore, we request that you act to:

-To void the agreements that the states have signed, violating human rights in a hidden way and behind the backs of the peoples. Particularly, that the "Safe Third Country" Agreement with the Guatemalan government be annulled. It is illegal, illegitimate, unfeasible, and contrary to human rights.

-That a budget oriented towards the construction of walls and greater repression against migrants is not approved in the next fiscal year for the United States. On the contrary, the construction of walls and greater repression against migrants. On the contrary, the budget is supported when attacking the causes that motivate migration and that cooperation is not directed by the government but through community authorities and civil society organizations; that [the budget] is oriented to combat corruption through social auditing, citizen participation, as well as investment programs in developments in the most impoverished territories.

-That dignified conditions be guaranteed for children and that they are taken care of under the rights approach, taking into account cultural diversity and differential attention, in countries of origin/return transit and destination.

-To support and contribute to the establishment of effective child protection systems in the United States and in turn to countries of origin/ return, transit, and destination, which contribute to eliminating homicides and violence against children and adolescents in Central America, so they don't have to migrate forcefully.

September 9, 2019

Honduras:

HONDURAS:

Casa Alianza Honduras

Comisión de Acción Social Menonita – CASM – Honduras

EL SALVADOR:

Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador – GMIES –

GUATEMALA:

Asociación Pop No'j

MEXICO:

Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Matías de Córdova”

Voces Mesoamericanas Acción con Pueblos Migrantes

ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL NETWORKS:

- Mesa de Coordinación transfronteriza Migraciones y Género
- Grupo articulador de la sociedad civil en materia migratoria para Guatemala
- Alianza MX
- Colectivo contra la Trata de Personas México
- Capítulo Mexicano del ObservaLATrata
- Capítulo Chileno del ObservaLATrata
- Grupo de Trabajo Sobre Política Migratoria: Aldeas Infantiles SOS México, I.A.P.; American Friends Services Committee; Asylum Access México (AAMX) A.C.; Casa del Migrante Saltillo (Frontera con Justicia A.C.); Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova, A.C.; Coalició Pro Defensa del Migrante de Baja California; Fundación Appleseed México, A.C.; DHIA. Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción, A.C.; FUNDAR Centro de Análisis e Investigación, A.C.; IMUMI Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración; Iniciativa Ciudadana para la Promoción de la Cultura del Diálogo, A.C.; INSYDE Instituto para la Seguridad y la Democracia; M3 Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano; REDIM Red por los

Derechos de la Infancia en México; Save The Children México, Sin Fronteras, IAP; Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes México; SMR Scalabrinianas: Misión para Migrantes y Refugiados; Leticia Calderón, Analista en temas migratorios; Brenda Valdés; Elba Coria; Manuel Ángel Castillo, Investigador; IDC International Detention Coalition (Observadoras). Melissa Vértiz Hernández. Secretaría Técnica.

- Coordinadora de Instituciones por los Derechos de la Niñez (COIPRODEN)

Guatemala:

- Centro de Investigación para la prevención de la Violencia en Centroamerica, - CIPREVICA-
- Asociación Sagrada Tierra
- Iniciativa Ciudadana para la Promoción de la Cultura del Diálogo, A.C.
- Pastoral de Movilidad Humana
- Asociación Coordinadora de Servicios para la Salud –ACSS-
- Jóvenes por el Cambio –JXC-
- Mesa Nacional Para las migraciones en Guatemala –MENAMIG-
- Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial –ECAP-
- Red de Jóvenes Ak Molam
- American Friends Service Committee, Oficina regional para América Latina y el Caribe –AFSC-
- Federación Guatemalteca de Escuelas Rádofónicas – FGER-
- Organización de Mujeres Guatemaltecas MAMA MAQUIN
- Programa de Atención, Movilización e Incidencia por la Niñez y Adolescencia – PAMI-
- Red Jesuita con Migrantes de Guatemala, a través del Instituto de investigación y proyección sobre dinámicas Globales y Territoriales (IDGT) de la Universidad Rafael Landívar (URL)
- Centro de Trabajadores Inmigrantes –CTTI-IWC-
- Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Sociales y Desarrollo -INCEDES-
- Coordinación y Convergencia Nacional Maya Waqib' Kej. (Asociación Grupo Integral de Mujeres Sanjuaneras -AGIMS-, Asociación Ajkemab' Rech K'aslemal, Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos -CALDH-, Articulación Nacional de Mujeres Tejiendo Fuerzas para el Buen Vivir, Asociación de Servicios Comunitarios en Salud -ASECSA-, Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala - CONAVIGUA-, Comité de Unidad Campesina -CUC-, Fundación para el Desarrollo y Fortalecimiento de las Organizaciones de Base - FUNDEBASE-, Movimiento de Jóvenes Mayas -MOJOMAYAS-, Asociación Maya Ukux B'e)
- Asociación La Alianza

- Fundación Myrna Mack
- Centro de Estudios de Guatemala –CEG-
- Asociación Lambda
- Fundación Para La Justicia Y el Estado Democrático de Derecho
- Festivales solidarios
- Asociación de Desarrollo para el Fortalecimiento de la Mujer Indígena -ADEFMI-
- Red por la Paz y el Desarrollo de Guatemala

Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras de Alta Verapaz –MEAV-

México:

- Centro de Formación para la Sustentabilidad Moxviquil, AC
- Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración AC
- Iniciativas para el Desarrollo Humano A.C. -IDEHU-
- Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración –IMUMI-
- Formación y Capacitación AC
- Instituto Mexicano para el desarrollo Comunitario –IMDEC-
- Instituto de Estudios y Divulgación sobre Migración
- Asylum Access
- Sin Fronteras IAP
- Families Belong Together
- Otros Dreams en Acción –ODA-
- Casa de Acogida y Formación para Mujeres y Familias –CAFEMIN-
- Centro de Atención a la familia Migrante Indígena A.C. –CAFAMI-
- Vicaría de Justicia y Paz, Diócesis de San Cristóbal de Las Casas
- Fundación Promigrante
- Colectivo de Observación y Monitoreo del Suroeste Mexicano
- Melel Xojobal A.C.
- Infancia Común A.C.
- Asociación Mexicana de Psicología y Desarrollo Comunitario.
- DIA A.C.
- Cuerpo Académico Transformación Social. Universidad de Guadalajara
- Pensamiento Jurídico y Sociedad de la UASLP
- Colectivo Mujer y Utopía A.C.
- Centro de Estudios Sociales y Culturales Antonio de Montesinos A.C.
- G 10 Por Jalisco, A. C.
- Programa de Estudios de Género Universidad de Guadalajara
- "Colectiva Abuelas Sabias"
- Red de Mujeres Insurgentes.
- INCIDIR, A. C.

HONDURAS:

- Federación Luterana Mundial -FLM/SM CA-
- Familias solidarias de Honduras

El Salvador:

Fundación para la Democracia, Seguridad y Paz –FUNDEMOSPAZ-

United States:

- Alianza Americas

Individuals

- Lucía Ixchíu
- Victoria Saenz
- Jesse Romero
- César Estrada
- Raul Molina Mejia
- Laura Nereida Plascencia Pacheco