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

Caravan	Peak Size	End Point
Apr. 2018	1,200+	Tijuana
Oct. 2018	7,200+	Tijuana
Jan. 2019	7,800+	Piedras Negras
Oct. 2019	3,000+	Ixtepec
Jan. 2020	4,600+	Ciudad Hidalgo + El Ceibo



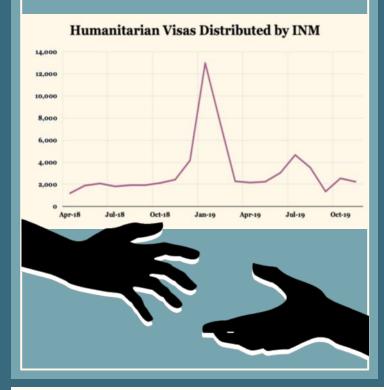




Mexican Government Responses

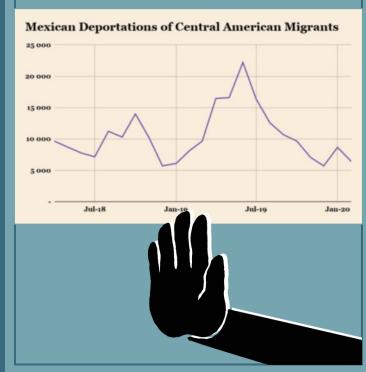
Humanitarian

- 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



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