Migrant Caravans in Mexico
April 2020

Early Iterations of Modern Migrant Caravans

2005 - Caravan of Mothers of Missing Migrants
2010 - Viacrucis Migrant Religious Processions
2017 - First Viacrucis to leave for the US-MX border

Demographics
- Migrants are primarily from Northern Triangle countries
- Caravans have ranged from hundreds to thousands of migrants
- Caravans include men, women, children & LGBTQ+ members

Organization
- Communication occurs via word-of-mouth and social media
- Designated leaders direct smaller groups to a common destination
- Caravans travel on highways (by foot and vehicle) and on trains

Interactions
- INM and National Guard stop, detain, and deport caravan members
- Local communities’ responses vary widely
- Civil society groups provide humanitarian assistance including food, lodging, and healthcare

Caravan Routes & Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caravan</th>
<th>Peak Size</th>
<th>End Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 2018</td>
<td>1,200+</td>
<td>Tijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2018</td>
<td>7,200+</td>
<td>Tijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2019</td>
<td>7,800+</td>
<td>Piedras Negras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2019</td>
<td>3,000+</td>
<td>Ixtepec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2020</td>
<td>4,600+</td>
<td>Ciudad Hidalgo + El Ceibo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Routes
- April + October 2018
- January 2019
- January 2020
**Policy Recommendations**

### Short Term

- **Refine Humanitarian Visas**
  - Prioritize visas according to vulnerability
  - Distribute visas at consulates to avoid bottlenecking at the border

### Medium Term

- **Codify Caravan Protocol**
  - Include in 2011 Migratory Act to standardize INM procedures
- **Restructure CONOFAM**
  - Reinvest in cross-agency coordination that includes input from civil society organizations

### Long Term

- **Improve Public Perception**
  - Include caravans in Mexico’s anti-xenophobia campaign
- **Remove Transit Barriers**
  - Create a visa free movement zone with neighboring nations

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**Mexican Government Responses**

**Humanitarian**

- April 2018 - Provided food and shelter, and promised healthcare and education
- Jan. 2019 - Distributed humanitarian visas (depicted below)

**Punitive**

- Oct. 2019 - Blocked northern transit beyond Oaxaca
- Jan. 2020 - MX National Guard repelled, detained, and deported incoming caravan at MX-GT border

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