Local CU story of journey from Guatemala, 2023.

"He saw very little of Mexico. His guide (smuggler) put him in a semi trailer with many other immigrants who were on route to the US border. He spent 10 days in the trailer with no food and very little water. They were only allowed to get out a couple of times a day to use the restroom. The drivers stopped often and everyone in the back assumed the drivers and guides were resting or eating but everyone else was kept inside.

One of those days the trailer didn't move at all. At one of the stops he was so weak that he had trouble climbing back in the trailer.

There were people from many countries in each trailer, men, women, girls traveling alone, boys traveling alone, little kids with their mothers or fathers. No one knew how many days they were going to be traveling in that trailer.

He is 16 years old."

This story comes from a friend, but I have heard very similar stories from children in CU.

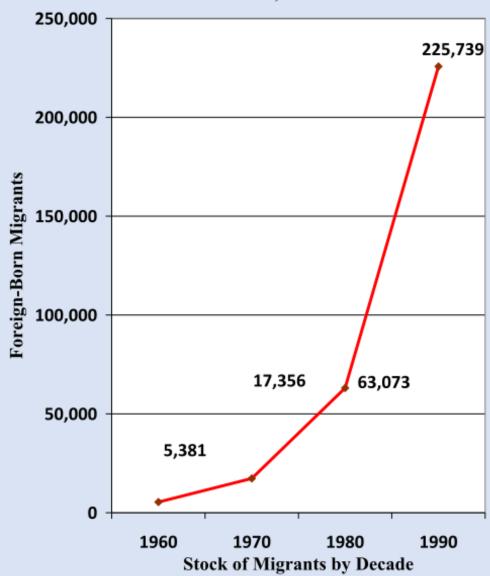
Topics for OLLI Guatemala Week 8

- 1. Why the recent increase in Migrants? (Political Backsliding in Guatemala since 2013)
- 2. US policies on migration: The system and its delays, use of Raids, Physical and Legal Fences, "Root Causes" rhetoric and militarization of Border Policing at the "Far Border"
- 3. How do people get here without documents?
- 4. What is life like here in Champaign?
- How to learn more about current issues in Guatemala and in CU

(right: self portrait by a local man who came c. 2015 and was placed in a detention prison in AZ)



Figure 1. Guatemalan Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1960-1990



1st wave of migrants – 1980s-90s Internal War (graph on left)

2nd wave began after 2012

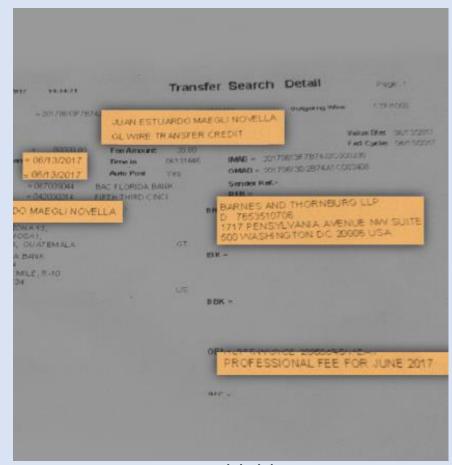
--increased Family migration signalled loss of hope in Guatemala's future.

-- The 2008 Economic Crisis caused a reduction in Guatemalan social spending. Also, by 2012 the US job market recovering and in need of labor

-- new technologies both make migration easier for travelers and also leads to the professionalization of the migration industry(Coyotes or human traffickers other terms)

2013— The turning point in Guatemala's anti corruption and human rights impunity campaigns

- 2013 former Pres. Rios Montt conviction for genocide overturned 10 days later
- 2015 Protests force resignation of Pres. Otto Perez Molina for corruption charges – prompting a backlash from the "megabusiness sector" against the Anti-impunity/corruption campaigns
- 2018-2023 Steady Decline in the legal climate. Anti Corruption Offices, Human Rights Offices, Courts, Lawyers, Journalists, Indigenous Rights NGOs - and even the US ambassador all become targets of criminalization and harassment.
- Heavy lobbying in DC to suppress Guatemala critiques screenshot on right on payments to Barnes and Thornburg to lobby in DC for "mega business" sector, even advocating for removal of the US ambassador, Todd Robinson



https://nomada.gt/pais/entender-la-politica/jimmy-baldizon-y-estos-mega-empresarios-organizaron-el-lobby-contra-todd-y-la-cicig-parte-1/#post-gallery-2



Curtain Falls on Guatemala's International Commission against Impunity

President Jimmy Morales has made good on his promise to shut down a UN-backed commist fighting rampant crime and impunity in Guatemala. Though it leaves a vital legacy, the commission's exit risks strengthening the hand of criminal networks that operate with state complicity.

2018 President Morales refuses to renew the mandate for the UN Anti Corruption investigation (CICIG)

The CICIG established in 2008 by the UN to investigate Corruption. They became too good at their job to be tolerated.

Investigate the existence of illegal groups and Clandestine Structures of Security (CIACS), clandestine bodies and structures of these illegal groups (including their links with state officials), identified activities, operation modalities and sources of finance.

Collaborate with the state in the dismantling of CIACS and promote research, criminal prosecution and punishment of crimes committed by its members.

Make recommendations to the state of Guatemala for the adoption of public policies designed to eradicate CIACS and prevent their recurrence, including the legal and institutional reforms necessary for this purpose.

Figure 9: CICIG Mandate

In 2017 Morales had tried to expel CICIG, but been blocked by the Constitutional Court (equivalent of the Supreme Court role). Not surprisingly, they are future targets of the resurgent old guard.

WORLD Published September 25, 2017 2:32pm EDT

Guatemala leader at crossroads after court blocks expulsion

Associated Press

Guatemala leader
at crossroads after
court blocks
expulsion | Fox
News



2018 President Jimmy Morales announcing the closure of the UN Anti-Corruption Office, 2018 (The photo really sums up the joint interest in politicians and the military in silencing investigations)

The Military-Business elite alliance evident in other ways besides the photo op.

Military vehicles (provided earlier by the US!) were paraded past the CICIG offices in an overt effort to intimidate. Also paraded past the US embassy! and used in recent Land expropriations...



US donated Jeep J8s and Guatemalan military personnel are present near the Agua Caliente border crossing with Honduras on Oct. 22, 2018. Photo: Jeff Abbott

U.S. GAVE MILITARY JEEPS TO GUATEMALA TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING. INSTEAD, THEY WERE USED TO INTIMIDATE AN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION.

The Intercept confirmed that the deployment of armored vehicles violated aid agreements with the United States.



https://theintercept.com/2018/11/09/guatemala-crisis-corruption-cicig/

Despite the "misuse," the US continues to provide "policing" aid (which is not subject to Congressional verification of a good human rights record, the way military aid is regulated. In Oct. 2022 \$4.4 million more in surplus military vehicles were donated to Guatemala.

https://www.militarytimes.com/news/yo ur-military/2022/11/04/us-donatedmilitary-vehicles-misused-in-guatemalawatchdog-

says/#:~:text=US%2Ddonated%20military %20vehicles%20misused%20in%20Guate mala%2C%20watchdog%20says,-

By%20Jonathan%20Lehrfeld&text=Ameri can%20military%20equipment%20was%2 0allegedly,recent%20government%20wat chdog%20report%20said.

ilitaryTimes

News Pay & Benefits Flashpoints Education and Transition Pentagon & Congress Off Duty Vo

Your Military

US-donated military vehicles misused in Guatemala, watchdog says

By Jonathan Lehrfeld















Members of the Guatemalan Inter-Agency Border Unit. (Kaye Richey/Army)

American military equipment was allegedly misused in Guatemala, and the United

Facebook post from the "Foundation against Terrorism" 2022 with photos of judges, lawyers and journalists they accuse of being "legal snipers" "This is how to combat those delegated to carry out the globalist agenda against Guatemala"



Ricardo Mendez Ruiz November 1, 2022 - 🚱

Así trabajan los francotiradores legales de la @FCTGuatemala: Un disparo judicial, un muerto civil.

Esta es la forma de combatir a los encargados de ejecutar la agenda globalista contra Guatemala. Faltan algunos...











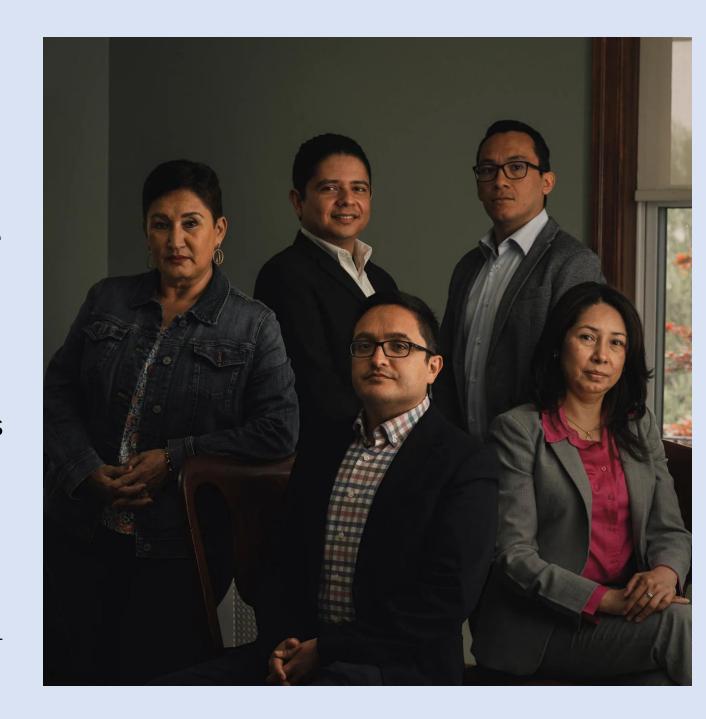






More than 30 Guatemalan judges have self-exiled since 2018-2023.

- "Criminalization, or the filing of arrest warrants charging opponents with vague charges, also used against journalists, lawyers, NGO leaders.
- Laws created to prosecute anti gender violence in 2008, used against journalists, etc. The charges claim articles on corruption affected officials and their wives, families and caused distress and harassment.
- Doxing of female journalists common, as is stalking, surveillance, etc.
- https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/the-exile-of-guatemalasanti-corruption-efforts



2021 was a particularly bad year – The Attorney General's office and the Constitutional Court were both taken over by the allies of military and "mega business" sectors. The Attorney General, Thelma Adana, and the President of the Constitutional Court, both fled into exile in the US.

Then the New Attorney General Closed the Special Prosecutor's Office on Corruption. (FECI).

Also passes new NGO law which imposes new regulations on NGOs.

New Family Law

In July, 2021, Juan Sandoval of FECI (Special Prosecutors Office) fired by the new AG, forced to flee at night to the Salvadoran border to avoid arrest on spurious charges.

Guatemalan anti-corruption prosecutor flees country after sacking

Juan Francisco Sandoval fled early on Saturday after being dismissed in a move that sparked international condemnation.



Juan Francisco Sandoval (C), who headed the Guatemalan Special Prosecutor's Office Against Impunity, enters Las Chinamas, El Salvador, on the border with Guatemala, early on July 24 [Sonia Perez Diaz/AP Photo]





Some FB posts from the "Foundation Against Terrorism (FCT) illustrate the threatening atmosphere that is part of the "criminalization" of opponents and the alliance between military and the business sectors:

"The former head of the Human Rights Office was captured today for various crimes due to the work of the Foundation Against Terrorism. He was responsible for the illegal arrests of our veterans of war."

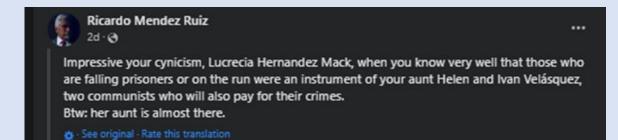
Photo reads "During the imperialism of Ivan Velazquez" (the former head of CICIG) contrasted with "During the imperialism of the Law" (showing arrest of of Human Rights Office personnel).



FB Mar. 2023 - more threats from the Foundation Against Terrorism.

A direct threat against Lucrecia Hernandez Mack, whose mother, Myrna Mack (below) was a HR defender and anthropologist assassinated in 1990. Her sister Helen runs the Myrna Mack NGO.







Impresionante el cinismo del MP/ FundaTerror de perseguir a quienes han hecho un trabajo ejemplar en contra de la impunidad en Guatemala.

Mi solidaridad con todos los/as ex-fiscales que han buscado la justicia. Su trabajo nunca será olvidado ni podrá ser manchado. FCT posts accusing USAID information on Monkeypox of spreading "Gender Agendas" – a leftist plot to destroy the family.

Below: FCT endorses Zury Rios for President in the upcoming 2023 elections (she is the daughter of Rios Montt)





Prosecutor Virginia Laparra, arrested Feb. 2022 while investigating corruption case for FECI.





SHARE

< NEW

February 23, 2023

Guatemala: Prisoner of Conscience Virginia Laparra has now been arbitrarily detained in prison for one year

Former prosecutor and prisoner of conscience Virginia Laparra has been unjustly imprisoned for one year as a result of unfounded criminal proceedings riddled with irregularities that violate her human rights, Amnesty International said today.

Recently added

Mozambique: Arbitrary arrests, teargassing and brutal assault of peaceful protesters a violation of the right freedom of assembly

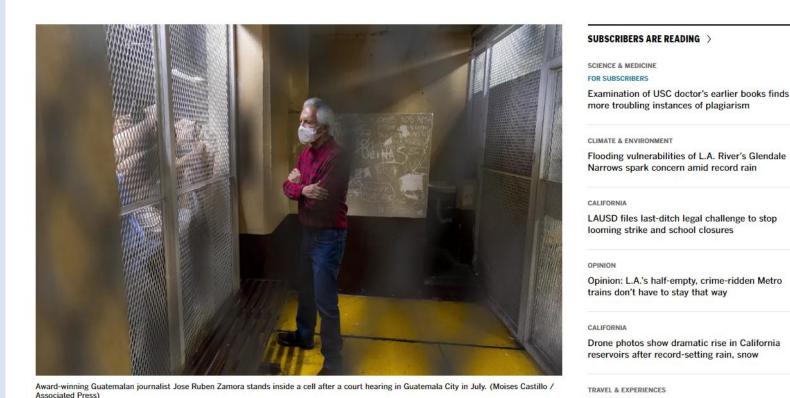
Russia: ICC's arrest warrant against Putin a step towards justice for victim of war crimes in Ukraine Aug. 2022, Last independent newspaper owner/editor arrested, charged with money laundering and in prison since Aug. 2022.

Los Angeles Times

FOR SUBSCRIBERS

Joshua Tree with beaches and taquerias? No,

Judge orders Guatemalan investigative newspaper chief to stand trial

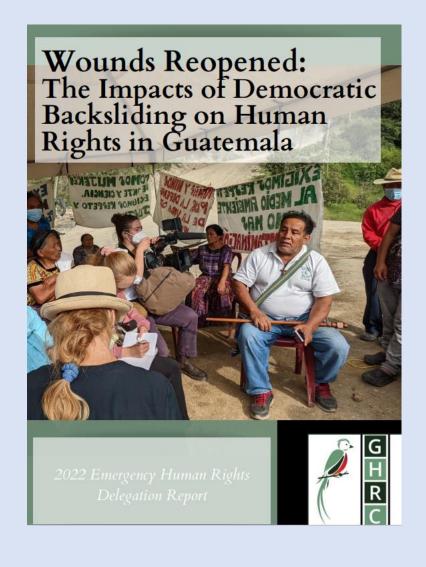


Jordan Rodas (Human Rights Ombudsman 2017-22) and Thelma Cabrera (a Maya leader), announced their candidacy for President, but the party was not legally cleared to participate by Congress. (The decision was made by his replacement as ombudsman!)

Jordan traveled to Washington to meet with Congress and warn against the ascendance of the far right in Guatemala, but the visit received almost no press coverage...



July 2022 I participated in a series of visits in Guatemala. We met with Rodas, with indigenous leaders, legal clinics, journalists and the US embassy. You can read the entire report through the link below.



• https://www.ghrc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/GHRC-Emergency-Delegation-Report-2022.pdf El Estor Nickel Mine: an example of the Corruption of the new era. The Struggle by this community has been waged for almost two decades now.

Buying off judges, legislators, international environmental consultants, creating fake community consultation groups, surveillance of community leaders and journalists. The company has reorganized, changed national headquarter locations, hired thugs, shared their spyware results with the government, etc.

Woman at El Estor, gathering up US supplied tear gas canisters.



Excellent series here: https://forbiddenstories.org/mining-secrets-data-leak-reveals-aggressive-tactics-of-mining-giant-in-guatemala/





Trucks moving through El Estor, summer 2022



Family burned out of their home for opposing the mine

The "Sicuarios" are guards hired by mines, often they are former military, even known to the villagers. The man we met with had been keeping a record of guards known to the community for past abuses.





Community evicted at night for an ecotourism project





Police presence at land eviction – 100s of police bussed in from the capital. But when communities request police aid they are told there are not enough units.



Community Meeting in Chinautla, July 2022

Migration from Guatemala a response to the crisis (although the Trump and Biden administration keep emphasizing "investment" as a solution, not rights)

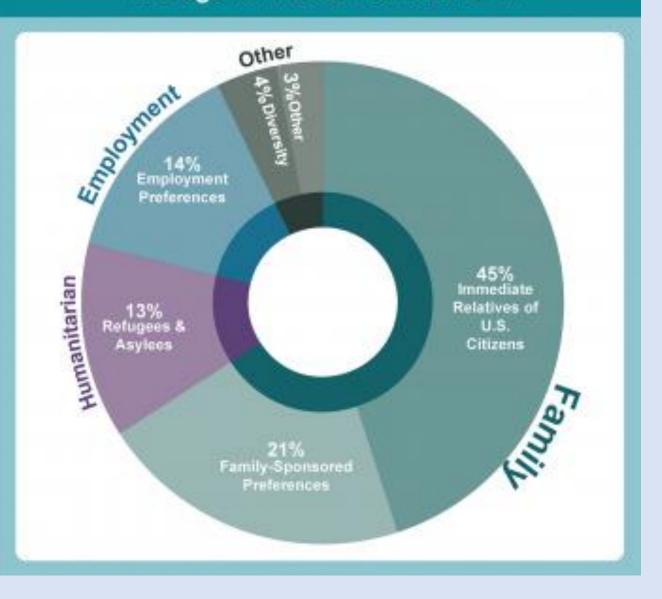
Questions we will explore now:

Why don't people migrate legally? (hmmm, pretty impossible for the poor. High profile asylum seekers – like the former AG, have a better chance of flying in to JFK and appluing for asylum. But if you don't have a passport, money, and a reputation, much harder)

How does the US regulate migration in ways other than paperwork? Raids, Walls, Detention prisons...

What ways has the US sought to deter migration within the region in the 2000s? Outsourcing the task of policing migration to Mexico, Central America...

The Ways in Which Green Cards Are Obtained Average for Fiscal Years 2013-17



Legal Migration:
US approves about 1
million Green Cards (the legal migration permit) a
Year for the entire world.

Most are immediate relatives (45%) or Family sponsored (21%).

Humanitarian 13%

Employment 14%

Immigration Paperwork Handled Through 4 Federal Agencies (it is a very confusing system)

- Dept. of Labor: Sets numbers of temporary Work visas (from students to nuclear engineers to farmworkers)
- Dept. of Justice: Runs Immigration Courts: requests for Asylum, Deportation Proceedings, citizenship
- Dept. of State: Travel Visas for permanent immigrants and non-Immigrants (like tourists, business) It can take up to 3 years to get even a tourism visa appointment from some countries!
- Department of Homeland Security: Handle immigration paperwork for family reunification, employers like the university that want to hire someone, work authorizations, change of status, Green Cards (permanent residency)

With more Guatemalan-Americans gaining citizenship through birth, the attempt to use Family visas (I 1-30) is growing.

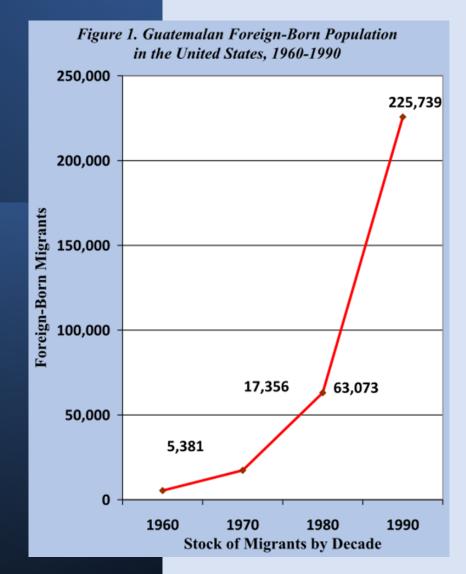
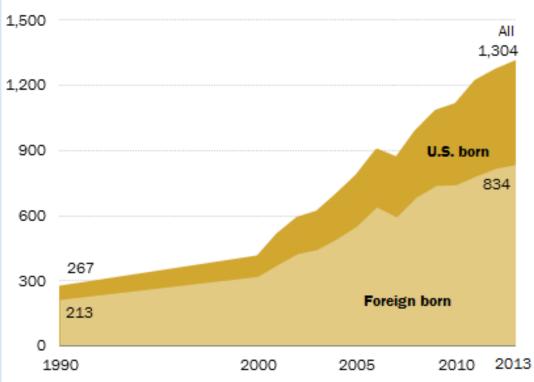


FIGURE 1

Guatemalan-Origin Population in the U.S., 1990-2013

In thousands



Note: People in group quarters such as college dormitories or institutions are not included in figures for 2001 to 2005. Changes in the wording of the Hispanic origin question in the 2000 decennial census may have led to an undercount of some Hispanic origin groups in that year. For more, see http://www.pewhispanic.org/2002/05/09/counting-the-other-hispanics/

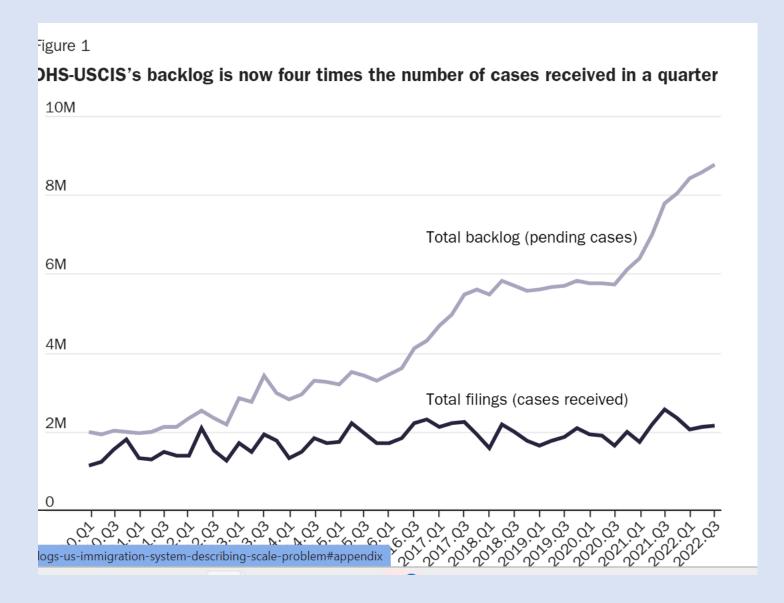
Source: Pew Research Centertabulations of 1990 and 2000 censuses (5% IPUMS) and 2001-2013 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Delays have all increased since 2016 (when Trump cut funding for DHS)

Average weight in Illinois for DOJ Court Hearing: 5 years.

Average time to get a visa appt in a US Consulate varies from days to 3 years from some countries — even for people seeking tourism or family visit.



https://www.cato.org/briefing-paper/processing-backlogs-us-immigration-system-describing-scale-problem#doj-eoir-immigration-court-backlog

So in theory there is a procedure to apply to have a relative join a permanent resident (Green Card holder) or US citizen, but in reality very little chance of using this path. For Mexicans and Central Americans there are seldom available applications.

"For certain categories of immigrants, the law allows only a limited number of visas to be issued each year. These cases are processed strictly in order of the date the petition was filed (this is the <u>priority date</u>). Visas cannot be issued until an applicant's priority date is reached (the application becomes <u>current</u>). This could take several years. While it is impossible to say exactly how long it will take, the <u>Visa Bulletin</u>, published monthly, lists the priority dates currently being processed, which may provide an indication of how much time remains."

https://www.ustraveldocs.com/my/my-iv-waittimeinfo.asp

So who are they processing now (2021 data)? 1997 applications for Mexican family members!!!!

F1 Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens

F2A Spouses/minor children of Permanent Residents

F3 Children over 21 of US citizens

F4 Married children of US citizens

A. FINAL ACTION DATES FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCE CASES

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

Family- Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01DEC14	01DEC14	01DEC14	15JAN99	01MAR12
F2A	С	С	С	С	С
F2B	22SEP15	22SEP15	22SEP15	15MAR00	220CT11
F3	22NOV08	22NOV08	22NOV08	15MAY97	08JUN02
F4	22MAR07	22MAR07	15SEP05	08FEB99	22AUG02

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin/2022/visa-bulletin-for-november-2021.html

So finally, after waiting twenty years, you get in admitted to the line for processing! Almost done? Not quite.... 140 months a possible wait time....

Current USCIS processing times of I-130 Applications for 2023

Processing times last updated on: March 22, 2023 (GMT)

Latest processing times for I-130 are daily pulled from USCIS website.

Below are the Processing times for I-130 by USCIS Service Center. Also, read common FAQs on the processing times at the end.

California Service Center

Case Type	80% of cases completed within	100% of cases completed within
U.S. citizen filing for a brother or sister	140.5 Months	182.5 Months
U.S. citizen filing for a married son or daughter	117 Months	151.5 Months
Permanent resident for unmarried son or daughter 21 or older	64.5 Months	84 Months



https://visagrader.com/uscis-processing-times/i-130

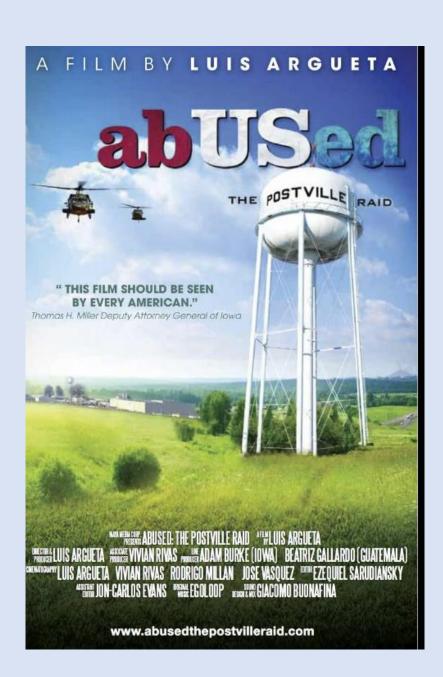
Other methods of control? The Raid. May 12, 2008 The Postville Raid. Iowa

The Postville Raid terrified Latino communities across the country. For people in the small lowa town, it felt like a military operation. The town came out to support the Guatemalan families and protest the raid.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGdvv4dwzIA PBS segment 2009.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Efstd5LfQNE 10 years after Postville Raid.
- The moview, abused focuses on the Guatemalan and Iowa communities affected.







The Wall did not stop migration, but it made it harder for people to migrate without hiring a guide.

Coyote Fees Rising with the Difficulty in Crossing the Border

Fee from Guatemala: 2008 \$7000

2019 \$10-13,000

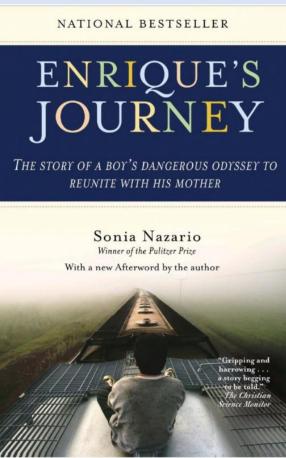
2023 \$14-15,000

Train travel from Guatemala in the news 2010-15

Train-based migrants easy prey for criminals, including national police.

Enrique's Journey is an excellent non-fiction work following a boy from Honduras.





Trucks the most common migration method now, but still dangerous.

54 dead, 105 injured after tractor trailer stuffed with migrants crashes in southern Mexico

By Wimberly Patton - December 10, 2021



At least 54 people are dead and more than 100 are injured after a semi truck packed

Trucks not completely safe – you are putting yourself in the hands of mercenaries who might abandon you or just take risks. News stories about migrants found dead in Trucks (54 found dead in abandoned truck in TX); overturned (58 dead, 140 injured in Mexico)...and the cost (up to \$13-15,000 per person now.

Caravans are another way poor people challenge the migration system and find safety from the cartels and other criminals.

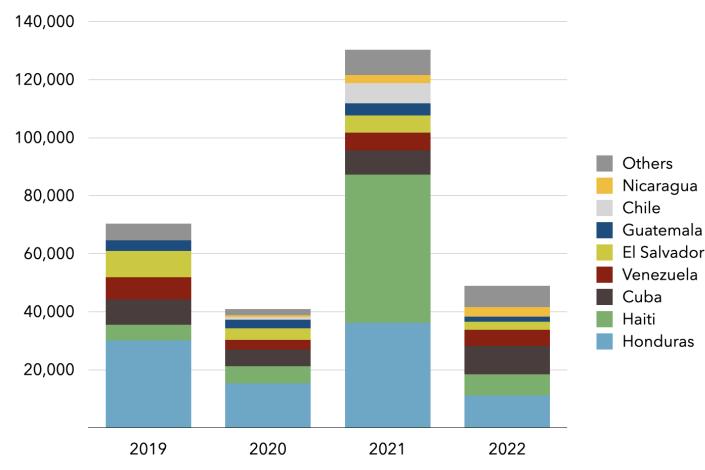


New Legal Fences

In 2020 the "Stay in Mexico" Policy introduced as a Health measure (Title 42 was actually last used in 1920s to restrict some shipping because of a meningitis outbreak)

1st Country Asylum Requirement – which offloads the challenge of granting asylum to Mexico. The new rule is that asylum seekers must have applied for asylum in the first border they cross. That works well for people like high profile journalists, who might already have a passport and professional visa to travel to the US, but it means most Guatemalans have to apply for asylum in Mexico, not the US. (see right)

Asylum Requests in Mexico by Nationality



Source: Mexican Refugee Aid Commission COMAR https://bit.ly/3m9rFz5

This graph also shows how Migration through the US-Mexico border is attracting clients from around the world (both a Global moment in Migration and the Professionalization of Trafficking). Cartels seeking clients as far away as Afghanistan, Asia, etc.

Mexican National Guard—The US Outsourcing the Border Wall, 2021.



NACLA Report

"On the third day of the Biden administration, January 22, 16 Guatemalan migrants and three Mexicans were massacred by police gunfire and their bodies burned on a lonely road in Mexico's Tamaulipas state, near the Texas border. The murdered migrants were as young as 15 years old. The oldest, Edgar López, 49, had been deported a year and a half before after an ICE raid in Carthage, Mississippi, where he had lived, worked, and raised a family for 22 years."

https://nacla.org/news/2021/03/29/mexican-police-massacre-guns-tamaulipas

Mexican Police Who Massacred Guatemalan Migrants Get Their Guns from the U.S.

Guns exported from the U.S. to Mexico end up in the hands of state security force who commit human rights atrocities. Existing mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the trade are ineffective.

John Lindsay-Poland April 1, 2021







And if you make it to the US border, most often you will be picked up by the border patrol and either immediately driven back, or possibly taken to a prison (immigration processing center) where families are separated and wait. Sometimes they wait weeks...

Unaccompanied children must be released to a sponsor (often a relative with permanent residency, or sometimes to a mercenary sponsor doing it for the money or free labor); adults who apply for asylum were previously given a court date and released, Now they may be expelled (Wait in Mexico policy)



Children, even unaccompanied ones, in immigration court (where the court is deciding on deportation, deferred action, or asylum) are not required to have a lawyer appointed to represent

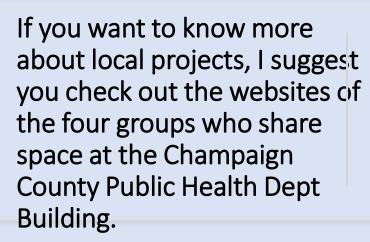
their interests.

short video that makes its point pretty well on the lack of oversight of children in immigration court:

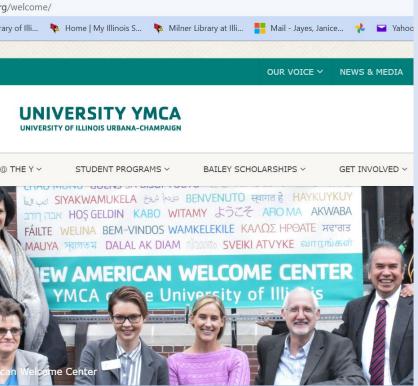
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ztvPsImIcU







- https://www.therefugeecenter-cu.org/
- https://universityymca.org/welcome/
- https://www.isc-u.org/ (I volunteer with this group)
- https://www.immigrationproject.org/





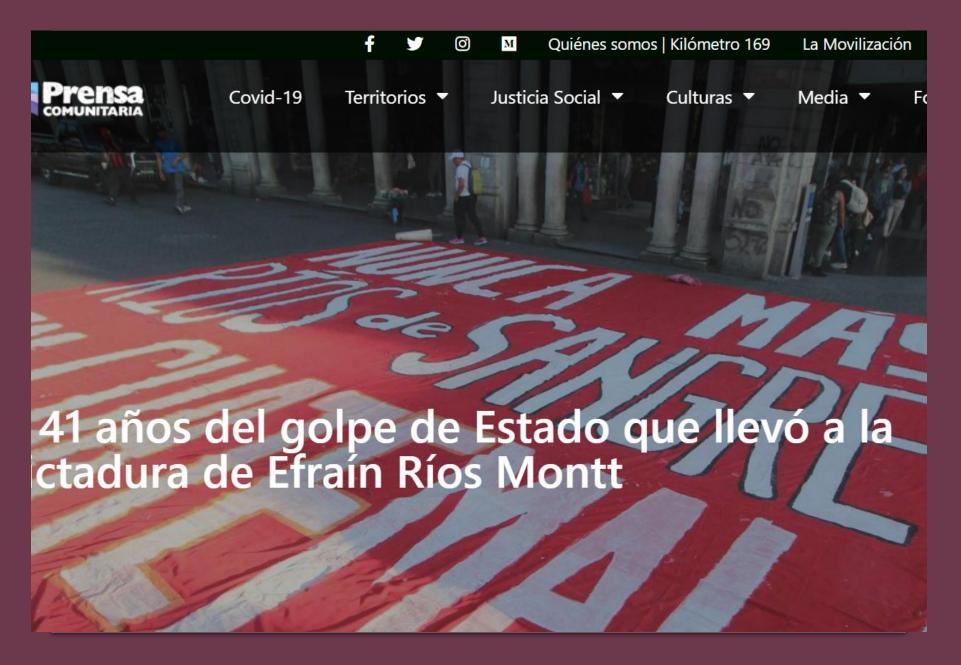


S... 🍖 Milner Library at Illi... 🚪 Mail - Jayes, Janice... 🤧 🖼 Yahoo Mail 👩 Wish list - Digital Li.



One great source of info on current Guatemalan issues is the GHRC. They have a good email listserve under the "Get involved" tab.

https://www.ghrc-usa.org/



If you speak Spanish a great news site on Guatemala is the Independent media clearinghouse, Prensa Comunitaria https://prensaco munitaria.org/

Thanks for attending the class!

It really helped me (janice!) to put the local community in historical perspective. If anyone has any thoughts or questions please email me at jiayes@ilstu.edu

Janice