



TARBUTMUN 2023

Organization of American States OAS

Topic A: Migrant Abuse at International Borders

Topic B: Addressing Forced Disappearances Across Latin America

Dear Delegates,

I am very happy to welcome you to another year of TarbutMUN, it delights me to be your president this year in this committee, OAS Organization of American States, which is a very interesting and important committee this year. We are going to discuss two conflicts that have great importance for all the countries involved, we want all delegates to help us resolve these issues in the most creative and diplomatic way possible.

We would like to have an amazing debate, therefore we ask every delegate to take it very seriously, we ask you to generate original, different, and innovative ideas or solutions to be able to make an extraordinary final resolution paper; it is our responsibility to make the world a better place for all the next generations, and for that, we have to take responsibility.

We hope you all enjoy this process. MUN is a different and amazing way to learn new things about your designated countries and what is happening in the world. Our goal for all delegates is for you to understand the topics and have an amazing time.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Melnik

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Participating Countries

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentine Republic
- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Canada
- Commonwealth of The Bahamas
- Dominican Republic
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Jamaica
- Plurinational State of Bolivia
- Republic of Chile
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Costa Rica
- Republic of Cuba
- Republic of Ecuador
- Republic of El Salvador
- Republic of Guatemala
- Republic of Haiti
- Republic of Honduras
- Republic of Nicaragua
- Republic of Panama
- Republic of Paraguay
- Republic of Peru
- United Mexican States
- United States of America

Organization of American States

History

The Organization of American States, or OAS, is the oldest regional organization in the world.

It was founded in 1890, it was called The International Union of American Republics. In 1910 it changed to OAS, and the purpose is to strengthen the peace and security of North and South America.

Mission

The OAS focuses on seeking solutions to juridical, political, and economic issues, guaranteeing human rights, development in the cultural, scientific, social, and economical for all of its members working together to guarantee the best resolutions.

Topic A: Migrant Abuse at International Borders

Key Words

1. **Border:** A line that establishes the limit of a country with another country.¹
2. **Country:** A territory that has its own government, army, etc.²
3. **Abuse:** Being aggressive or disrespectful towards others.³
4. **America:** One of the world's continents.⁴
5. **Migrant:** A person that travels to another country in a legal way.⁵
6. **Immigrant:** A person that travels to another country to stay there.⁶
7. **Refugee:** Someone who is forced to leave their country of origin and cross international borders because of persecution, violence or unfair and unsafe treatment. Refugees cannot or are too afraid to return to their homes, and are obligated to find a new home and safety in another country. Refugees are recognized and protected by international rights.⁷
8. **Asylum seeker:** When someone is forced to leave their country of origin and look for a safer place to live in another country, they apply for asylum, which means to be officially recognized as a refugee and being able to receive legal protection and aid.⁸
9. **Border governance:** The policies, plans, strategies, and actions that manage and control who enters or exits the territory of a State.⁹
10. **Country of origin:** The country of nationality (place of birth) or of former habitual residence (current place of living) of a person or group of people who have migrated abroad (moved to a **foreign country**).¹⁰

¹ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/border>

² <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/country?q=Country>

³ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/abuse>

⁴ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/america>

⁵ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/migrant>

⁶ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/immigrant>

⁷ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/refugee>

⁸ Adapted from: Amnesty international, Refugees, Asylum Seekers And Migrants

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>

⁹ Adapted from United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders (2014)

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Migration/OHCHR_Recommended_Principles_Guidelines.pdf

¹⁰ Adapted from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Master Glossary of Terms 2006
<https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/>

11. **Country of destination:** A country that is the destination (**place one wants to go**) for a person or a group of people. Regardless, they migrate regularly or irregularly.¹¹
12. **Country of transit:** The country someone goes through and passes on their journey from their country of origin to their country of destination or the other way around, (from their country of destination, back to their country of origin).¹²
13. **Displacement:** The movement of someone who's been obliged to leave their home or country of origin to avoid conflict, violence, violations of human rights, or natural disasters.¹³
14. **Emigration:** The act of someone moving from their country of origin to another country, so that the country of destination can become that person's new residence and permanent home.¹⁴
15. **Freedom of movement:** It is a human right that allows everyone to move from one place to another inside of a country. It also allows everyone to leave any country and always be able to return to their country of origin.¹⁵
16. **Identity document:** An official document that proves the identity of the person carrying it. For example: State Identifications (ID) cards, passports, driver's licenses, certificates of citizenship, among others.¹⁶
17. **Internal migration:** When someone moves inside of a State to establish a new temporary or permanent place of living.¹⁷

¹¹ Adapted from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Master Glossary of Terms 2006 <https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/>

¹² Adapted from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Master Glossary of Terms 2006 <https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/>

¹³ *Adapted form:* Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, annexed to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, <https://www.unhcr.org/43ce1cff2.pdf>

¹⁴ Adapted from: IOM UN Migration Key Terms <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms#:~:text=Emigration%20%E2%80%93%20From%20the%20pe,rspective%20of,new%20country%20of%20usual%20residence>

¹⁵ Adapted from: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted 10 December 1948) UNGA Res 217(A), Art. 13. <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf>

¹⁶ Adapted from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf

¹⁷ Adapted from International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2015*. <https://www.iom.int/>

18. **International migration law:** The set of international rules that control the movement of people between countries and the legal status of migrants inside of the country of destination.¹⁸
19. **Persecution:** Persistent actions of mistreatment, cruelty and unfairness to an individual or a group of people because of their physical aspects, religion, ethnicity, political or cultural beliefs, or other.¹⁹
20. **Xenophobia:** Feeling of hatred, disgust, and opposition against people from another country.²⁰
21. **Latinx:** A gender-neutral or non binary alternative to Latino or Latina (someone from Latin America).²¹

Introduction

Immigration and population movements have been a part of society since the beginning of civilization, and currently, immigration issues are a result of global instability and affect millions of individuals and societies. Migration flows (number of migrants that enter or leave a specific country)²² are one of the biggest problems being faced in the 21st Century, affecting social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of the countries involved. States within the American continent are a great example of all the dangerous consequences and complications of large-scale migration flows. American states also show how immigration movements threaten the safety and life of affected people and communities. Moreover, migration leads to changes and challenges in the countries of origin, countries of transit, and countries of destination. As well as complicating the management of migration challenges in the longer term, meaning how people and countries handle and deal with the negative changes migration generates.

¹⁸ Adapted from: International Migration Law Glossary on Migration
https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_1_en.pdf

¹⁹ Adapted from The Britannica Dictionary <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/persecute>

²⁰ Adapted from the Collins Dictionary
<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/es/diccionario/ingles/xenophobia>

²¹ Adapted from: Google's English dictionary is provided by Oxford Languages
<https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>

²² <https://sk.sagepub.com/books/key-concepts-in-migration/i431.xml>

Notably, the migration crisis does not start with the migratory movement but the crisis and situations that led citizens to want or need to flee their country of origin. On the American continent, citizens move in search of work, economic opportunities, family reunification, humanitarian protection, better living standards, and safety. Migrants often seek to escape conflict, food insecurity, human rights violations, economic inequality, poverty, significantly lower wages, and in search of better life standards and safety. Thus when there is instability in a country of origin, citizens are forced to seek better living conditions and immigrate to another country, causing dangerous and negative effects for the citizens and societies of the American States.

Entering the United States is complicated, confusing, overwhelming, and complex. Immigrating to the United States is highly regulated, very limited, and has many requirements most immigrants don't meet due to their living conditions and background. Thus, most immigrants end up entering the country through unauthorized channels (illegally) because they don't have the proper resources. Most immigrants don't qualify for the legal requirements such as employment, family reunification, or humanitarian protection. Firstly, family-based immigration is restrained to certain close family relationships and is numerically limited and restricted. Meaning, a family-based visa is highly selective and hard to obtain. All immigrants who don't have a legal document or a qualified relative and fail to perfectly meet every requirement are unable to receive one. Secondly, in order to legally immigrate because of employment, a U.S. employer has to make a specific request for the foreign worker. Meaning the immigrant has to have a job waiting for them with a qualified U.S. worker who can vouch and be responsible for them. However, they can only be sponsored if the employee cannot find qualified U.S. workers to take the job firsthand and if the foreign worker meets high education and professional experience levels. Lastly, most people fleeing their home countries cannot access humanitarian protection. It is very rare for immigrants to meet all the specific requirements to obtain legal documentation considering all their limitations. And even if they do meet the requirements, the wait and process of getting them can be very long, tedious, and unbearable.

Indeed, there is a clear violation of human and migrants' rights, not only in their journey of getting to their country of destination, but also when they get to

international borders and inside the country they migrated to. Migrants are often vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation, and marginalization. Most live and work in the shadows, are afraid to complain, and are constantly denied their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The majority of migrants are refused civil, economic, social, cultural, political, and basic human rights, such as the rights to health, housing, education, an adequate standard of living, social security, to just and favorable conditions of work, among other fundamental human rights and freedoms. They are challenged constantly by adversities and abuses closely linked to discriminatory laws and attitudes of xenophobia.



A young girl carries a child inside a U.S. Customs and Border Protection holding area in El Paso, Texas. Lucas Jackson/Reuters

Above all, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Border Patrol are known to consistently violate the rights of border community members. Tragically, migrants from Latin American states suffer discriminatory treatment as well as physical, sexual, and verbal abuse. They are also victims of many human rights violations and live in horrible conditions when detained (being forced to stay in a place)²³ at or near the border. Human Rights Watch even stated that the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has "normalized shocking abuses at the U.S. border." and asks for the U.S. to "take urgent and sustained action to stop such abuses" (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

²³ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/es/diccionario/ingles/detained>



Violence in Mexico and Central America driving large waves of migration.

It's important to remember that each state is free and sovereign²⁵, meaning the U.S. has a right and possesses the authority to protect its borders, determine its own laws, and manage migration flows into, through, and from its territory. However, the country is "obligated by international law to do so in such a way that upholds the rights of individuals" (United Nations, Protection of Migrants' Rights and State Sovereignty, 2013).

Clearly, the migrant abuse at the American state's borders is a complex issue that combines multiple problems such as the migration causes, the migration approach and management, and the numerous consequences for the affected and involved migrants, citizens, and participating countries.

Background

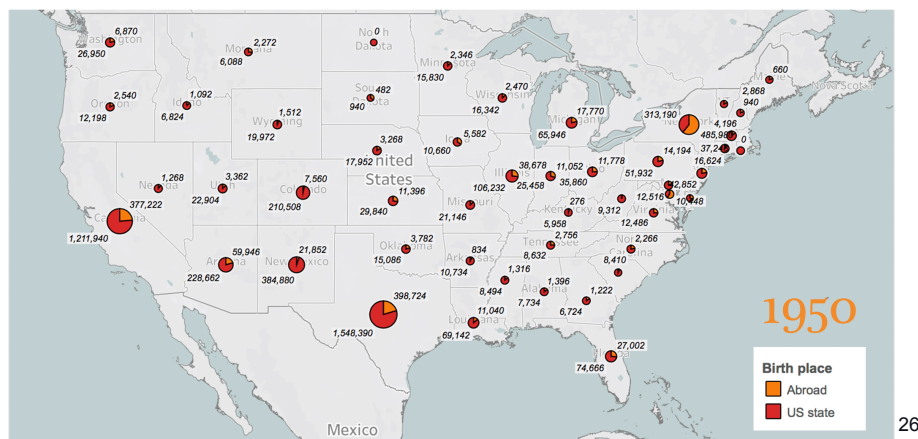
Immigration is a fundamental part of the American continent's history and has been an essential and meaningful political debate for decades. The United States has long been considered a nation of immigrants. Economic, security, and humanitarian

²⁴ Photograph: José Torres/Reuters Migrants queue up in Tapachula, Mexico, 4 March.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/24/migration-violence-mexico-central-america>

²⁵ A sovereign state or country is independent and not under the authority of any other country.

concerns have risen exponentially (more and more rapidly) as the U.S. foreign-born population has increased from 9.7 million in 1960 to over 50 million in 2022. The United States is the country that has the highest immigrant percentage in the whole world. Meaning immigrants and their U.S.-born children make up 84.8 million or 26% of the U.S. population (2021 CPS). Most immigrants from the American continent that enter the U.S. are from Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. The Mexican and U.S. border is the world's top migration corridor. Most of the U.S. immigrant population is from Mexico. In 2018, roughly 11.2 million immigrants in the U.S. were from Mexico, accounting for 25% of all U.S. immigrants, followed by El Salvador, which accounts for 3%.

US Born and Non US Born Latinx Americans



Thus when talking about immigration in the American continent, there are two primary routes. The first one, mentioned above, is from the Central American countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala across Mexico to the U.S. The second is all the displaced²⁷ Venezuelans that have fled their country due to the economic and humanitarian crisis. Approximately six million people have fled their country, around 3 million Venezuelans are now in Colombia, and others have also immigrated to Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Chile, the Caribbean, and Argentina.

²⁶ Mapping the Latinx Great Migrations by James Gregory
https://depts.washington.edu/moving1/map_latinx_migration.shtml

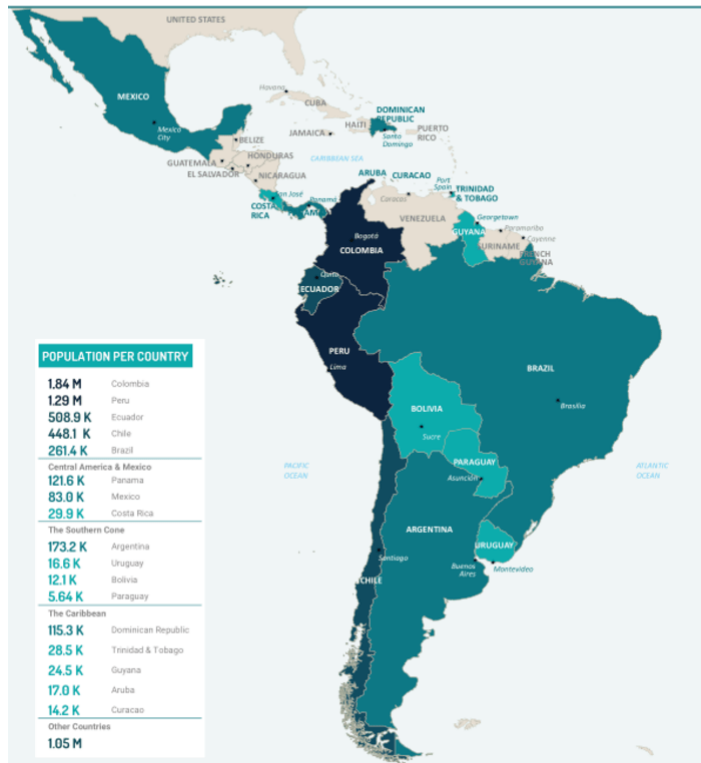
²⁷ having been forced to leave your home <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/displaced>



4.99M

APPROX. VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN
LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN

6.04M

TOTAL APPROX.
VENEZUELAN REFUGEES
AND MIGRANTS IN THE WORLD

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
 Creation date: Jan 2022, more information available on: <https://R4V.info>

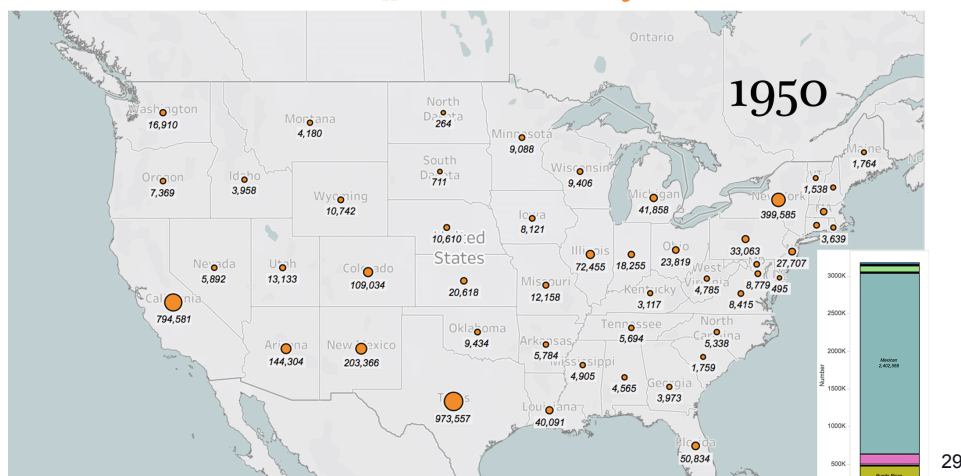
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Additionally, many immigrants are staying in Mexico when passing through to get to the U.S. due to the difficulty of crossing the 2000-mile border with the U.S. Also, there are a lot of individuals moving within the same region; for instance, Peruvians immigrating to Chile, Bolivian immigrants to Argentina, and Haitians to Brazil and Chile. Not to mention the internal South American migration caused by the crisis in Venezuela.

For some historical background, Latin Americans have lived in the United States for centuries. For example, when the U.S. annexed Florida, Louisiana, and the northern half of Mexico in the early 1800s, more than 100,000 Spanish-speaking residents became U.S. citizens. Later from 1846 to 1848, the United States invaded and

²⁸ Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuelan Refugees & Migrants in the Region - As of Jan 2022
<https://reliefweb.int/map/colombia/latin-america-and-caribbean-venezuelan-refugees-migrants-region-jan-2022>

Later in 1940, because of World War 2 and the need for workers, the U.S. allowed foreign worker programs with Mexico and many Caribbean communities. The population of Latin Americans grew by more than a million, and continued to grow even more in the following decades. For instance, later in 1970, 7.6 million people from Latin America lived in the U.S., increasing the number of immigrants to more than three times its size since 1940.



In 1965 the U.S. congress rewrote its immigration law, establishing national restrictions that limited and controlled how many immigrants were allowed in the country. It also defined various statuses establishing whether someone was a non-immigrant, an immigrant, or a non-permanent resident. Nothing changed for some countries like Puerto Ricans, which already had U.S. citizenship, and Cubans, with the special status as refugees from a Communist country. But for all Latin

²⁹Latinx Great Migrations - History and Geography by James Gregory
https://depts.washington.edu/moving1/latinx_migration.shtml

Americans, the law made it very complicated to obtain immigration visas and dangerous to settle in the U.S. without them.

Migration has grown exponentially in the last couple of decades, and one can see its challenges and implications all over the American continent. Considering the increasing number of migrants to the U.S., the intra-regional migrations, and the internal South American migration caused by the Venezuelan crisis, every state in the American continent has a responsibility to address, control and overcome the challenges caused by migration.

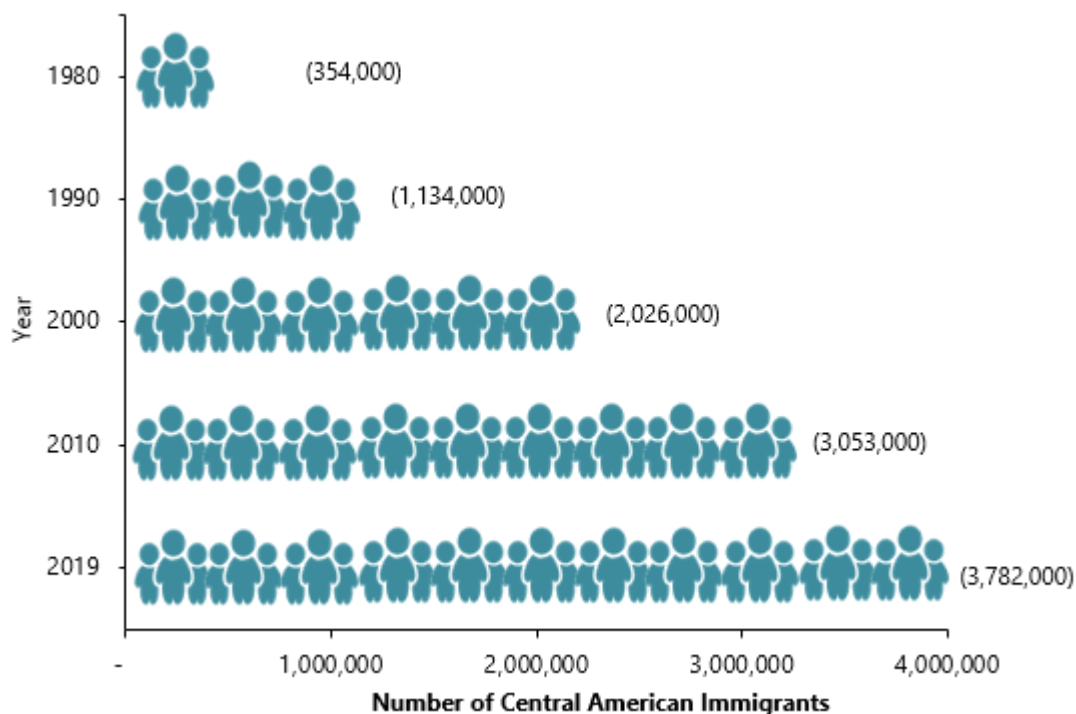
Present Situation

Sadly, around the countries that form part of the OAS, there are more than 75.5 million illegal immigrants spread out. Consequently, there has been an enormous amount of discrimination against them. These people are vulnerable to exploitation and live afraid of being returned to their original countries, and because of that, their human rights are being violated.

One of the main threats against migrants are the people who are not well informed. A study carried by Oxfam with Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia showed very concerning results, as 70% support greater restrictions than the ones that are already in place, 50% assume that the woman will become sex workers, and 70% are concerned that they will take the jobs away as they are willing to take lower salaries, and 80% believe that migrants are linked to crime and prostitution.

Since 2022 there has been an immense rise of migrants who have been forced to move through irregular channels. Recently, there has been a major migration crisis all through the countries in the OAS, there have been two main migration routes, Central American countries such as Honduras, El Guatemala, and El Salvador cross Mexico to the United States and from South American countries primarily Venezuela migrate to Spain and the Caribbean.

The United States has been a center for immigrants for the last years. Recently there has been a major uprising that has sought opportunity and refugee in the United States due to internal situations in their countries that have led to them migrating looking for a chance for a better life, a primal example of this was the Hurricane Eta and Iota which affected over 11 million people in Central America which led to a massive immigration rise. There are many immigrants from Central America who are now living in the United States, mainly from El Salvador, which constitutes the 37.3% of total immigrants, Guatemala 29.4%, Honduras 19.7%, Nicaragua 6.8%, Panama 2.7%, Costa Rica and Belize with 1.2% this numbers are over 7 Million people.



Batalova, J. (2021, August 6). Central American Immigrants in the United States.

Retrieved November 14, 2022, from migrationpolicy.org website:

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/central-american-immigrants-united-states>

The Border between México and the United States has been suffering overwhelming rises in immigration, and 396,448 people were detained, with a daily average of 42,188 detained people, with many children being on that number. Over 2000 children were separated from their parents every day.



Past UN Actions

Eleven out of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 agenda are helpful and beneficial to migrants. The UN is working with all of the countries in the OAS to achieve these goals as fast and efficiently as possible, especially in target 10.7: “to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.”

Also, the United Nations have created the International Organization for Migration, IOM, The international organization for migration, to ensure humane treatment of the migrants and provide them with assistance.

The OHCHS is closely tied to the migration issues that have risen recently, as a concern for human rights has alarmed the UN as 3.6% of the world's population live outside of their country of birth and a huge percentage are from Latin America. They are working closely with the OAS “to promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status, with a particular focus on migrants in vulnerable situation and at most risk of human rights violations.”

The Global Compact for Migration is another effort of the UN to help migrants, there was a vote of the endorsement for this agency in 2018, most of the countries voted in favor, but the United States voted against. The agreement established to make no

distinction between illegal and the legal migrants in all of the present countries, this would make migration easier for everyone and avoid migrants' abuse in all of the borders.

Block Analysis

Countries that have a large number of migrants trying to enter their country

These countries usually have a better quality of life compared to the country that the migrants come from. They have more opportunities for a well-paid job, better opportunities to raise a family, and better quality of places to live, among other common things. Although some of these countries take some immigrants as refugees, most of these people do not get to live in these places. Because of this, some of these migrants try to enter these countries in an illegal way, ending in violence between other migrants and with the border police. The majority of the immigrants do not accomplish in arrive to these countries alive.

Countries that have a large number of citizens leaving their country

These countries do not have the necessary resources to maintain all their citizens with a good quality of life. Some of the factors are, because of corruption within the government, bad organization of resources, they don't have the resources to develop, etc. Because of this, many citizens have to make the decision to emigrate and look for a better place to improve their lives. Many of these people have to travel very long distances to achieve their mission, and some do not get to their destinations alive.

Further Reading

- <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/migration>
- <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/migration>

- <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/10/migration-latin-america#:~:text=Migration%20from%20Latin%20America%20to,%2C%20Guatemala%2C%20and%20El%20Salvador>
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- <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-detention-child-migrants>
- https://depts.washington.edu/moving1/map_latinx_migration.shtml
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Topic B: Addressing Forced Disappearances Across Latin America

Key Words

1. **Disappearance:** Being difficult to find.
2. **Human Rights:** Basic needs that every human possesses to ensure to be treated fairly and equally.
3. **Kidnapping:** To take someone away against their will.
4. **Lack of Justice:** When the legal system fails to convict people responsible for a crime.
5. **Silencing:** To stop a person from expressing their opinions.
6. **Movements:** People who share the same ideas and join together to achieve their goals.
7. **Migrant:** A person that travels to another country to stay there.
8. **Non-State Actor:** A group, company, NGO, etc. that influences people by sharing their ideas.
9. **Freedom of speech:** A right that helps express any opinion you believe.

Introduction

Around the years 1960 to 1980, many countries in Latin America (such as Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, and others) used to be controlled by dictatorships. (Nieto, 2021). Because of this, freedom of speech was limited since the person in power controlled what he or she wanted, including news, reports, journalism, teaching, among other common things. In those countries, censorship was really dangerous since everything was established by the government, there was a lot of misinformation and the revolutions against the government were very important to stop the massive disappearances.

The people that used to be involved in those types of areas (including revolutions) were the ones who were most endangered and vulnerable to the situation. Usually, the government was the one that “disappeared” the people, but sometimes they used to pay Non-State Actors to do it. The government also prevented people from running out of their countries by making it very difficult to get a passport or even take them away.

Many families suffered because of this situation. Although most of the countries in Latin America are not controlled by a dictatorship, most of them are governed by a democratic government, the citation remains, and forced disappearance is still a problem. In 2013, it was proved that Mexico is the country with the most disappearances in Latin America (*Enforced Disappearance Victims' Families Find New Ways to Speak Out* | DW | 30.08.2022, 2022).

Background

Since a very long time ago, forced disappearances across Latin America have been a major problem. Latin America makes up seven of the ten countries that the UN considers to have the most forced disappearances since 1980. Affecting millions of Latin American citizens, families, and communities and, being a significant obstacle to obtaining peace and safety. Thousands of individuals disappear every year, and there seems to be no initiative to find or bring justice for them.

Forced disappearances include kidnapping, illegal arrest, torture, and ultimately, murder of opponents, done or sent by political parties or states. They abuse the victim, and afterward, they throw away and hide the body in order to deny all responsibility or knowledge of the crime. This is a major issue because there is no proof or documentation of the victim's death, and there is no way for the families to find or help them. Being a clear sign of corruption and abuse of power by oppressive governments or dangerous parties with support from the state, such as drug cartels.

As mentioned above, such crimes have been a part of Latin American countries for decades. More so, between 1960 and 1980, torture and disappearances were most common because of many different dictatorships in South America. All through the 60s and 80s, corrupt governments in Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile used forced disappearances as their primary strategy for political control. Looking at the background of documented forced disappearances in the countries mentioned above is an essential part of understanding the gravity and danger of this crisis.

Beginning with Guatemala, this country was one of the first countries where civilians that opposed the government began to disappear as a form of inducing terror in the population. During the Guatemalan Civil War, around "40,000 to 50,000 individuals disappeared" (Jones, 2022)³⁰. Around the 1960s, the government adopted more drastic military and political actions against rebels and revolutionaries. In 1966, thirty opposers from the Guatemalan Party of Labour were abducted, murdered, and later thrown away at sea. Moving along, in Mexico during the Dirty War, from 1968 to 1982, around 1,200 people disappeared by the Institutional Revolutionary Party Outside (Minetti, n.d.)³¹. Carrying on, in El Salvador before and during the Salvadoran Civil War, "100,000 or more" (Green, 2019)³² citizens suspected of being government opposers disappeared or were killed to induce terror and eliminate anyone who might want to fight the government in power. The war lasted from 1979 to 1992 between the El Salvador government and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The state kidnapped, physically abused, and killed all suspected to be a part of the FMLN.

Continuing with Argentina, from 1974 to 1983, during the Argentine Dirty War, about 30,000 opposers of the state's regime disappeared (*ICMP Argentina*, n.d.)³³. It was a

³⁰ Jones, S. (2022, April 27). *Disappeared: a daughter's 40-year search for her father, taken by Guatemala's military dictatorship*. The Guardian. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/27/emil-bustamante-lopez-disappeared-guatemala-military-dictators-hip>

³¹ Minetti, M. M. (n.d.). *A Victory for the Truth about Mexico's Dirty War*. Open Society Justice Initiative. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.justiceinitiative.org/voices/victory-truth-about-mexico-s-dirty-war>

³² Green, A. H. (2019, October 1). *Civilian killings and disappearances during the civil war in El Salvador (1980–1992)*. Demographic Research. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol41/27/41-27.pdf>

³³ *ICMP Argentina*. (n.d.). International Commission on Missing Persons. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.icmp.int/the-missing/where-are-the-missing/argentina/>

period of state terrorism (acts taken by the state that infuse terror against another state or its citizens) on the part of the Argentine dictatorship. Lastly, in Chile, the military dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet lasted from 1974 to 1990. During those terms, there was an extreme amount of violent documented and undocumented cases of forced disappearances. The Pinochet government banned all opposing political ideologies, canceled the parliament (a legal meeting that discusses public affairs)³⁴, disappeared 3,000 opponents, arrested 30,000, and 10,000 citizens or more were illegally detained, tortured, or murdered (Weaver, 2018)³⁵. Other countries that participated in forced disappearances in the 1970s and 1980s, including Honduras, Colombia, and Nicaragua, engaged in forced disappearances.

The mentioned events and disappeared civilians are only some of the thousands that took place within countries in Latin America. Not only that, but the number of disappeared victims is only a guess, considering the lack of reliable information and the thousands of unresolved or non-addressed cases. It is believed that the forced disappearances in Latin America were done by military dictatorships and regimes supported by the United States.

However, since the 1960s, times have changed, and some action has been taken toward resolving forced disappearances. Such as the signing of two major treaties, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons (CIDFP) treaty signed in 1994 and The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), signed in 2007. The CIDFP is a treaty from the OAS that forbids “to practice, permit, or tolerate the forced disappearance of persons” (*Inter-American Convention On Forced Disappearance Of Persons*, 1994)³⁶. The ICPPED, on the other hand, is a United Nations Treaty that states that “no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance” (*International Convention for the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance*, 2007)³⁷. Both treaties

³⁴ *Parliament Definition & Meaning*. (n.d.). Merriam-Webster. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/parliament>

³⁵ Weaver, B. (2018). *The Most Evil People in History*. Independently Published.

³⁶ *INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON FORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF PERSONS*. (1994). Organization of American States. Retrieved November 21, 2022, from <https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-60.html>

³⁷ *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance*. (2007). ohchr. Retrieved November 21, 2022, from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-protection-all-persons-enforced>

recognize forced disappearances as a crime against humanity and fight against it. However, forced disappearances in Latin America are not a subject of the past; many governments still choose such violent paths against opposers, and immediate action is needed.

Present Situation

Forced disappearances continue to grow every year, and the latest enforced disappearances were carried out in the context of political silencing. However, they increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and finding justice for these people became something almost impossible.

Nicaragua is a country that has been facing a human rights crisis, especially in 2018 when the opponents of the government, such as political competitors and journalists, were imprisoned and detained without giving their locations.

During a demonstration in Cuba in 2021, they used repression and criminalized the people that were seeking their freedom and liberty, since that day, many of the families haven't been able to find their loved ones. These incidents have been happening in Cuba many times.

In Mexico, this year, it has surpassed 100,000 people who have disappeared and it has become a nationwide crisis. 28 people go missing every single day. Countries like Colombia have also passed the 100,000 disappeared people.

The Venezuelan government is known for silencing the people that try to speak out, they primarily target their political opponents, independent journalists, and human rights defenders.

As many governments are the actors of their crimes or turn their backs on their people, there have been many pressing movements in all of the North and South American countries. These movements hope to raise awareness and try to find their loved ones, however, many of them fail, and the people are never found again.

Mainly women's movements have gained a lot of power, as in many countries, there is a high percentage of missing women.

In recent years forced disappearances have decreased in a considerable way, nevertheless, this does not take the importance of this conflict since every single day, hundreds of people go missing.

A major issue that the affected families have faced is finding justice, as the legal system in most of the countries needs clear evidence to be able to sentence someone that has committed this crime. The issue is that it is very difficult for the people to find the evidence and more to find the people guilty of this crime. Many individuals have committed human rights violations and were not sentenced for them.

Many of these disappearances can be traced to Narco Cartels. These Cartels have a huge amount of power in the countries of South and North America, and the people that try to go against them end up being kidnapped. This is a huge problem as these Cartels keep gaining power and committing crimes, but the governments do not seek justice, as a Narco conflict could be devastating for the entire country. Consequently, they continue to commit these terrible crimes, and they end up unpunished. The Narco conflict in Mexico is an example of the repercussions of going after them, as in repercussions against the government, they vandalized and created problems for the civilians.

Past UN Actions

Considering forced disappearances are one of the biggest issues Latin America faces and has faced through the years, the United Nations has taken many initiatives toward solving this crisis. The United Nations publicly recognizes the severity of the situation, describing it as an insult, a crime against humankind, a violation of basic human rights, and an offense of the fundamental rules of international law.

Since decades ago, the United Nations has manifested in General Assemblies the importance of solving forced disappearances in Latin America and continues to do so by speaking up and reminding governments of their obligations. In the 1992 General Assembly, the UN officially and publicly announced the Declaration of the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which declares, "No State shall practice, permit or tolerate enforced disappearance" (Declaration on the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance, 1992).

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights later publicly recognized the danger of the crisis again in its 30th session in 1974. Later in the 1977 General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Committee remarked on the importance of finding a resolution concerning forced disappearances. Following along, in 1980, the UN Commission on Human Rights presented The Working Group On Enforced Or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), one of the many working groups and organizations within the UN that specifically seek justice for all victims of forced disappearances. Since it was set up, it has recommended the commission and governments improve protection and security to stop cases of forced disappearances. Another group would be the Committee On Enforced Disappearances (CED), initiated in 2010.

Thanks to working groups of the UN Commission on Human Rights and other UN groups, government corruption and forced disappearances are declared an official American continent crisis. The UN has also been responsible for publishing regular reports on all cases, complaints, and situations in addition to the government's responses and actions involving forced disappearances. The United Nations also continues to urge all states to honor, remember and pay due respect to all victims and families of victims of forced disappearance. Indeed, in the UN General Assembly of 2010, the international day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (commemorated on August 30th) was declared. Certainly, the United Nations has and continues to seek solutions and bring together states to find justice for all victims, witnesses, and relatives of persons who were forcibly disappeared.



The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances celebrates its 30th anniversary on 5 November.³⁸

Block Analysis

Countries that have a high rate of disappearances.

Even though most of these countries may not have a dictatorship in their government, they suffer from an internal problem with a Non-State Actor like drug dealers or other extremist groups. These groups are looking for people that have information, or know something they are not supposed to know, to kidnap them or take away their lives. Most of the time, the situation is much bigger for the government, and they cannot do anything.

Countries that don't have a high rate of disappearances.

These countries are usually powerful countries that have the money to stop the problem. These countries don't have an extremist group that is threatening people's lives, or currently have an understanding with their government.

³⁸ Leiser, T. (n.d.). *Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances*. Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances. Retrieved November 22, 2022, from https://afad-online.org/voice/march2011/nf_unwgeid.htm

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