MIGRANT CARAVAN 2018: EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO

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TODAY’S PRESENTATION

• Past Caravans

• How this caravan started and evolved during its journey in Mexico

• Tijuana as a final destination
PAST CARAVANS
CENTRAL AMERICAN MOTHERS OF THE DISAPPEARED MIGRANTS

- Every year since 2015
- 4,000km through Mexico and then back to Central America
Trans Gay Migrant Caravan April 2017 – 16 migrants
Tradition of the vía crúsis (since 2010)
Start in the south of Mexico

- Spring and Fall 2017
- Spring 2018 – grew to 1,500 people at max
  - 400 requested asylum
  - 125 crossed into the US otherwise
HOW DID THIS CARAVAN START AND EVOLVE?
HOW THE 2018 MIGRANT CARAVAN WAS DIFFERENT

- Started as an uncoordinated effort
- Grew based on rumors and social media
- Crossed two international borders
- Size
- Portrayed as a single caravan (disparate groups)
LGBTQ GROUP WITHIN CARAVAN

- Organizations in the US and Mexico funded buses and accommodations
- 80+ arrived to Tijuana
- Weddings – gay marriage not legal in Central America
Timeline of the caravan

October 13
San Pedro Sula, Honduras (160 migrants)

October 19
Mexico’s southern border (7,000 - Tapachula)

October 26
Chiapas/Oaxaca
MX Plan “Estás en Casa” (600 applied)

November 4
Mexico City
(5,000 migrants in a sports complex)

November 11-15
Guadalajara, Jalisco
(4,600 in temporary state shelter)

November 12
Chiapas/Oaxaca
MX Plan “Estás en Casa” (600 applied)

November 14-15
Tijuana
(Now 6,000+ in Benito Juarez Temporary Shelter)
Tijuana as a final destination
WHY TIJUANA?

- Historical ties to migration flows and as a caravan destination
- Social networks and infrastructure
- Safest route north

Source: Central American Migrant Risk Database (CAMRD), UT Austin Strauss Center Mexico Initiative