

Central American migration in transit through San Luis Potosi, Mexico, especially the case of El Salvador

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Abstract

When I take the challenge to continue my studies in the city of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, I also took the challenge of adapting to a culture and lifestyles very different from my home country (El Salvador). Because the voices of migrants with which I was involved through initiatives and projects developed my professional profile, motivated me to go ahead and have the first-hand experience of being a migrant or foreign person who had to open new spaces to be heard and make precedent in the dynamics of society Potosi. "To live the experience to adapt and take action on my own, to find the tools and mechanisms for communicating with loved ones who are in my country, especially the uprooting and separation around me and take this safety decision to migrate for academic reasons ", from there you can say that is a small portion of the migration experience that I lived; small because it is so complicated and traumatic to many Central American migrants who travel to the United States undertake driven by many reasons and without knowing the risks it entails. The aim of this article is to describe from experience and knowledge about: the basics of migration profile of Salvadoran migrant and human rights violations suffered, institutional responses that exist both in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and El Salvador for the protection of migrants, along a section of conclusions and recommendations analyzed from the perspective of the author.

Migration, Salvadorian, Central american.

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Concepts related to the International Migration Law

Special concepts are discussed and related items, namely irregular migration, transit migration, migrant, human rights, consular protection, country of origin, country of transit and destination country.

This in an effort not to fall into ideas that may be derogatory, discriminatory or stigmatizing to tackling the issue of migration and target people involved in this dynamic.

Glossary on Migration, Number 7 International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2006) contains a cluster of concepts used internationally on International Migration Law and mentions the following:

1. Irregular migration will understand by people who travel outside the rules of the United Shipping, transit or receiver. From this perspective generally people call it illegal or undocumented migration which can cause sometime discriminative comments because there are people who by their irregular status become illegal, undocumented immigrants or criminals.

2. Migration in transit, ie those migrants that go to a country of destination and in the course of their journey pass through geographically neighboring countries, for example, migrants from El Salvador passing through Guatemala and Mexico before to reach the United States (the first two refer to countries where higher transit migration flows exist), also people from Honduras, passing through Guatemala and El Salvador or Mexico to get to your destination country; migratory routes used are constantly changing due to the dynamics of migration and the risks posed during the meeting.

3. Migrant, the same IOM Glossary mentions that internationally there is no universally accepted definition of the term "migrant." This term usually encompasses all cases where the decision to migrate is taken freely by the individual concerned by "reasons of personal convenience" and without intervention of external factors that require it. Thus, this term applies to people and their families who go to another country or region to improve their social and material conditions and prospects and those of their families.

4. Human rights, freedoms and benefits those now universally accepted that all human beings can claim as rights in the society they live are understood. These rights are set forth in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966.

5. Consular Protection, the consular function which results in the assistance provided by the State to its nationals outside its territory through consular offices accredited in another State. This protection extends to migrants arrested, in prison or in custody by the authorities of another State. Foreigners generally must be informed without delay by the receiving State the right to communicate with consular authorities (Art. 36.1 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963), for example the Salvadoran established consular network in Mexico working in coordination with the Vice Ministry for Salvadorans Abroad (which will be explained and discussed later).

6. Country of origin, transit and destination, the first of which refers to the country comes a migrant or regular or irregular migratory flows (in this case in particular El Salvador and other Central American countries like Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua).

The second refers to countries through which the person or group to your destination migration (Guatemala and Mexico for example), the third refers to the country where migratory flows (regular or irregular target, for example States United).

In short these are the concepts that are usually used during the development of the other paragraphs in that article.

Why migrants pass through San Luis Potosi, Mexico?

Why San Luis Potosi? Because recent research conducted by the College of the Northern Border of Mexico in Tijuana, Baja California and Surveys Migration in the northern and southern borders of Mexico, 2014 San Luis Potosi state that is a must for migrants from countries of step central America, with the highest migration flows from the countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.¹

Who are migrating from San Luis Potosi? It related to the migration of nationals from El Salvador will be given a comprehensive response to this question based on the following aspects: Characterization of groups in vulnerable conditions (age range, employment status, place of origin in El Salvador, education levels) denoting the most important reasons for migration and types of human rights violations suffered during their journey to the United States.

Characterization of groups in vulnerable conditions

According to studies and research conducted by the International Organization for Migration or even based on the database of the Directorate General of Immigration of El Salvador on migration flows and returns the highest percentage of migrants are men (55%) and Women (30%) between the ages of 26 and 34, Children between 15 and 18, young people be.²

It refers to Salvadoran men and women / as who are actively working when deciding to migrate (60%) engaged in agricultural activities, services and construction (40%); men who mostly have to leave their homes to travel to the United States and provide better opportunities for their families.

The women, mostly single mothers who decide to migrate because they find job opportunities because the best job opportunities in the labor market Salvadoran man acquires and must then and sustain their homes.

In children and adolescents (NNA) who must make the decision to migrate for family reunification, and because they want to meet and be back with their parents who are in the United States, these NNA travel (in many cases) unaccompanied is ie, not accompanied by any family will only hands and the fate of coyotes, or smugglers road guides.

¹ You can consult the infographic Survey on Migration in the northern and southern borders of Mexico (EMIF) on migration flows and the main countries of origin of migration in transit through Mexico. <http://www.colef.mx/emif/>

² You can view the statistical database of the Directorate General of Immigration in El Salvador. <http://www.migracion.gob.sv/>

Women, children and Salvadorans / as and adolescents are the most vulnerable who suffer severe human rights violations such may be victims of trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, extortion, sexual abuses, child labor, kidnappings and even to death and mutilation caused by the train or "the beast" in any part of the body in an effort to continue and achieve the American dream actually becomes a nightmare, this is not out of reality the other Central American countries such as Honduras and Guatemala.

Regarding specifically what places migrants come from El Salvador, it refers to 66% coming from urban areas and the Departments of San Salvador (capital of El Salvador), Sonsonate, La Libertad and Usulután; the remainder (ie 34%) come from the Departments of San Miguel, Santa Ana and Chalatenango mainly. With this one can see that not only people living in extreme poverty are migrating to so do middle class people and responds to the causality or the reasons that drive migration in the country of origin (causalities that will be explained later).

Educational or academic, at the time of making the decision to migrate irregularly, according to the Directorate General of Immigration of El Salvador levels are in the following ranges: firstly people with basic education (1st to 9th Grade) 45%, in second place with secondary education (high school) with 25%; third who do not have or do not have education with 20% and in fourth place with higher education (University) with 10% respectively.

The reasons and causes of irregular migration of Salvadorans to the United States

As mentioned, Mexico is the main transit country for migrants from Central America, with highly changing dynamics in relation to migration flows and routes traveled.

Within these migration routes and is the city of San Luis Potosí as city traffic and even some national target of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

In the case of El Salvador as a country of origin the reasons behind irregular migration mainly include: food economic factors search of better opportunities in life and work, family reunification, insecurity, violence and extortion, climatic changes associated with agriculture and in some respects for academic reasons.

IOM mentions in his report on World Migration 2013 (the welfare of migrants and development) the decision to migrate from one person may be motivated by a number of factors:

a) Economic factors: in the case of Salvadoran migrants is one of the major factors driving irregular migration, but not the only one.

b) Governance and public services: corruption, insecurity, violence generated in society, lack of education and health services, reasons that are driving irregular migration today; since there is even talk of entire family groups that choose to migrate to the United States in an irregular manner the problems of violence, killings, extortion, harassment and insecurity generated by the major organized crime groups based in El Salvador.

c) Conflicts: between the years of 1980-1992 El Salvador experienced a period of internal military conflict that was the primary motivation of irregular migration of Salvadorans / as to the United States during those years.

d) Environmental factors: more and more people moving or mobilized by issues of climate change, ie earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, among others; El Salvador is no exception generating both South migration - North (El Salvador-US) as internal migration within the same country from department to department for example.

e) Family reunification: another major causalities of irregular migration, especially of children and adolescents (NNA) is family reunification, that is, the desire and the right of children and adolescents have to live with their parents who are in the United States; childhood and adolescence as mentioned above are most vulnerable condition when exposed to the diversity of human rights violations in Mexico mainly suffering.

Human Rights Violations

According to the 2014 Report Documentation Network Defenders Migrants Organizations (REDODEM, Mexico) "Invisible Migrants, tangible violence", the main risk of irregular migrants in transit through Mexico is theft, coupled with extortion, murder, kidnapping, injuries and human trafficking.

Added to this, it is also noted that such trafficking, rape, bribery, threats, false imprisonment, maiming by train, assaults, forced labor are other violations cruel suffering irregular migrants en route to Mexico.

But if they reach their goal is the United States, they will also face problems of discrimination and stigmatization, lack of jobs and even unsuitable to repatriation and return to their country of origin processes.

The results of the Survey on Rape and Abuse Migrant "The vicissitudes of transit through Mexican territory 2014" published by the College of the Northern Border of Mexico mentions that previous attacks against migrants are perpetrated mainly by: a) Organizations criminals 34.4%, b) military police and 30.9%, c) Polleros coyotes or 16.4%, d) officials and immigration authorities 8.8% e) Other 6.1%. These attacks happen mainly in border states of Chiapas and Tabasco (Guatemala-Mexico border), State of Mexico, Baja California, Sonora and Tamaulipas (Mexico-US border).³

Institutional mechanisms and work of protecting and assisting migrants in transit through San Luis Potosi, and specifically nationals of El Salvador

In this section will address three issues in particular: the recent approval of the Law for the Protection of Migrant People of the State of San Luis Potosi, the role and active role of the House of Charity Home Migrants and San Luis Potosi the performance of the Deputy Minister for Salvadorans Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.

³ For more information see graphics extension 2014 of the College of the Northern Border of Mexico. <http://www.colef.mx/?lang=es>

Law for the Protection of Migrant People of the State of San Luis Potosi

For the first time San Luis Potosi legislation that will address the needs of migrants in accordance with the instruments of national and state planning.⁴ Law which was passed unanimously by the Congress of the State of San Luis Potosi in July 2015 and creates a historic precedent in terms of international law on migration in this city.

But a law that must be submitted to observations and comments of non-governmental organizations or other bodies that are involved in the direct protection of Central American migrants in transit through that State.

Likewise one must be comprehensive Act, which has the characterization and understanding of the different groups in a vulnerable situation within the migration, responding from their profiles and perspectives thus creating synergies for early protection and assistance.

It is also necessary if the Act creates institutions, committees, councils and these can have the direct participation of bodies such as the House of Charity Hogar del Migrante of San Luis Potosi, the State Commission of Human Rights in San Luis Potosi, academia and even the participation of observers from international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, Amnesty International and most importantly the involvement and participation of the General Consulate from which the highest migration flows for example Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador as with that they can streamline processes derived from migrants responding to each of their nationalities and needs.

⁴ News of the newspaper El Sol de San Luis, "unanimously approved the full opinion, San Luis and has Migration Act. August 12, 2015.

House of Charity of the Migrant San Luis Potosi

It is admirable the work of the Father Ruben Perez Ortiz and his working group for care, assistance and protection to migrants from Central America who are transiting through San Luis Potosi and come home with the hope of sleep, eat and rest during their long overland journey through Mexico.

I am also quite sure that behind every person migrant from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and other countries entire families are very grateful to the work and support provided to such persons are.

Migrants en route to Mexico and people will travel with a lot of uncertainty, fear and insecurity; meet people where they can trust that their stories are heard and that give them support it becomes a comfort and hope during their way, this hope is offered by the House of Charity Hogar del Migrante of San Luis Potosi and its personal.

Also, one of the projects or very important and innovative initiatives that counts is the system House Network Data where personal information is captured each migrant, breakdown by names, ages, educational levels, nationalities, reasons for migration irregular, human rights violations, among others, upon entering the home, this mechanism avoids duplication of revictimization and essential information for each migrant.

Vice Minister for Salvadorans Abroad

For the current Government of El Salvador is of paramount priority the protection, promotion, protection and support of human rights of migrants in transit through Mexico and Guatemala and its final destination United States.

One of the cornerstones of its foreign policy reflected in the Government Plan 2014-2019 is the protection of human rights of migrants.

According to the Five-Year Development Plan 2014-2019 "The productive, educated and safe Salvador," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Vice Ministry for Salvadorans Abroad, aims to "strengthen the Salvadoran population abroad the term full of their rights and their effective development, "integration. This objective is broken down into two main lines of action. The first is to strengthen the link between the living abroad with the social, cultural, political and economic processes in the country Salvadoran citizenship. The second, the promotion of respect and protection of human rights of Mexican nationals migrants and their families.⁵

The Vice Ministry has different directions that strengthen the theme: Directorate General of Liaison with Salvadorans Abroad, Directorate General of Foreign Service, Directorate General of Human Rights, Consular Representations. Through Network Consular Representations of El Salvador in Mexico in particular is where assistance is provided to the nationals with greater violations of their human rights, this involves the activation of a system of international protection that meets the specific needs of each migrant.

Hard work especially consulates of El Salvador in Mexico, with empowerment in the areas of human rights and international migration law, in like manner, working together with the other addresses in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador is very important to encourage rooting, the initiatives of inclusion and reintegration of Salvadoran migrants.

Since 2011, El Salvador also has the Special Law for the Protection and Development of the migrant Salvadoran and Family established the creation of the National Council for the Protection and Development of the migrant and his family (CONMIGRANTES) which his Presidency Executive Secretariat and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister for Salvadorans Abroad, respectively.

Initiatives that promote programs, projects and policies in defense and promotion of human rights of migrants in transit so people, destination and return to their country of origin.

Finally, the Conclusions and Recommendations

It becomes necessary to build solutions or provide answers to migrants of all nationalities from the same perspective, profile and needs, and it is they who specifically know firsthand what overwhelms them.

1. Listen and respond to the conglomerate of human rights violations suffered by migrants in transit through San Luis Potosi, Mexico is an urgent need and work of many actors of society involved in the issue, with the aim of providing solutions for example the same comprehensive knowledge of the risks of irregular migration and human treatment must provide to this population beyond the welfare or temporary initiatives, passed.

⁵ For more information, please visit the website:http://www.rree.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=250:viceministerio-para-los-salvadorenos-en-el-exterior&catid=125:viceministerio-para-los-salvadorenos-en-el-exterior&Itemid=338

2. Capacity building on education in human rights and international law on migration in institutional spaces, state, scholars, academics and civil society is eminently necessary to build a civic culture of protection of human rights of migrants, to generate initiatives , projects, programs or public policies in defense of this population, just as the generation of academic and university research can show the true reality of the violation of human rights suffered daily migrants in transit through Mexico.

3. The creation of institutional protection mechanisms, such as the opening of a Consulate or Consular Agency of El Salvador in San Luis Potosi by high and increasing migratory flows that currently concern to the city, is a latent need that can provide solutions many of the processes of transit migrants and protection of their human rights people.

Not because they cross a border, protection of their human rights is lost, it is men, women, children and teenagers who want to have a new lease on life or even they need only embrace their loved ones.

It does not refer to its irregular migrant status makes it a criminal offender or a different person or by simply asking for money at traffic lights in town to continue their course or even to eat.

It is people like you and me who have dreams, who yearn for something better, but above all they want to build a different life project.

With the voices, testimonies and experiences that are part of my reflection.
Gilberto

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