

## A BRIEF REFLECTION OF MIGRATION IN MEXICO AND ITS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES



**M**y wife and I are acquainted with a nun who lives in Tenosique, Tabasco, an area with a high influx of undocumented immigrants from Central America, mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. She volunteers at the Casa del Migrante. This place, known as “La 72”, provides shelter and assistance to immigrants.

She pointed out that prior to Trump, between 50 and 70 people a day arrived seeking refuge. After Trump, the number has decreased to more or less 20 a day. Some of them are escaping due to threats from organized crime groups trying to recruit them, and if they refuse, their lives and their families' lives are at risk. Other reasons why they emigrate are poverty and lack of opportunities. Approximately 80 percent of these migrants are men.





Our friend told us that some of them seek refuge in Mexico. If they succeed in legalizing their migration status, they begin a new life, mainly in the southeastern states, but in other cases, they are repatriated.

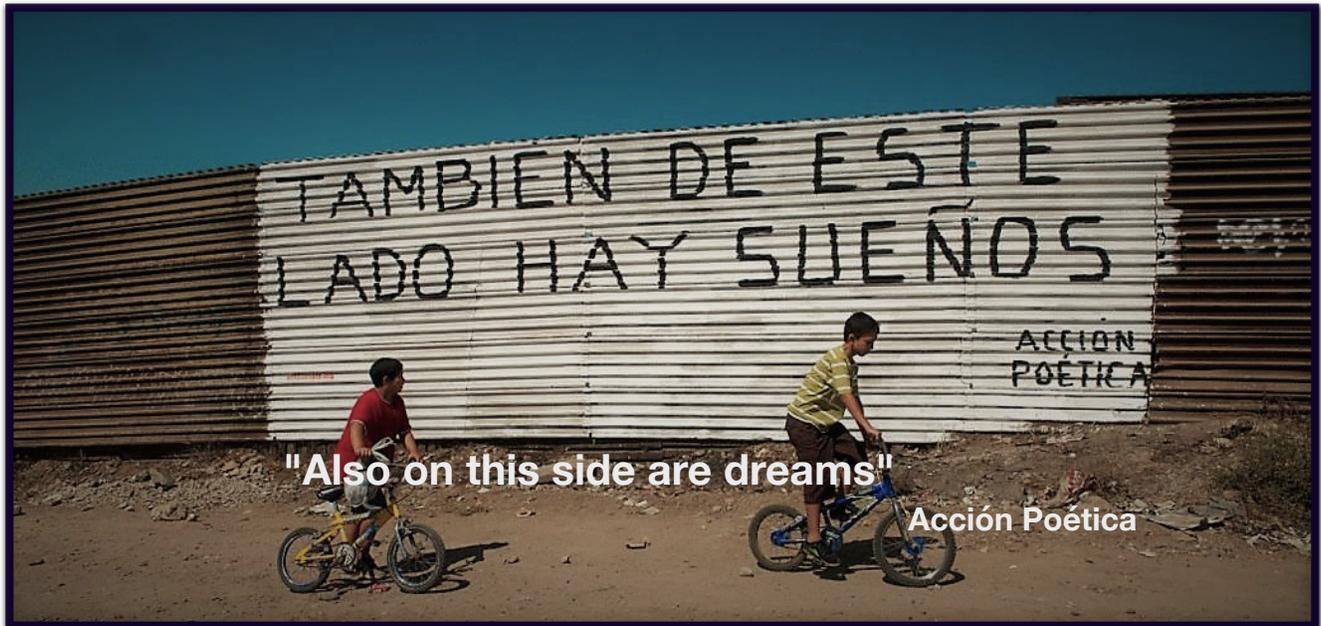
Other migrants take the risk and undertake the arduous journey to the border in an attempt to cross into the United States. This extremely long trip entails boarding

several trains, known as “The Beast” or “The Train of Death”. Whether they choose the Golf route or the longer Pacific route, this train ride is extremely dangerous, since the migrants can fall off the wagons’ roofs and suffer serious injuries. In addition, they have to deal with such powerful organizations as drug cartels and corrupt security officials who resort to threats, extortion and different forms of abuse.

There are countless myths and stereotypes about migration. As of 2007, the number of undocumented Mexicans has been drastically reduced from nearly 700,000 per year in 2007 to a tenth of that figure in 2014. Likewise, in 2007 there were approximately seven million undocumented Mexicans living in the United States, while at present, this number has dropped to nearly six million.



However, beyond the numbers themselves, what matters is the person's value. Each migrant has a story to tell, and generally aspires to leading a different, better life. Occasionally, after considerable hard work and effort, these dreams do come true, though unfortunately that is not always the case.



I envisage a Mexico with a safer Central American region, with solid institutions and public policies that promote and achieve a more inclusive stage of development. I think we should work toward transforming this dream into a reality while at the same time revising our own migratory policies by incorporating positive immigration practices into this reality.

### If you wish to support this organization contact

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