

#CaravanaDeMigrantes
#ExodusoftheDisplaced

Update on the Exodus

"Since learning about this exodus, we are monitoring the actions implemented by the Mexican State to respond to the humanitarian emergency arising from forced migration, which has forced hundreds to flee Honduras and other countries in the region.

We have observed and documented several human rights violations committed by Mexican authorities against people who have been arriving in Mexico in need of international protection.

Staff of the National Institute of Migration (INM) and federal, state and local police, contrary to official information that has circulated, have hindered access to Mexican territory under various means and have only allowed entry under the condition of submitting to immigration detention.

On the other hand, there is no coordination amongst the different levels of government and the different authorities according to their functions in order to give a comprehensive and regional response to the situation; although we are observing confrontation against the people on the part of the Mexican authorities.

Today, as others moved from Ciudad Hidalgo to Tapachula, hundreds remained on the Guatemala-Mexico Bridge, waiting to be let in since October 19th. There is no humanitarian assistance. They wait in the open air, without access to the minimum conditions of subsistence. There is uncertainty around the time they will have to wait for the attention of the authorities, as the response by INM has been reduced and there are no clear alternatives of reception in Ciudad Hidalgo due to the closure of the Temporary Shelter.

During the advance of this exodus, the response of the State continues to be of militaristic commanded by the Federal Police. During the journey to Tapachula, the military and police forces, systematically and permanently, attempted to block their passage. On several occasions, they clearly threatened to repress people, including intimidating them with low-level overflight of a helicopter of the Federal Police and deliberately causing confusion and terror.

This response has serious effects on the people walking, who also suffer the impact caused by the conditions in which they travel without any humanitarian assistance and health care. Fatigue, weakness and extreme weather conditions are causing groups of greater vulnerability to lag behind. This includes children and adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities or illness.

Within this context of insecurity and uncertainty, there are children and adolescents, both accompanied and unaccompanied. So far, there are no figures that allow us to determine the number, but they are in themselves a particularly vulnerable population with special needs for detection, care and protection. So far the federal authorities have not issued the protection

measures to which it is bound by law.

In contrast, throughout the monitoring process, we observe incredible examples of solidarity from the population, who have accompanied the exodus in various ways, contributing and sharing what they had at hand: water, food, strollers, clothes, backpacks, bathing babies in the extreme heat, often with words of encouragement.

On the other hand, the civil society shelters in Tapachula were already beyond capacity, already struggling with the minimum of resources that are now insufficient to attend the people who come to them. All the while, government humanitarian assistance is being conditioned upon migratory detention.

Therefore, we demand that the Mexican State provide a response adequate to international standards in human rights, humanitarian law and the right to asylum and refuge. It is unacceptable that respect for basic rights be conditioned upon their migratory status.

We hold the Mexican State responsible:

- 1) For the breach of the guarantees of protection to the life and integrity of the people who are entering the country and the risk of suffering irreparable damages, including serious violations of human rights;
- 2) For arbitrary arrests that people are suffering in the Immigration Detention Center Siglo XXI, as well as in the extension of it installed in the Mesoamerican Fair of Tapachula;
- 3) For the denial of access to the refugee recognition procedure, rejection at the border, and mass deportations;
- 4) For the cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment committed, as documented in fact-based reports, risking that people become victims of some form of torture;
- 5) For the non-observance of the best interests of children, given the countless number of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents, who are ignored and treated just like adults.

We call for an immediate and coordinated response from international institutions to provide comprehensive and regional assistance to people facing the current situation and the distinct potential scenarios.

Signed by:

American Friends Service Committee oficina Latinoamérica y el Caribe, Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (JRS) y Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (SJM), Voces Mesoamericanas Acción con Pueblos Migrantes AC, Médicos del Mundo Suiza, Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova AC. y Otros Mundos Chiapas.

Con el acompañamiento de SweFOR México.