



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

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Programme No. 1034

Length: 3'15"

CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRANTS FACE RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN VOYAGE NORTH

VIDEO

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

TRAIN

MIGRANTS WAITING

ON-CAMERA

TECÚN UMÁN, GUATEMALA
TAPACHULA, MEXICO
NATIONAL MIGRATION
INSTITUTE

AUDIO

NARRATION

Next to the railroad tracks, outside Mexico City, a group of young Hondurans wait. They are waiting to board “la bestia” – the beast, as they call the freight train that travels north towards the border with the United States. (13”)

Penniless and tired, some have been traveling for weeks. (4”)

YOUNG HONDURAN: (in Spanish):

“Why? Because it’s the dream of us Hondurans to reach the United States”. (5”)

NARRATION

These migrants from Central America have entered Mexico illegally – now they must do everything they can to avoid immigration police and road blocks. In doing so, they can fall prey to criminals of various sorts. (13”)

MARIA AT SAFE HOUSE

NATSOT UP (ROSALES)

“Careful guys, in avoiding the police you might fall into the hands of unscrupulous people – especially you women. But men too. We’ve had men who have been cut up, men who have been kidnapped and enslaved. You must go to your consulates. Ask them for help. They agree to give it.” (20”)

NARRATION

Maria Ester Rosales runs a safe house for migrants in Southern Mexico. (5”)

ROSALES ON-CAMERA

ROSALES: (In Spanish)

“The violations to their human rights have increased tremendously. What we try to do here is to help them travel through Mexico in a dignified way.” (11”)

NARRATION

TECÚN UMÁN, GUATEMALA
NIGHT STREET SCENE

But cases of abduction are common: this Salvadoran woman says her 17 year-old daughter has been kidnapped to work in a bar. (7”)

ERNESTINA MENJIVAR ON-
CAMERA

MENJIVAR: (in Spanish):

“I said Myrna, open the gate, I need to talk to you, but some woman just came out and said what do you want, get out of here, or I’ll kill you...” (8”)

NARRATION

TECÚN UMÁN, GUATEMALA
MIGRANTS CROSSING RIVER

Trafficking of all kinds thrives along Mexico's southern border with Guatemala. Young people – especially women traveling alone, like Sandra, run the greatest risks. (10”)

SANDRA SOSA ON-CAMERA

SOSA: (In Spanish)

“No, I don't have any money. The little I had was taken from me. I was assaulted and I was robbed, and they took all my documents.” (7”)

SAFE HOUSES

NARRATION

Safe-houses like this one offer migrants a place to rest for up to three days before they move on. It's the only place to reach migrants with important information on human rights, says Nadine Gasman of the UN Population Fund. (13”)

GASMAN ON-CAMERA
UNFPA RES. REP.

GASMAN: (In Spanish):

“It's important in these situations, that these men and women don't lose a sense of their individual rights, that as persons they be aware that the international community and the countries they are crossing must recognize them as bearers of human rights. (14”)

TAPACHULA, MEXICO
WOMEN COOKING ETC.

NARRATION

Knowledge of their basic rights helps protect families like this one, traveling with small children, from abuse. All they are seeking, they say, is a chance to work and improve their lives. (12”)

NARRATION

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Michele Zaccheo for
the United Nations. (6")