



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Release Date: June 2007

Programme: 1078

Length: 2'49"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

MEXICO: BORDER CROSSING

VIDEO

CROSSES IN THE DESERT

SMALL CHAPEL /
MIGRANTS AT THE PLAZA.

MIGRANTS DISEMBARKING
BUS

PASSENGER VANS PARKED
ALONGSIDE STREET

YOUNG MAN

AUDIO

NARRATION

Hundreds of people die each year trying to illegally cross from Mexico into the United States. Many of them are women and children who run out of water in the middle of the desert. (9.5")

An hour-and-a-half south of the border lies Altar, Mexico. It's where most migrants find a smuggler, known as a coyote, to help them navigate the desert. (8.5")

A never-ending stream of buses into Altar drops migrants at the town square. They sit and wait to be approached by a coyote. (7.5")

On the far side of the square, a line of vans waits to ferry migrants to the border, where they will begin their dangerous three-day journey. (6.5")

This 18-year-old who we'll call Enrique is

paying a coyote \$2,500 U.S., which a relative in the United States is lending him. (8.5”)

WOMAN WASHING
CLOTHES / ENRIQUE WAITS
W/ OTHER MIGRANTS

Like many migrants, Enrique has grown tired of living on less than US\$3 a day, and is willing to face the dangers lurking in the desert. (7.5”)

ENRIQUE ON CAMERA

ENRIQUE: (Spanish) **M**

"Yes, I am afraid because I have been told that many people die in the desert...but to try to be in the U.S., I will do my very best to get there." (9”)

MEXICAN POLICE BY U.S./
MEXICO BORDER

NARRATION

With increased security on the border, migrants are now trying to cross in more remote areas of the desert, sometimes with only two gallons of water - not nearly enough. (9”)

GROUP OF MEN W/
GALLONS OF WATER
PREPARE TO LEAVE /
AERIAL VIEW OF MIGRANTS
WAITING AT THE PLAZA

Hundreds of thousands are caught by the authorities every year. Most of the adults are simply dropped off back on the Mexican side of the border. The children are sent to repatriation centers, where they wait to be picked up by a relative. (12.5”)

REPATRIATION CENTER /
FEMALE WORKER HELPS
YOUNG GIRL

UNICEF partner Colegio de la Frontera Norte works with the Mexican government to ensure that the children are safe, and given access to health and legal services. They also discourage the children from attempting another crossing. (14”)

YOUNG MIGRANTS AT THE
BORDER AT NIGHT

Humberto Valdez is the director of strategic studies: (2.5”)

HUMBERTO VALDEZ,
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC
STUDIES, D.I.F. SONORA,
ON CAMERA

HUMBERTO VALDEZ: (Spanish) **M**

"The children are in danger to become the victims of thieves, rapists, and sex traffickers. And in some cases, people who want to sell their organs." (8”)

ENRIQUE ON CAMERA.

NARRATION

The night before Enrique left Altar with a coyote, a journalist passed along his cell phone number, with instructions to call him.

BORDER DESERT

(7”)

Several days later the phone rang. Enrique was on a pay phone at a gas station in a large U.S. city. He said they traveled three days across the desert, and they were robbed along the way. But they made it out alive. They were among the fortunate ones. (15”)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Thomas Nybo for the United Nations.