**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

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**USA and Mexico´s refugee crisis in numbers**

**Refugees**

Asylum claims from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala lodged globally rose by 555% between 2010 and 2015(Amnesty International, UNHCR)

El Salvador and Honduras have been ranked as some of the deadliest places on the planet outside of a conflict zone, with homicide rates from eight to ten times higher than the level considered by the World Health Organization to be an “epidemic” (UN, WHO)

In 2016, Honduras was ranked 102nd on a comprehensive and independent index of the rule of law of 113 countries, in the same scale as countries such as Uganda, while Guatemala ranked 97th.El Salvador was ranked 75th on an index measuring factors such as corruption, civil and criminal justice, and order and security (World Justice Project)

Between 7,000 and 10,000 Mexicans have requested asylum in the US each year since 2011 (US Department of Justice)

As many as 287,000 people are believed to be internally displaced in Mexico as of 2015 due to violence caused by clashes between drug cartels and government forces (Displacement Monitoring Centre).

**Detentions at the US-Mexico border**

Apprehensions of Mexicans by the US Border Patrol dropped from 1.6 million in 2000 to 192,000 in 2016 (US Customs and Border Protection).

In 2014 and again in 2016, apprehensions of Mexicans crossing irregularly into the United States were overtaken by those from other nationalities classified as “Non-Mexicans” by US government data. A large number of “Non-Mexicans” came from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala (US Customs and Border Protection)

In Fiscal Year 2016, 91% of the Family Units apprehended by US Border Control and 79% of unaccompanied children came from Central America’s Northern Triangle, comprising the countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala (US Customs and Border Protection, CBP).

**US border control**

From 2008 to 2016, the Obama administration increased the number of Border Patrol agents from 15,000 to 23,861 (Department of Homeland Security and US Customs and Border Protection).

President Trump’s Border Security Executive Order of 25 January 2017 proposes to increase this workforce by another 5,000.

**Illegal Pushbacks**

Amnesty International has gathered testimony from multiple sources as well as in many cases documentary evidence of pushbacks during 2016 and 2017 in ports of entry in San Diego, California, Nogales, Arizona, and the Texas ports of entry of Laredo, McCallen and Brownsville.

A human rights worker at a migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, told Amnesty International that from November 2016 to February 2017, asylum-seekers he had accompanied to port of entry had only successfully crossed into the United States in 28% of the nine attempts that he witnessed.

Amnesty International also collected significant evidence of this practice in relation to the San Diego-Tijuana border crossing from Nicole Ramos, a US attorney who had accompanied 71 asylum-seekers to the San Diego-Tijuana border crossing between December 2015 and April 2017. On nearly all occasions, CBP officers either attempted to deny asylum-seekers entry, or quoted incorrect procedures such as telling the asylum-seeker they needed to go to the US consulate in Mexico, effectively denying the asylum-seeker entry into the US.

**Immigration detention**

The United States has effectively expanded its use of detentions centres in recent years and currently operates the largest immigration detention system in the world. In 2016, 352,882 individuals were held in civil immigration detention centres. This does not include irregular migrants incarcerated in federal prisons (Immigration and Customs Enforcement - ICE)

The Department of Homeland Security released a document in April 2017 revealing plans to locate up to 33,500 more spaces for beds to hold people in detention, potentially allowing for the US´ daily detention capacity to exceed 70,000, far beyond a congressionally imposed bed quota of 34,000 per day.

**Mexico**

It is estimated that more than 400,000 people cross Mexico’s southern border irregularly each year (Presidency of Mexico)

As many as half of the people who enter Mexico irregularly could qualify for international protection but only a few actually request protection (UNHCR, MSF)

In 2016 a record 8,788 asylum claims were lodged in Mexico in comparison to 1,296 in 2013 (Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados*,* COMAR)

Ninety-one per cent of these claims came from citizens of the Northern Triangle, and the UNHCRhas estimated that claims will continue to rise exponentially and could reach 20,000 in 2017 (UNHCR)

In 2016, Mexico’s National Institute for Migration detained 188,595 irregular migrants, 81% of these from Central America, and returned 147,370 to their countries of origin. Ninety-seven per cent of those returned were from Central America (mostly Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras). (Mexican Ministry of Interior, SEGOB)

Despite the fact that Mexican law expressly prohibits the detention of children, Mexico detained 40,542 children in migration detention centres in 2016 (Mexico Ministry of Interior, SEGOB)