
Amigos de Honduras

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With this August issue, after working for more than 25 years, **Joan Larimore** has passed the torch to not one but 4 RPCVs to take over her jobs with Amigos de Honduras! Write her at her new address 18205 102ND St. Ct. E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391 253-862-7272 to send greetings. I renewed our non-profit corporation with the Secretary of State in Washington State and our affiliate status with National Peace Corps Association in DC. Check out their webpage for lots of info about RPCVs and Peace Corps. www.peacecorpsconnect.org

Stephen.d.phelan@gmail.com **Steve Phelan** will send out the pdf newsletters and help with keeping track of membership. **Terri Salus**

terrivalus@gmail.com will be the contact for National Peace Corps Association. **Brenda Sims Crumpacker**

kbc.olympic@gmail.com is our new secretary and will mail out newsletters. **Anthony Ives luckyp49@yahoo.com** will be Treasurer. Anthony Ives also volunteered to be coordinator of the **Grant Committee. Send Tony ideas of projects that we can help fund.**

Remember to mail Tony membership checks and donations to the Grant Fund. Please consider renewing at \$50 for 5 years thus reducing our paper work. **Note:** There continues to be a disconnect between Amigos and NPCA. Please send Amigos money direct to our treasurer and NPCA money to their address in DC: 1900 L St. NW Suite 610 Washington, DC 20036. **Our current balance is \$5160.40.** We were unable to fund the last Honduran Grant to Junior Rangers due to lack of account transfer info and problems associated with AID rescinding funds to Honduras and directorship issues. I have decided to take a course on webpage design and plan on creating an **Amigos de Honduras Webpage**. Many people continue to use the Honduras PC Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209604190/>

In this issue our Secretary Brenda and Treasurer Tony have written a

bit about themselves and Peace Corps Projects. RPCV Deborah now in Guatemala shares her perspective. Terri summarized new projects from NPCA. I have been saving scores of articles about Honduran news and include some of them. **Please continue to send me memories and stories while in Peace Corps, recent trips, reunions and news.** Also email me good organizations to donate to for our November issue.

Feliz Semana Civica desde Olanchito and Happy Central América Independence Day! The postcard I mailed myself in October from **Correo Nacional** Tegucigalpa arrived 7 months later in May 2019. Since the May issue a number of Honduran friends posted photos and videos of the teacher and doctor strikes around the country. They even entered the Toncontin airport, closing it and forcing passengers to up leave by crossing the airfield. In June the US announced it was **stopping foreign aid** to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Numerous NGOs in the region have posted how this is having a negative impact and will increase people fleeing these countries. In July, I had a short visit to the US/Mexico border at Columbus NM/Los Palomas, Chihuahua and Douglas AZ/Agua Prieta, Sonora. All was tranquilo there and I enjoyed talking Spanish again.

NPCA reached out to Amigos de Honduras about the immigrant crisis. I sent them old articles from our newsletter and put them in contact with RPCVs.



Maria Robinson, Siguatepeque, 63-5, wrote “Unequal Justice: a human rights activist examines why Hondurans flee” one of 6 articles in the **Summer issue NPCA Worldview** about Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and immigration. Go to <https://issuu.com/peacecorpsconnect/docs/sum19.master> and read them all!

PEACE CORPS AND BEYOND **Brenda Sims Crumpacker** **(Pespire, Choluteca, 1990-1)**

In my late 30's I joined the Peace Corps, the big sister (old lady?) of my Small Animal group. I was assigned to work with goat projects for Save the Children in Pespire in the hot, south of the country. PC gave me adventures I only dreamed about doing - flying through the campo on the back of a motorcycle to visit my goat projects, sharing my big, old adobe home with a colony of bats (almost perfect roommates), giving charlas to campesinos about goat care in Spanish (albeit not the best, they were kind), seeing and living a completely different lifestyle than the

one I'd grown up in. A remarkable experience that taught me many important lessons and introduced me to many amazing, inspiring people.

When, in one's life, do you have both time AND money? This is where I found myself after COSing and luckily so did my PC friend Kelly. We traveled in South America for 5+ months trying to live on about \$10.00 a day. We had the BEST time thanks to The South American Handbook, an amazing travel guide. It contained suggestions about what to see, how to get there, where to stay and, where not to stay. Most of the time we traveled by bus, especially overnight buses which saved us paying for a hotel/hostel.

We hitch-hiked most of the way down the Pan American Highway through Chile. We traveled by train over the Andes from Bolivia to Chile, over dusty Patagonia, as well as through Paraguay. We took a week long cruise on a “chicken bus” style ferry boat up the Amazon River from the mouth at Belem to Manaus sleeping in hammocks/hedgies. We marveled at Lake Titicaca in Bolivia, the gauchos in Uruguay, the Jesuit ruins in Paraguay, Iguazu Falls in Argentina, the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, and where the rivers join at Manaus to name a few.

We met some amazing people as well. We stayed with a family on the island of Chiloe in the south of Chile who shared with us how difficult life was under Pinochet. We stayed in a hotel in La Paz, Bolivia that was popular with travelers. One night there we met with travelers from 11 different countries and we were all able to talk with each other because they all spoke English (very humbling). We stayed with a woman in Bariloche who had emigrated there from Croatia. When we were introduced as being from the United

States to an old woman in Paraguay she responded in a quavering voice, “Is that place near here? I've never heard of it.” (We were amazed!)

Along the way I realized what I really wanted to do was teach children to read, and even more, love to read. When I returned to the states I earned my teaching certificate and taught reading for 22 years. I retired in 2017 and now enjoy sleeping in if I want, spending time with my husband, reading, gardening and planning for my next chapter. **Brenda has volunteered to be Amigos Secretary and is printing and mailing the Amigos Newsletter. She just finished entering into Excel the membership list.**

TREASURER NEWS

Anthony Ives (La Ceiba, 2003-5)

Tony joined Peace Corps in 2003 as part of HONDU2. He was sent to La Ceiba, Honduras located along the North Coast of the country as a business volunteer because of his Wall Street experience. He worked with the Garifuna communities in the region, women and microcredit organizations, and the Cayos Cochinos Foundation. Rather than return to Wall Street, he stayed another seven years and started a non-profit organization dedicated to education, economic development, and conservation of natural resources. Although he has returned to his home state of Washington, he is still very much involved in projects in Honduras and credits the U.S. Peace Corps with changing his life. **Remember to send dues and donations to our new treasurer, Anthony Ives and National dues to the National office in DC.**

COMSA Anthony Ives (La Ceiba, 2003-5)

Café Organica Marcala S.A. or COMSA for short is a unique cooperative of 2,500 family

farmers. Located in Marcala, La Paz, Honduras, the cooperative has experienced tremendous growth. The idea was incubated with the support of the Executive Director, Rodolfo Penalba, and other partners Marcos Lozano and Peace Corps member Anthony Ives. Always the idea was to incorporate education, economic development, and best practices for agriculture around a regional community project.

In the early 2000's, members of the community began discussing the idea. The global economy was experiencing an economic crisis. Local businesses and cooperatives were collapsing. Support was difficult. However, the founding members realized that strength was developed through sacrifice and community organization. In 2005, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), provided educational and economic support for the inception of COMSA. Rodolfo had to travel to Japan to learn organic and shade grown farming techniques for coffee production. It was necessary to leave Honduras for six months. The agreement was that in exchange for support, COMSA and Rodolfo in particular, had to impart the knowledge throughout Honduras. During that time, COMSA incorporated another regional cooperative into the operation allowing the organization to rapidly expand their presence in the Honduras. By adopting best practices related to coffee production including shade grown, organically grown without harmful pesticides, and other production methods, COMSA became an attractive regional player and is now an international exporter that includes Starbucks as one of its premier customers. **The cooperative has sales across the world in countries including**

Japan, Italy, France, Russia, and the United States. The cooperative recently received funding from the World Bank in order to expand processing. The funds were used directly for the purchase of a roaster as processing substantially increases the margins that farmers receive.

Among its unique characteristics that sets it apart from other organizations is their dedication to growth as a community. By planting seeds, sustainability becomes broader in scope. COMSA has a dedicated international school. Students study from early education through secondary years. Many of these students receive international scholarships to study abroad. Many speak several languages, as this is a dedicated principle for learning. COMSA has also developed businesses for youth and women for recycling, agricultural development throughout the region. You can find COMSA and the COMSA International School on Facebook. Consider joining to receive regular updates. You can also buy the coffee through various roasters online. Just say Marcala, Honduras or COMSA!

NPCA NEWS Terri Salus (Tegucigalpa, 1978-80) Save the date to join the Peace Corps community for the gala premiere of **A Towering Task: The Story of the Peace Corps** on September 22nd at The REACH at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. Watch your inbox in mid-August for details about the premier and how to reserve your tickets. The event will feature Third Goal activities for the whole family and is co-hosted by The Kennedy Center and NPCA. Narrated by Annette Bening, **A Towering Task** takes viewers on a journey of what it means to be a global citizen from Peace Corps' founding under John F. Kennedy,

through tough times during the Vietnam War and a surprising revival during the Reagan administration, to today's Peace Corps Volunteers serving at the forefront of some of the most pressing themes facing the global community. [Watch the trailer](#)

PCV ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS There is a new effort to create a Peace Corps Museum. To learn more read the following and follow the different links. In an effort to preserve the uniquely fascinating history and tradition of the Peace Corps, various universities and libraries have established archives of items donated to them by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Most archives collect letters, reports, photos, publications and personal correspondence and one, the **Museum of the Peace Corps Experience**, accepts three-dimensional artifacts.

View the American University PC Community Archive Brochure [here](#). American University in Washington, DC, houses a significant amount of Peace Corps history. Initiated by Friends of Colombia, a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, with support from the university librarian at the time, Patricia A. Wand, this collection has grown from a small exhibit of Colombia-based items into an extensive collection that includes the administrative files of Friends of Colombia, Friends of Nigeria and the National Peace Corps Association as well as many documents and photos from individual Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

In 2013, American University announced the founding of the Peace Corps Community Archive, an expanded collection of items from Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served at any time and

place. The purpose of the Archive is to collect, exhibit, and provide educational and public programs that document the experiences and impact of individuals who served in the Peace Corps and of individuals and institutions in host countries. The Peace Corps Community Archive preserves primary research material for scholars and students and, through its exhibits and website, serves to increase awareness of the legacy of Peace Corps

The Museum of the Peace Corps Experience is devoted to sharing the Peace Corps' unique and captivating story with the broader American public. While this museum is not a physical reality at this time, support from RPCVs is contributing to bringing this museum to life. Founded in Portland, Oregon, contributions from interested parties across the globe are enthusiastically accepted. It also hopes to have a physical presence in DC. To learn more about the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, visit their website, [here](#).



MIGRATION FROM THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Deborah Chandler (Aldea Jigua, El Entrada, Copan, 1989-90)

I was a PCV in Honduras, got sick and had to go home early, but still felt dedicated to fulfilling my two year promise to work for the betterment of Honduras. I ended up working for a Fair Trade organization in Houston (Pueblo to People) for four years, from 1990 to 1994. In 2000 I moved to Guatemala, and have lived here ever since. Inspired by the articles in earlier Amigos newsletters, I have applied to Annunciation House in El Paso to volunteer on the border in September. I tell you all that just to provide a little background for my perspective. What follows is a much abbreviated version of the current situation, written in early August. It is based on what we have learned from newspapers and radio here, not having the original document available. By the time you read this something will have shifted. There are probably RPCV's who are working in the government (or not) who can amplify, clarify, or otherwise present more information.

Terver País Seguro – that's what it is called, even though they took that name off the document. Courts in both the US and Guatemala declared that it would be illegal for either president to sign it, so under the watchful eye of Donald Trump lower-level officials from both countries did so in the Oval Office. In short it says that now asylum seekers from Honduras and El Salvador will have to go to Guatemala instead of to the US to apply, and then live in Guatemala until such time as they are granted hearings in the US. As best I can determine, they will have permission to live here, but no support, so will

need to find housing and jobs on their own as they are doing their best to "stay safe". (The US gov't. is now saying it will invest \$40 million in infrastructure, i.e. the office necessary to do the processing of applicants.) Meanwhile, the accord does not apply to Guatemalans, who can still make their way north to apply for asylum at the border, AND there will be temporary work visas granted to Guatemalan workers, a quantity that started at some thousands and by now is being called a million work opportunities. By the time you read this Guatemala will have elected a new president who will somehow have to deal with this, unless the Congress and/or courts succeed in stopping it. Kevin McAleenan, of Homeland Security, has been here three times, Nancy Pelosi and 19 more Congress people will be here later this week.

It is monumentally complex, but here are a few of the repercussions and opinions. First in the sadness/bad news department is that the idea of a wave of Hondurans and Salvadorans arriving in the country to live and seek jobs that don't even exist for Guatemalans has scared a lot of people. There are towns where some officials have "suggested strongly" or outright mandated that no one rent homes to anyone who cannot show local ID, the reason being that too many Salvadorans are gang members and they are coming here to create problems. (Sound familiar? Trump's xenophobia and rhetoric is being exported to here.)

The definition of Third Safe Country is that a third country (Guatemala) comes after the home country (e.g. Honduras) and the destination country (USA), which are numbers one and two, is safe. The idea that Guatemala can provide safe haven to anyone is as ridiculous as you already know, since all the problems in

Honduras and El Salvador are present here as well. Any US government person who insists this is a safe place should read the US State Dept. website's warnings. Same government saying yes and no?

Jimmy Morales is the president of Guatemala, finishing his term this year. He has sucked up to Trump to an astonishing degree since the beginning, and I am not the only one who thinks it is because he wants a safe haven himself to seek asylum when his immunity expires. He just got a good look at how deep Trump's loyalty goes: after all he has done to mimic Trump, when suddenly it looked like the accord would not be signed Trump had a fit and threatened Guatemala with three serious moves: a raise in import taxes on all products coming into the country from Guatemala (60% of Guatemala's exports go to the US), taxing remesas (which by now total over \$9 billion/year), and a travel ban against Guatemalans. That triple threat scared everyone enough that they buckled and signed. But as you can imagine, being bullied by Trump did not win him any friends – except maybe Jimmy Morales, who maintained his status.

As for the work visas, first, the law that created them was signed two years ago, this is not new. Second, the number changes every couple of days, coming with great promises of how this is going to solve Guatemala's economic problems so no one will need to migrate north illegally. Given the US's penchant for breaking its own treaties, why anyone would believe in this is a mystery to me. But it is being set out as a primary reason for how good the Accord is for Guatemala.

As for Hondurans, Salvadorans, and refugees from other countries (Haiti, DR, some African countries, anyone

else), the idea is that they are going to voluntarily stop here and register, and someone here will decide if they qualify for asylum or not. If not, they will be sent home. If they somehow do make it to the US border, they will be deported back to here. As long as they choose to live in Guatemala they will be allowed "safe passage", but they can give up and go home if they want to.

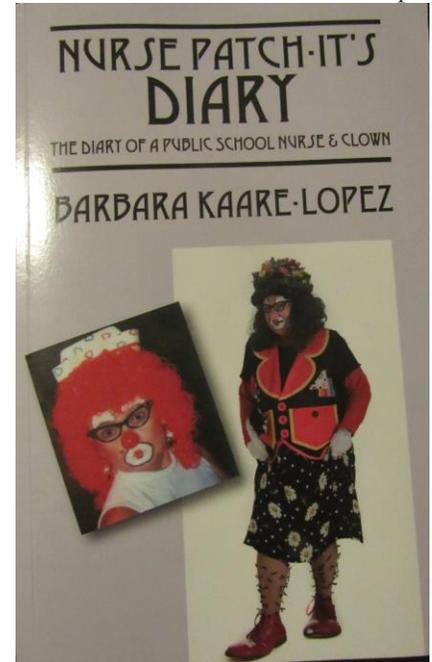
That is, of course, a very biased view of the situation. And limited. As I said, it is a complex issue, and changing constantly. Getting that document signed after all his threats allowed Trump to save face, and to declare that Jimmy has a friend in the US instead of an enemy. They both gain. But now the US is talking about creating a parallel situation in other countries like Costa Rica and Panama, which might be part of their strategy in the face of this Accord being shot down by both governments. McAleenan is saying they want to be sure it is accepted by Congress here and that everything is acceptable to and approved by all concerned, which might be some kind of backdoor way to get out of it and blame someone else. We all know that the migration situation is a disaster, no matter whose side anyone is on. But this is not a solution. Somewhere there must be someone who has a better idea.

Ed. Note: AP 8.13.19 reported President-elect Alejandro Giammattei said that Guatemala will not be able to hold up its side of an immigration agreement with the United States by serving as a "safe third country" for asylum seekers. "In order to be a safe country, one has to be certified as such by an international body, and I do not think Guatemala fulfills the requirements to be a third safe country. That definition doesn't fit us," said Giammattei.

RPVCs IN THE NEWS

compiled by Loren Hintz

Loren visited in Denver **Barbara Kaare-Lopez, 1978-80**, and bought her autographed book **Nurse Patch-It's Diary: The diary of a public school nurse and clown.** Email her at bkaarelopez@hotmail.com and get a copy. She has 5 chapters on Honduras and Peace Corps.



RPCV **Ruth Bennett, Catacamas, 2010-12** in

<https://news.mongabay.com/> reported 4.15.19 "Tropical forests and complex agroforests ... are both declining in coverage, and many species of migratory birds are declining along with them," says Ruth Bennet from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in New York and a co-author of the [study](#) published in the journal PLOS One. The waning popularity of shade-grown coffee plantations is hurting migratory birds, according to Bennett. "Most coffee is now grown in full-sun monocultures that provide little value to migratory birds, while other types of tree crops, like teak, rubber, oil palm, and native

hardwoods are expanding in tropical landscapes.” **Robert Gallardo, 1993-96** is now working on **Guide to Butterflies of Honduras** and often posts photos of new species he has found at his home near Lago Yojoa. **Don Pendleton** La Ceiba, **1978-81** joined **Bob Jones, Catacamas, 1979-81** now a prof in Queretaro, Mexico on an entomology expedition in Chiapas.

Mark Reilly, Concepcion de Maria, **1966-9** shared an email from **Patty Lively**, La Paz, **1966-8**: Day 15, 2/5/19—the Safari is on the move to the Glacier Hills with Leo, Tippy & me. We were transported by an “Angel” from Zimbabwe who came at 17yrs, has been here 18 years, & has lived all over Africa & Europe. Very nice driver. Had long talk about the wall & crisis in Venezuela & Honduras. That wall \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ could build a lot of hospitals, schools, shelters, etc. I am amazed at how so many of our immigrant residents learn English— beautiful accents as so many were in British controlled countries. We made it into a private room. So far we met a RN from Nigeria, USA, Senegal, My Dr. is from Philippines, and another Dr. is from Peru. Ron brought Rolf (therapy dog) & Audree brought my clothes. Watched the State of the Union speech. That was a very nice tribute to WWII Veterans, I teared up thinking of David. Not many WWII Veterans left. Also, all the women in Congress, so proud to see we are gaining recognition, not even 100 years we have been able to Vote. I can also testify to all the contributions of legal immigrants, I have had the best care possible on my “Safari” the last 16 days from people all over the world, saving my life has been an international effort.

Terri Salas, Tegucigalpa, **1978-80** shared efforts she and others are doing to help immigrants in the DC

area. “You may wish to get involved with this effort through a local REFORM Jewish congregation near you or sign up for our Immigration Rapid Response email list to keep up to date. Yesterday morning, protesters from the Religious Action Center (RAC—located near Dupont Circle), HIAS (HQ recently relocated from NYC to Silver Spring, MD), members of area synagogues, and members of the community went down to the ICE offices at L’Enfant Plaza; virtually all of the participants had participated in last year’s “Families Belong Together” rally”



Student (Esperanza, from El Salvador) who returned to class a few hours after she became a citizen to share her experience with classmates

“Not only do I find my work to be extremely gratifying, I am overwhelmed how seamlessly the various religious-based groups are working together (through a girlfriend, I even got a DC Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) elder to join in the effort). There is critical work to be done locally (2-3 buses of migrants arrive in Silver Spring every week; most are sponsored by family members who themselves are living on the edge). And the advantages of local work is monies can go to

support, rather than to travel expenses, and the likelihood of secondary trauma to the volunteers is reduced.”

Dr. Julia Paley, **Director of Immigrant Justice** writes: Eighty years ago, Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus rescued 50 Jewish children from the Nazis, the largest group of unaccompanied minors brought to the United States in the lead up to World War II. In honor of this bravery, the Reform Jewish Movement is partnering with their grandchildren on the Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Immigrant and Refugee Justice.

This initiative is enabling deep, strategic organizing and advocacy within and across Jewish communities to end child detention, reunite families, protect DREAMers, TPS holders, asylum seekers, and more. Today we’re launching our Immigrant and Refugee Justice Action Center, a digital home for you to find updates, action opportunities, and ways to get involved at the individual, congregational, and communal

levels. <https://rac.org/gilbert-and-eleanor-kraus-initiative-immigrant-and-refugee-justice-action-center>

HONDURAS IN THE NEWS Compiled by **Loren Hintz** (Click or google links for more details.)

Honduras Tips still has good tourist information and feature articles. There was a nice Feb. article about the Aguan Valley Honduran Emerald Wildlife Reserve and hotels to stay at in Olanchito. <https://hondurastravel.com/national-parks/refugio-de-vida-silvestre-colibri-esmeralda-hondureno/>

SHI was created by RPCVs and does a lot of work in Honduras. Take 6 minutes to watch this video about ways to use farming in Honduras to capture carbon and reduce climate change.

<https://www.facebook.com/SustainableHarvestInternational/videos/441943719899816/>

Remember garrobas? A recent publication by Larry Buckley (Iguanas of the World) mention the unique lizards (ctenosauras) from Utila, Roatan, Aguan Valley and now an invasive species in Florida!

<https://www.nbcnews.com/latino>

5.13.19 Reports that in **San Pedro Sula where the caravans** to the US originate, crime continues to be a major problem. In the dusty, dimly lit neighborhoods of San Pedro Sula, everyone knows the unwritten rules: There are places you don't go without permission. If driving, roll down the windows so gang members and their lookouts can see who is inside. It's safest to stay home after nightfall, leaving the streets to the enforcers and drug dealers who are armed and don't hesitate to kill. The northern district of San Pedro Sula where AP journalists accompanied police on a recent night is home to nearly 230,000 people with just 50 officers to patrol its 189 neighborhoods, including the most dangerous: Planeta, Lomas Del Carmen and La Rivera Hernandez.

There have been numerous reports of **scandals with ICE, Border Patrol and detention centers** in the US. **ProPublica 7.1.19** reported a secret Facebook group for current and former Border Patrol agents which joked about the deaths of migrants, discussed throwing burritos at Latino members of Congress visiting a detention facility in South Texas on Monday and posted a vulgar illustration depicting

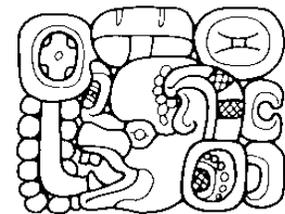
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The **Washington Post 7.1.19** Said more than a dozen House members visited migrant detention centers in Texas on Monday following concerns about deplorable conditions at some facilities. **USA TODAY 7.6.19** The stuff of nightmares: **Inside a Texas migrant detention center** By Simon Romero et al. **CNN 7.3.19** Dr. Lisa Ayoub-Rodriguez said she has treated patients who haven't received **"basic human needs"** inside the facilities. One mother complained that she couldn't keep her child warm with the onesie and plastic blanket she was given.

AFP 7.4.19 Honduran authorities said they are investigating the causes of an accident in which at least 27 people died after their fishing boat sank off the Caribbean coast. The boat sank yesterday in the remote **Mosquitia coastal region** after heading out to sea when a seasonal ban on lobster fishing was lifted. Families began the grim task of identifying the bodies. They were brought by boat to a sandbar off the coast where the bodies were being collected. The Directorate of Forensic Medicine said a team of nine experts had been sent to the area to help recover and identify the victims. Ninety-one people were aboard the boat, "Wallie," when it set sail from Cabo Gracias a Dios. It sank near Cayo Gorda, a tiny island just northeast of their point of departure. Fifty-five people were rescued. Nine are still missing. "It is clear that the tragedy happened because the boat was overloaded," said local journalist Jacinto Molina. The region is one of Honduras' poorest, accessible from the rest of the country only by sea or plane.

Reuters 7.26.19 Carin, a 39-year-old **subsistence farmer from Honduras**, crossed the U.S.-Mexico border with her two sons late last

year. They had fled after her political organizing led to threats of violence, she said, and intended to claim asylum. They were released on one condition: that they show up to immigration court when called. Carin said she made sure to check the mailbox regularly at the apartment in Colorado where they were living. In February, the first official letter arrived. It was not a court-hearing notice. It was a deportation order. "I said, 'Oh my God' and just cried and cried and then my sons were crying because we were all so scared," Carin said. She asked that her family's surname not be used for fear of damaging their asylum claim. Clerical errors and lack of notice are common in the U.S. immigration court system, say immigration lawyers and former judges. Clerks are juggling a backlog of more than 900,000 cases and rely on numerous people to log information based on quick interviews at the border. For migrants, such problems can bring dire consequences: A missed hearing can lead to an "in absentia" deportation order, issued by a judge when a migrant fails to appear. Especially vulnerable are recently arrived families like Carin's who are listed on the fast-track deportation docket, known colloquially as the "rocket docket."

LA Times 8.14.19 reports that it seems likely Trump will win his Appeals Court challenge and be able to remove **TPS Temporary Protected Status** from over 330,000 people from Honduras, Haiti, Sudan, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Nepal. They will then be subject to deportation.



Accusations against **President Juan Orlando Hernández** and his family continue. The latest can be found in <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/will-drug-conspiracy-allegations-end-us-support-for-honduras-president/>

Insightcrime.8.5.19 In a court filing, US prosecutors said Hernández took part in a drug conspiracy when \$1.5 million in proceeds allegedly went to support his first bid for the presidency in 2013. The allegations, first reported by **Univision**, came out in documents unsealed in New York's Southern District Court on Aug. 3 in the case against President Hernández's brother, former congressman Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, who was indicted on drug-trafficking charges in November 2018. According to the documents, the drug money used to support Hernández's campaign came from Amílcar Alexander Ardón, a former mayor who is also facing drug trafficking charges in the United States. Prosecutors do not identify President Hernández by name, but instead refer to him as CC-4, or Co-conspirator 4, saying that he was elected in late 2013.

Sometime in 2013 during his bid for the presidency, Hernández asked Ardón to support his campaign through bribes to local politicians, according to the documents. Ardón went on "to spend \$1.5 million in drug proceeds" to support Hernández's presidential campaign, paying "cash bribes" and providing "gifts and favors" to local politicians, the court documents state. President Hernández, Tony Hernández and other high-level officials — including former President Porfirio Lobo Sosa — were part of a conspiracy that leveraged drug trafficking to "maintain and enhance their political power," the prosecutors conclude.

While President Hernández has not been charged with any crimes, he lashed out against the conspiracy allegations in a statement to the press, saying that the claims being made against him "are false" and come from "drug traffickers who are looking for vengeance." In the statement, he also highlights his "close" and "productive relationship" with the US government in the battle against drug trafficking and underscores his record of extraditing traffickers to face US charges.

Opinion by Leslie Marshall **FOX News 8.15.19** Trump's action this week to **restrict legal immigration** by people who might need public assistance in the future is a rejection of our proud heritage as a nation of immigrants and has the effect of erasing the beautiful and welcoming words on the Statue of Liberty. It seems pretty clear that if President Trump's new restrictions on legal immigration had been in effect in 1885, his own grandfather wouldn't have been allowed into our country.



Poet Mirna Orellana with Loren Hintz
October 12, 2018 Olanchito, Yoro

EXILIO Mirna del Carmen Orellana Romero, Olanchito

Buscando horizontes:
me fui camino al norte
me fui sin mirar atrás,
valiente deje mis raíces
mi tierra, mis recuerdos
atrás, lo he dejado todo

Me fui a cumplir un sueño
atravesé campos infinitos
desafiando un incierto destino
andando un camino de vértigos,
nadando he atravesado el río
expuesta a cualquier peligro

Cruce, el temeroso desierto
bajo ese sol bravío...
y esas heladas noches
desabriga, titiritando de frío
este destierro, lo sufro en silencio
se me desgarran el alma
como quisiera estar a tu lado
ya no soy de aquí, ni de allá:
soy una inmigrante...en el exilio...

AMIGOS ADDRESSES:

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Use this form to renew membership or notify us of a change in address. Or, copy and give to a friend whom you think might like to keep in touch with Honduras and RPCVs. Other than your name, enter only the info that has changed.

Name(s) _____

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Years of service: from _____ to _____ Group # _____ Site(s) _____

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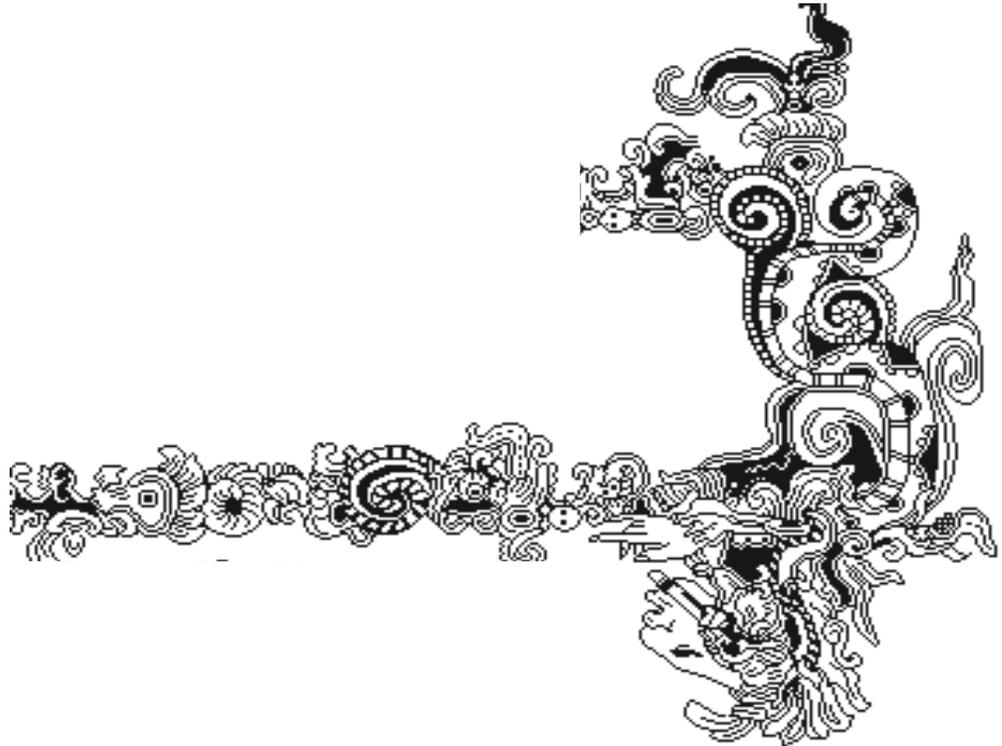
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08-19

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I would prefer to receive my newsletter in .pdf format.

Aviso: the date on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership - please renew if you're due!



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